



**LUTHERAN
CHURCH**
OF AUSTRALIA

NSW and ACT DISTRICT

LCA NSW and ACT DISTRICT 39th CONVENTION OF SYNOD

Walking with the Light

1 John 1:7



**28-30 OCTOBER 2022
WARRAMBUI**

Book of Reports

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Daily Program

Friday

5:30pm	Registration open	1:30	District Treasurer
6:00	<i>Optional Dinner</i>		District Administrator
7:00	Opening Worship		LEVNT
7:30	Welcome to Synod; Introductions; Roll Call; Minute Takers; Closures; Nominations 1 st Reading	2:30	St Pauls College
7:45	LCA Bishop Paul Smith LCA EOC Brett Hausler ALC Principal James Winderlich	3:00	Proposals
9:00pm	Closing Prayer <i>Supper</i>	3:30	Nominations and Elections
		4:45	<i>Afternoon tea</i>
		5:00	Warrambui
		5:30	Turning Point Ministries
		6:30	District Budget 2nd Reading and discussion
		9:00pm	Closing Devotion – In Memoriam
			<i>Pre-dinner break</i>
			<i>Dinner</i>

Saturday

8:30am	Morning Devotion
9:00	District Bishop
	Mission and Ministry Team
	Strategic Facilitator
	DCC
10:30	<i>Morning tea</i>
11:00	LCA Local Mission
	New and Renewing Churches
	Proposals
12:15pm	Nominations 2 nd Reading
	District Budget 1 st Reading
12:30	<i>Lunch</i>

Sunday

8:30am	Morning Devotion
8:45	LCA presentations
	ALWS
	Lutheran Aged Care
	Lutheran Women NSW and ACT
	Professional Standards
9:45	Closing formalities
10:15	<i>Morning tea</i>
11:00	Closing Service and Close of Convention
1:00pm	<i>Lunch</i>

Constituting of Convention

- Bishop:* *As in one body we have many members,*
Assembly: **so we, who are many, are one body in Christ.**
- Bishop:* *Where two or three are gathered in his name,*
Assembly: **he is there among them.**
- Bishop:* *Let us live a life worthy of our calling, with all humility and gentleness,*
Assembly: **eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.**
- Bishop:* *Let us pursue the things that make for peace,*
Assembly: **and build up the common life.**
- Bishop:* *Christ has opened a door in front of us,*
Assembly: **which no-one can close.**
- Bishop:* *The Lord be with you.*
Assembly: **And also with you.**
- Bishop:* *Let us pray: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named: Grant, we pray, to your church here assembled, the presence of the Holy Spirit, so that in all our deliberations we may be guided in all truth, preserved from strife and vain glory, and, one in you, may constantly abide in that Christian unity which is well pleasing in your sight.*
Let us together give expression to our Confession as contained in the Constitution of the Church.
- Assembly:** **We accept without reservation the holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as a whole and in all their parts, as the divinely inspired, written and inerrant Word of God, and as the only infallible source and norm for all matters of Faith, Doctrine, and Life. We acknowledge and accept as true expositions of the Word of God and as our own Confession all the Symbolical Books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church contained in the Book of Concord of 1580, namely, the Three Ecumenical Creeds, The Apostles' Creed, The Nicene Creed, The Athanasian Creed; The Unaltered Augsburg Confession; The Apology of the Augsburg Confession; The Smalcald Articles; The Small Catechism of Luther, The Large Catechism of Luther; and the Formula of Concord.**
- Bishop:* *I now declare this Thirty-ninth Regular Convention of the Lutheran Church of Australia, NSW and ACT District, open; In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*
And now may the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has called us with a holy calling, and has committed to our trust the glorious Gospel of the grace of God, make you to increase and abound in love toward one another, and toward all people, that you may be steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord.
- Assembly:** **Amen.**

Agenda

A. Preliminaries

1. Formal Constitution of Convention

- a. Opening

2. Conduct of Business

- a. Voting

Be it resolved that decisions be reached by consensus or by vote in the manner decided by the Chairman.

3. Appointments

- a. Synod Chairperson
- b. Minute Secretaries
- c. Committee for Verification of Minutes
- d. Tellers
- e. Reporter: 'Contact'

Be it resolved that the above named persons be appointed to serve this Synodical Convention.

4. Welcome

- a. By NSW and ACT District Bishop:
Pr Robert Bartholomaeus
- b. Warrambui Director
- c. By Others

5. Roll Call

- a. Beginning of Session 1: Secretary
- b. Attendance Report: Secretary

6. Greetings

7. Apologies

8. Adoption of Minutes

The NSW and ACT DCC has vetted the 38th Regular Synodical Convention Minutes as circulated to the 2020 delegates and congregation secretaries and recommends their adoption.

Be it resolved that the minutes of the 38th Regular Synodical Convention, 2020, be adopted.

9. Reading of Reports and Statements

Be it resolved that printed reports be taken as read and received unless otherwise indicated.

10. Adoption of Reports and Statements

Be it resolved that at the close of Convention reports and statements tabled during Convention be adopted.

11. Proposals

Be it resolved that agenda proposals be taken as moved and seconded.

Be it resolved that additional late proposals be taken as moved and seconded.

Be it resolved that all tabled reports and proposals in the report book and late proposals and reports be accepted and debated at the appropriate time.

12. Convention Minutes

Be it resolved that the appointed Committee for the verification of minutes, vet Synodical Convention minutes, correct where necessary and recommend printing of the minutes to the Secretary.

13. Membership

- a. Closures:

Estonian Canberra
St Andrew Corowa
Concordia Yagoona

Be it resolved that Convention notes these closures, giving thanks and praise to God for the many blessings He has poured out through these places of worship and fellowship.

- b. Realignment:

Illawarra and LifeWay

14. First Reading of Nominations

B. LCA NSW and ACT District

1. Bishop's Report Pr Robert Bartholomaeus

- a. Thanks for ministries

The following pastors have accepted calls outside the NSW and ACT District since last Synodical Convention:

Pr Simon Mackenzie
Pr Stuart Kleinig
Pr Kees Sturm
Pr Dan Mueller
Pr Darryl Mattner
Pr Joseph Graham

The following pastor has retired from parish ministry:

Pr David Grulke

Be it resolved that Convention place on record its sincere thanks to the above named pastors for their faithful ministries while serving the NSW and ACT District.

Be it resolved that Convention express its sincere thanks to retired pastors who continue to serve faithfully in NSW and ACT post retirement.

Agenda

b. Welcome to NSW and ACT District

The following pastors have been installed in the NSW and ACT District since last Synodical Convention:

Pr Tim Muller
Pr David Schuppan
Pr David Cherry
Pr Lassi Pappinen
Pr Mark Worthing

Be it resolved that Convention welcome with joy the above pastors and their families and pray that these new co-workers will be richly blessed personally and bring many blessings both to their parishioners and to the NSW and ACT District.

2. Mission and Ministry

3. District Church Council

4. NSW and ACT District Budget

- a. Treasurer's Report
- b. Financial Statements
- c. Auditor's Report
- d. Property Trust
- e. 2022 NSW and ACT District Budget
- f. Adoption of the 2022 NSW and ACT District Budget

5. Administrator

6. Proposals *(details page 25)*

- a. Convention Book of Reports and Minutes in digital form

Be it resolved that the LCA NSW and ACT District Convention Book of Reports and Minutes of Convention will be distributed to delegates in a digital format, and will only be available in a printed version upon request.

District Church Council

- b. LCA Safe Church Training for all Synod delegates

Be it resolved that all delegates to the LCA NSW and ACT District Convention of Synod be required to have completed Safe Church Level 1 training, and a Working with Children Check or Working With Vulnerable People registration.

District Church Council

7. Warrambui Retreat and Conference Centre:

- a. Warrambui Board
- b. Financial statements and auditor's report

8. TPM Camping Ministry

9. Nominations: Second Reading

10. District Budget: First Reading

11. Schools in NSW and ACT

- a. Council for Lutheran Education Victoria, NSW, Tasmania and ACT (LEVNT)
- b. LEVNT Director
- c. St Paul's College, Walla Walla

12. Nomination and Election of Officers

- a. Nominations: Third Reading: Secretary
- b. Elections
- c. Declaration of elections

Be it resolved that Convention note the results of the 2022 elections and the District Church Council appointments.

13. Lutheran Aged Care

Albury Aged Care: Management, Financial Statements and Auditor's report

14. Lutheran Women of NSW and ACT

15. Professional Standards

16. In Memoriam

17. LCA Reports

18. Closing Formalities

Be it resolved that Reports and statements tabled at Convention be adopted.

Be it resolved that unfinished business be referred to the District Church Council for action.

- a. Next Synod 2024
- b. Vote of Thanks

19. Convention Closing Worship Service

Nominations

Within the District any parish, congregation or member of a congregation may nominate a person for a position that is marked **Synod** in the '*nomination from*' column. When nominating use the form marked '2022 District Nomination Details' available from District Office (phone 8660 1200 or office.nsw@lca.org.au) and from Nominations Committee Convenor, Tony von Brandenstein.

This worksheet shows positions, those elected/appointed at/since 2020 Convention, sitting personnel and who can nominate a candidate – Nomination from. Sitting personnel are eligible for re nomination.

Positions marked 'DCC' are appointed by the District Church Council but you are invited to also nominate people for these positions for DCC's consideration.

= indicates not seeking nomination
= nomination needed

Nominee's name = further nominations can be made

Section 1. Synod Election

Position	Elected/appointed	Sitting (as at Oct 2022)	Nominee	Nomination from
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ADMINISTRATION

BISHOP (elected for 2 Synodical terms – currently to 2022)

Pr Robert Bartholomaeus	Pr Robert Bartholomaeus		Pr Conference & Synod floor
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ASSISTANT BISHOP

Pr Richard Schwedes	Pr Richard Schwedes		Pr Conference & Synod floor
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REGIONAL PASTORS

Canberra	Pr Paul Hannola	Pr Paul Hannola	Pr Conference
Coastal North	Pr Richard Schwedes	Pr Richard Schwedes	Pr Conference
Coastal South	Pr Simon Mackenzie	Pr Richard Schwedes	Pr Conference
North West	Pr Darren Kupke	Pr Darren Kupke	Pr Conference
Riverina	Pr Darryl Mattner	Pr John Borchert	Pr Conference

SECRETARY	Elizabeth Eckermann	Elizabeth Eckermann	Synod
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TREASURER	Bruce Arnold	Bruce Arnold	Synod
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DISTRICT CHURCH COUNCIL

9 members (skills-based structure) **Bishop, Assistant Bishop, Secretary, Treasurer, 1 pastor, 4 Lay**

Pastor	Pr Christian Fandrich	Pr Christian Fandrich	Pr Conference
Layperson	Malcolm Hall	Jarmo Ronneberg	Synod
Layperson	Joanne Knobel	Joanne Knobel	Synod
Layperson	Tony von Brandenstein	Tony von Brandenstein	Synod
Layperson	Ward Westphal	Ward Westphal	Synod
Consultant:			
Administrator	Russell Veerhuis	Russell Veerhuis	

PROPERTY TRUST

5 members: 3 elected by Synod, 2 appointed by DCC.

Bishop	Pr Robert Bartholomaeus	Pr Robert Bartholomaeus	DCC appointed
Administrator	Russell Veerhuis	Russell Veerhuis	DCC appointed
Assistant Bishop	Pr Richard Schwedes	Pr Richard Schwedes	Synod
Secretary	Elizabeth Eckermann	Elizabeth Eckermann	Synod
	Kaye Simpfendorfer	Kaye Simpfendorfer	Synod

Nominations

Position	Elected/appointed	Sitting (as at Oct 2022)	Nominee	Nomination from
WELFARE				
LUTHERAN AGE CARE, ALBURY BOARD OF GOVERNANCE				
<i>7 members, including one pastor. 7 nominated by Board for election by Synod</i>				
Chairperson	Phillip Edwards	Tim McInnes	_____	LACA
Executive Director	Ron Asquith		_____	LACA
Executive Director	Wendy Rocks	Wendy Rocks	_____	LACA
Pastor	Pr Christian Fandrich		_____	LACA
	Kevin Klose	Kevin Klose	_____	LACA
		Ron Asquith	_____	LACA
	Laura Thompson	Louise Ward	_____	LACA
	Simona Coad		_____	LACA
AUXILIARIES				
WARRAMBUI MANAGEMENT BOARD				
<i>11 Members. DCC appoints Committee Treasurer and DCC rep. 9 elected by Synod, one being a pastor</i>				
Chairperson	Neal Mason	Neal Mason	_____	Synod
Vice Chairperson	Garry Watson	Garry Watson	_____	Synod
Secretary	Donald McLean	Donald McLean	_____	Synod
Treasurer	Teresa Heyne	Teresa Heyne	_____	DCC appointed
Pastor	Pr Mat von Stanke	Pr Mat von Stanke #	_____	Synod
DCC Rep	Ward Westphal	Ward Westphal	_____	DCC appointed
	Geoff Hartwig	Geoff Hartwig	_____	Synod
	Phil Spann	Phil Spann #	_____	Synod
	Brianna O'Keefe	Brianna O'Keefe	_____	Synod
			_____	Synod
			_____	Synod
Ex Officio:				
Bishop	Pr Robert Bartholomaeus	Pr Robert Bartholomaeus		
District Treasurer	Bruce Arnold	Bruce Arnold		
Consultant:				
Retreat Director	Dean Salzke	Dean Salzke		

Section 2. DCC Appointments for Synod Endorsement

Synod can nominate for DCC appointments

ADMINISTRATION

ADMINISTRATOR	Russell Veerhuis	Russell Veerhuis		DCC Appointed
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FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Consists of at least six members: The Treasurer, Administrator, a pastor and others.

Treasurer	Bruce Arnold	Bruce Arnold	_____	
Administrator	Russell Veerhuis	Russell Veerhuis	_____	
Pastor	Pr Hans Peethala	Pr Hans Peethala	_____	DCC Appointed
	Andrew Hoffmann	Andrew Hoffmann	_____	DCC Appointed
	Mark Waldron	Mark Waldron	_____	DCC Appointed
	Peter Weber	Peter Weber #	_____	DCC Appointed
Ex Officio:				
Bishop	Pr Robert Bartholomaeus	Pr Robert Bartholomaeus		

Nominations

Position	Elected/appointed	Sitting (as at Oct 2022)	Nominee	Nomination from
NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE				
<i>5 members, 2 pastors 3 lay people</i>				
Convenor	David Menzel	Tony von Brandenstein	_____	DCC Appointed
Assistant Bishop	Pr Richard Schwedes	Pr Richard Schwedes	_____	DCC Appointed
Pastor	Pr Ian Rentsch	Pr Ian Rentsch	_____	DCC Appointed
Secretary	Elizabeth Eckermann	Elizabeth Eckermann	_____	DCC Appointed
	Kaye Simpendorfer	Kaye Simpendorfer	_____	DCC Appointed
2024 SYNODICAL CONVENTION PLANNING COMMITTEE				
<i>Bishop, Assistant Bishop, Secretary, Administrator, plus as needed.</i>				
Bishop	Pr Robert Bartholomaeus	Pr Robert Bartholomaeus	_____	DCC appointed
Assistant Bishop	Pr Richard Schwedes	Pr Richard Schwedes	_____	DCC appointed
Secretary	Elizabeth Eckermann	Elizabeth Eckermann	_____	DCC appointed
Administrator	Russell Veerhuis	Russell Veerhuis	_____	DCC appointed
CONGREGATIONAL LIFE				
LWNSW and ACT SPIRITUAL ADVISORS				
	Pr David Thompson	Pr Mark Simpendorfer	_____	LW NSW ACT
	Pr Kees Sturm	Pr Peter Fuhlbohm	_____	LW NSW ACT
PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS				
Professional Standards Officer	Carolyn Kiss	Carolyn Kiss	_____	LCA
EDUCATION				
LUTHERAN EDUCATION, VICTORIA, NEW SOUTH WALES & TASMANIA (LEVNT) NSW and ACT Members				
<i>2 members</i>				
	Marianne Hammerton	Marianne Hammerton	_____	DCC appointed
		Kevin Klose	_____	DCC appointed
ST PAUL'S COLLEGE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT				
<i>Members appointed by LEVNT endorsed by DCC</i>				
Chairperson	Anthony Lieschke	Anthony Lieschke	_____	LEVNT
Vice Chairperson		Cameron Turner	_____	LEVNT
	Christine Biar	Christine Biar	_____	LEVNT
	Pr Dan Mueller	Graham Kotzur	_____	LEVNT
	Andrew Kearney	Jenny Zweck	_____	LEVNT
	Fiona Muller	Kelly Nadenbaum	_____	LEVNT
	Jonathan Schoff	Robyn Armstrong	_____	LEVNT
		Charlotte Rose	_____	
DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES				
LUTHERAN LAYPEOPLE'S LEAGUE BOARD OF DIRECTORS				
NSW and ACT Representatives				
	Deepa Justus	Deepa Justus	Until 2026	GCB appointed
	David Kalisch	David Kalisch	Until 2026	GCB appointed
LCA JUDICIAL TRIBUNAL NSW and ACT Rep (Nominated by DCC for GCB appointment)				
	Jim Ironside	Jim Ironside	_____	GCB appointed
		Nancy Fox	_____	GCB appointed
NSW ECUMENICAL COUNCIL				
	Alison Short	Alison Short	_____	DCC appointed
COUNCIL FOR CHRISTIANS AND JEWS				
	Alison Short	Alison Short	_____	DCC appointed

District Bishop



**Bishop Robert
Bartholomaeus**

Grace and peace to you from our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

One week after our last District Synod in Walla Walla, shutdowns started to occur across the world, this included Australia. Ever since, and still to this day, Covid has impacted our personal lives and the lives of those in the church.

The immediate response of the church and its pastors was to find new ways of ministering to our people during a pandemic. Pastors and laypeople found ways of getting the word and the sacrament to people bound to their houses.

Our District Church Council promoted funding for buying audio visual equipment so that churches could live stream their services to members and to the world. Both laypeople and pastors learnt to have meetings virtually via Zoom and Teams. The government spent billions keeping organizations and businesses afloat. The church benefited from these Covid payments, and was able to sustain salaries of pastors and church workers when congregations were not able to meet and collect offerings. Many of our people took up regular electronic giving (REG) for the first time. This helped our congregations to survive financially.

We all thought it would be back to normal after three months, only to find this was not the case and found ourselves in a number of lockdowns over the next 18 months while the vaccine was distributed. We learnt to celebrate Holy Communion in ways which were compliant with health recommendations. Wearing masks, gloves and using individual cups became the norm.

Now we have learnt to live with Covid, so much so that this last winter we have seen numbers of Covid cases across Australia escalate dramatically, now most people you speak to have tested positive to the illness. Over 10,000 Australians have died from the disease and one third of Australians have had the disease and recovered.

The pandemic has greatly impacted our congregation in-person worship attendance. Some members are still

worshipping at home on-line. Some have not returned. Some have gone elsewhere. Smaller congregations have fared better than large congregations. These are challenging times for each of our congregations.

The latest 2021 census has told us – if we did not realise it already – that the religious landscape in Australia has changed. Only 40% of Australians now declare they are Christian. This is down 20% from the previous census. Australia is no longer a Christian country, but rather a secular country living off the remnants of the Christian faith.

Churches in our district, even more so than at our last synod, are divided into three camps. One group is trying to adapt to the challenge of being a mission church in our secular culture. These churches are endeavouring to plant new congregations and new groups as a way of reaching this secular culture. Other churches are taking steps which might renew them in mission. The third group of churches are continuing to minister as they always have and praying that God will somehow intervene. But as members in these congregations age and die, these congregations keep shrinking until they become unsustainable. These congregations often have no one under the age of fifty present on a Sunday morning. Our congregations in NSW and the ACT fall more or less equally into these three groups.

We value each of these groups of congregations. Some have energy and the means to innovate. Others are attempting new things but who knows what will result. While the third group are tired, but faithfully looking to God. We need to honour and help each other. We do not know what the future holds when it comes to the life of our congregation. But we know God will look after his kingdom. But not in ways that we might expect.

Take Concordia, Yagoona for example. Over the last 25 years the English speaking congregation has shrunk in numbers. They invited the Indonesian Lutheran congregation to use their facilities. They finally gifted the church, the manse and the hall to this new group. One group dies but God resurrects and grows another.

We continue to focus on our strategic plan and its six priorities.

WALKING TOGETHER IN MISSION: A map for the journey

This map focuses our efforts. The map lists six key strategies.

- A. Supporting congregations and ministries in mission and ministry
- B. Supporting congregations and ministries in transition
- C. Alternative models of ministry that best serve the District
- D. Planting and renewing congregations
- E. Networking and connections between congregations and ministries
- F. District Leadership through the Bishop leading Leadership Teams

Walking together in mission

As bishop, and with the onset of Covid, I was encouraged by Pr Richard Schwedes to develop a series of bible studies on the six priorities. These studies were held online every three months over Zoom. The series was completed in February of this year. A consistent number of about 15-20 people joined in on these studies. It allowed those who felt isolated in small struggling congregations to join with others across the state. Everyone came away from each study feeling encouraged and uplifted, as we allowed God to build us up as we discussed his word.

Our strategic plan encourages us to walk together in our witness and mission. Together we are strong, individually we are vulnerable and weak. It is important that we reach out to each other as we endeavour to proclaim Christ to our neighbours and friends.

A. Supporting congregations and ministries in mission and ministry

The New and Renewing Churches department of the LCA continues to mentor church planters and pastors and lay workers, who are engaging in reaching out to their communities in places like Western Sydney, Mologlo Valley, Tuggeranong and St Paul's Sydney. The ministry to Chinese people at Lifeway Epping continues to see fruit.

The District holds funds which can be used for helping congregations and ministries.. The Mission and Ministry committee vet these applications to see how they fit into the strategic plan, the Finance Council looks at financial considerations and the Dis-

tract Church Council takes all of this into consideration when they approve an application.

The James Haak Memorial Fund was set up from the bequests of Joyce Butterfield (Campbelltown) and Roy Schulz (Burrumbuttock) and is available to financially assist pastors and employed laypeople to undertake professional development which they might otherwise not be able to afford.

B. Supporting congregations and ministries in transition

Many of our churches are aiming to focus more on mission. This is not an easy change nor is it something that happens overnight. It requires us to focus forward and outward, engaging with people outside the church who are not yet believers. Learning to talk about our faith with people who have none is a challenge. We need to learn new skills on how to communicate with people outside the church and this engagement may leave us sometimes feeling ill at ease. Maybe even anxious. But the Spirit enables us.

St Luke's Albury from 2018 - 2020, ran the Frontier programme, a training program for missional practitioners, enabling, empowering and releasing people into mission ministry in the local church. With the retirement of Pr David Grulke this venture was put on hold. But after twelve months of discussion and God's appointed timing, we were able to resurrect Frontier as a training opportunity. On the 17th of July of this year, I installed Pr Mark Worthing as Dean of Frontier School of Mission with four "campuses" – Albury, War-rambui, the District Office at Bella Vista and Port Macquarie. The Port Macquarie congregation has welcomed Pr Mark as half time pastor, working on Frontier the other half. The district has committed to subsidising the costs of Frontier for three years. After which the aim is that it will become self-supporting from students doing courses.

C. Alternative models of ministry that best serve the District

The institutional church is continuing to decline in the Western world. But "fresh expressions of church" are continuing to appear. I attended the Sydney Church Planting Strategic Network recently. We heard from a young church planter who began with a church of 17 people about ten years ago. They have grown and planted four new churches across Sydney and now number 400 mem-

bers in total. He shared what he has learnt from his experience.

Our strategic plan encourages experimentation. We have seen three potential Specific Ministry Pastors arise in the last synodical term. In total, we currently have eight SMP pastors across the district.

As mentioned earlier we also have three church planters working. One in Western Sydney, the other in Molonglo Valley in Canberra, and the third in the Lutheran school in Jindera.

These alternative models of ministry are supported by the district and the LCA New and Renewing Churches Department.

D. Planting and renewing congregations

What we have seen over the last two and a half years is not all of our church planting dreams come into reality. We have seen our endeavours in one place come to naught, while in another place where we expected not a lot to happen, now things are flourishing. The important thing is that congregations give it a go. It is not success which measures us, but stepping out in faithfulness to Christ our saviour, and his call to go.

Living Waters Wollongong has joined with the Lifeway team of churches and is endeavouring under the leadership of Pr David Schuppan and by the power of the Holy Spirit to revitalize the life of their church.

Liverpool congregation stepped out in faith. They called Pr Hans Peethala for four days a week. Pr Hans also then started to work with Campbelltown. This has seen blessing but not in the way we quite imagined it would take place. We are exploring whether another SMP could flourish in this setting.

E. Networking and connections between congregations and ministries

The Covid pandemic saw a number of congregations network and connect with each other in ways which they had not done so in the past. This was evident amongst the ACT congregations who met together on zoom to address the challenges of Covid and its restrictions. Pastors and chairpersons met every couple of weeks and supported each other.

In late 2021 the District employed a Strategic Communications Officer for one day a week. Tanya Cunningham - well known for working at War-

rambui and Turning Point Ministries in the past - took on the role. She has helped us launch our Facebook page, develop the Frontier website, as well as the District website and numerous other communication projects.

The St Pauls congregation in Sydney now employs Bridgette Wiltshire as their Mission and Ministry facilitator. The aim is to connect better with people in their local community around the church in central Sydney.

The Tuggeranong congregation employs Cheryl Turek as their Community Development Coordinator. In this position Cheryl oversees all aspects of activities of the congregation and the new church plant at Greenway Views retirement village. She follows up with members of the community who attend any of the events, whether they are run at the church or the retirement village.

F. District Leadership through the Bishop leading Leadership Teams

The Assistant Bishop Pr Richard Schwedes and I have exemplified this priority. We phone and update each other on what is happening in our district and then discuss the needs of the district. This occurs at least twice a week.

To implement the strategic plan the district has now employed a Strategic Facilitator to help congregations work on their future plans. Pr Ian Rentsch has been employed part time in this role and has begun his work with the Central West and Gilgandra-Dubbo parishes. I pray God will bless this new position.

Our Schools

Our schools continue to do well. Thanks go to our competent and talented staff and principals. I especially wish to record my thanks to Don Walkley and now Anita Morton at St Pauls Walla Walla, Janet Moeller at Wagga Wagga, and also Brad Moss at Jindera and Henty. Schools go through good times and bad times, but at the moment all four schools are flourishing. This is not without the watchful input of staff from LEVNT, Julian Denholm, Shane Patterson and Tammy Hughes. Our schools are an example of dedication and adaptability.

Our Children

The Federal government, as one of the outcomes of its Royal Commission into child sexual abuse in institutions, has now introduced ten Child Safety Standards for organizations

working with children. This of course includes churches. The aim is to improve the culture for all organizations in their work with children. The LCA has given advice and guidance on how to implement these standards locally. It is essential that all of us move towards the implementation of these standards whether we have children present every Sunday or only occasionally.

My Final Thanks

Without the support of my wife Jenny, I could not do the job of Bishop. She accompanies me on most of my trips across the state, sharing the long distance driving. She then encourages both pastor's wives and

laypeople in her conversations. She and Veronica Schwedes have organised two pastor's wives' retreats.

I also could not do this job without the help and assistance of the two office staff Russell Veerhuis and Kaye Simpfendorfer. They express the love of Jesus in how they do their work every day and are a joy to work with.

The last person I wish to thank in this report is Pr Richard Schwedes. He is the exemplar of assistant bishops. His wisdom on strategic planning and his enthusiasm for the mission of Christ is a great inspiration.

May God continue to guide us all

through this unexplored territory of mission to Australians. May he give us wisdom and his blessing as we work in this district and **walk together in mission**, the mission that he has given us, to share Jesus with the world!

Pastor Robert Bartholomaeus
Bishop LCA NSW and ACT District



Mission and Ministry Team



Pr Richard Schwedes

The Mission and Ministry team supports the Bishop and the District in living out our Strategic Directions of **Walking Together in Mission**, which involves:

- Encouraging and nurturing alternative models of ministry
- Supporting congregations and ministries in mission and ministry
- Supporting congregations and ministries in transition
- Planting and renewing congregations
- Encouraging networking and connections between congregations and ministries

One of our main roles is to encourage and assist congregations and ministries of NSW and ACT to be proactive in their mission and ministry. Most of our congregations and ministries will experience our work through the Bishop. He works directly with congregations to respond to their context, and he usually discusses the opportunities and challenges congregations and the ministries of the District are facing. At times this may lead to the NSW and ACT District providing financial assistance in the form of a loan or grant to a congregation to enable them to be more proactive in mission. If your congregation or ministry has an idea to enhance your mission and ministry and believes you would benefit from assistance:

- First contact Bishop Robert to discuss your ideas and plans, who will explore this with you more deeply.
- Then if you need assistance in any way, Bishop Robert will encourage you to prepare a proposal for the Mission and Ministry Team. We have some guidelines available to assist you.
- The Mission and Ministry team will assess your proposal against our strategic direction and good ministry and mission practices and may make some recommendations to you to enhance the proposal.
- If your proposal is seeking finance from the District, either in the form of a grant or loan, then our Finance Advisory Committee will assess its finances before the proposal is placed before the District Church Council for consideration.

A second major way we are supporting the Bishop and the NSW and ACT in working towards its strategic directives is through putting in place people and organisations to help us live out our strategic directions and live out being a mission focussed church.

We have recently:

Appointed a Strategic Directions Facilitator – Ian Rentsch, who will begin on a part time basis to work with congregations as they consider what their future may look like.

Appointed a Communications Officer – Tanya Cunningham, to assist us in improving our communications in the District.

Also, we have encouraged the re-

emergence of Frontier School of Mission, with Dr Mark Worthing as its Dean. Frontier will focus on providing accredited mission focussed training for people and congregations, in at least 4 locations around the District.

A third major way we are supporting the Bishop and the NSW and ACT is to continually discuss and explore the health of the congregations in our District, exploring how we can support them in the opportunities and challenges they face.

One tool that is helpful for us and will also help many of our congregations is the National Church Life Survey. Thank you to those congregations who participated in this survey. This helps us and you in having a clearer understanding of our congregations and District, and provides some insight into where we should begin directing some of our efforts.

We pray that as you live out being a Christian, you live it out walking with others, so many in our world may not only know of God's love, forgiveness and mercy, but be part of His mission team of receiving and sharing His love, forgiveness and mercy.

Pastor Richard Schwedes
Assistant Bishop



Coastal North Region

St Peters Port Macquarie

As with most congregations in the district the past two years have been dominated by Covid. St Peters coped well with lockdowns and other restrictions and sought to support members by phone, email and other means when we were unable to meet together. We have sought to provide a Covid-safe worship environment as much as possible and to support those of our members who have experienced Covid.

As restrictions ease and the most recent wave of infections passes, we find that our attendance is at or above 2019 levels. We give God thanks that as a congregation we have come through the pandemic in a relatively good position.

We have recently installed a half-time pastor, our first pastor in several years. We give thanks for all of our members who provided much leadership during the long vacancy and for the many visiting pastors (mostly retired clergy) who assisted us over the past few years.

We are also partnering with the district to host the Frontier School of Mission with the library and academic office as well as one of the teaching sites hosted at St Peters.

We have recently increased our social activities with a monthly congregational lunch and a monthly morning tea, which are both well-attended. We also have an active women's guild and a weekly chess club. We regularly hold intergenerational activities after church in which members of all ages join together to play putt-putt golf, go to the zoo, or some other activity. We have been pleased to have new people visit regularly and to pick up several new members over the past two years.

As a congregation we continue to seek ways to be more visible and active in serving our community and to be open to new ways to witness to the light of Christ. Our current membership is 53 and our current average Sunday worship attendance is approximately 40.

Pr Mark Worthing

Redeemer Narraweena

Like many congregations, since our last synod we encountered a number of difficulties and changes due to

Covid over the last few years. Despite these challenges we have continued to be God's presence on the northern beaches of Sydney.

Redeemer Narraweena is a resilient congregation who provide a good family environment for people. Although small in number, our community supports each other and has continued to remain faithful. We are in a partnership (not a parish) with St Paul's Sydney, with Pastor Richard's time shared 70% City, 30% Narraweena. Our NCLS results reveal that our average attendance age is 70 years old, 60% of us are born in Australia, 100% of us have been part of the congregation for at least 6 years, we highly value our sermons, preaching and teaching, holy communion and contemporary worship, and our priorities should be focussed on growing to become a larger church and sharing the faith and inviting others.

Fortunately, we continued worshipping and meeting each other through the use of technology. When we were unable to worship in person we joined with St Paul's online worship, known as Sydney Lutheran Church. We also joined members of St Paul's in their online bible studies.

We have continued our relationship with the Finnish Lutheran Church by joining together with them for a Finnish-English worship service on the fourth Sunday of the month.

We renovated the house next to the church to bring it up to a liveable standard. This is currently rented out to produce income for our ministry and mission. Likewise, we have an arrangement with Montessori kindergarten who rent our hall space during the week as their kindergarten.

In late 2022 we will be renovating the church, so that it is more accessible throughout the week, enhancing our ministry and mission. We have also been approved for funding for a part time position or a ministry apprentice the Lutheran Church of NSW and ACT, and once the renovations are completed, we look forward to engaging a person to help us in our mission.

We have been involved in supporting wider church activities including ALWS, Wycliffe Bible Translators, Open Doors, Mongolian Good News Lutheran Church and Samaritans Purse Christmas Box Appeal.

We continue to work at ways of connecting with more people, so they can connect to Jesus through us, including looking at events that engage the community. Come and join us for a weekend or a lifetime if you would like to be part of God's work on the Northern Beaches of Sydney.

Redeemer has 37 members and average weekly worship attendance of 18. In the past 2 years we have had 3 baptisms, 4 funerals and 1 wedding.

Pr Richard Schwedes

St Paul's Sydney

Since our last Synod in March 2020, our approach to ministry has gone through numerous changes so that we could continue ministering to our community and reaching out to people, not just locally but throughout the world.

St Paul's in the city of Sydney is a congregation of people coming from a large portion of Greater Sydney. It is ethnically diverse with around 15 different ethnic groups represented. There are a considerable number of young adults attending, who meet for lunch after worship. We constantly have people leaving and joining us. Unfortunately, the COVID situation meant that we had a lot more people leaving than joining, this has recently changed with more people joining us.

Our NCLS results reveal that our average attendance age is 51 years old, 68% of us are born in Australia, 32% of us are new to the congregation, we highly value our sermons, preaching and teaching, we value being open to social and cultural diversity and our priorities should be focussed on spiritual growth.

One of the biggest changes to occur was the use of technology for meetings, bible studies and worship. With the assistance of the NSW and ACT District for equipment, God blessing us with a retired former tv technician in our congregation, and the abilities of our pastor, we transitioned to online and livestreaming worship quite quickly. This has seen our worship attendance increase dramatically and we have continued our livestreaming worship since we have returned to in-person worship, with an average of at least 50 people worshipping with us online each week. In person worship attendance is

around 40 people per week at present, which is a little less than pre Covid times. Anyone can worship with us at <https://www.youtube.com/stpaulssydneylutheranchurch>

We have also continued our online weekly bible studies. Going online has been a blessing in many ways. It reduces the travel needed, which in Sydney can be an obstacle for many people, it has enabled people from around the world to join us for studies where they don't have studies in their local church, and it has helped members from our partner congregation, Redeemer to connect with each other. One of the unexpected blessings that happened was a vice principal of a Christian School joined our studies from an area where getting to a Lutheran Church was difficult. He has since joined the Lutheran Church and is now a principal of a Lutheran school in Adelaide. If you would like to join our bible studies, please email pastor@stpaulssydney.org

At the beginning of 2022 we welcomed Bridgitte Willshire our Mission and Ministry Facilitator. This is thanks to the financial support of LCA NSW and ACT. In supporting us and our pastor she has been connecting with the community, both our church community and the wider community of Sydney. With her artistic talents, she encouraged us to participate in the LCA's Simultaneous Art Exhibition, with members from the church and community being encouraged to create some prints around the theme, 'Free Indeed'.

We have supported wider church activities including ALWS, through Walk my Way and their other fundraisers, Wycliffe Bible Translators, Mongolian Good News Lutheran Church and Samaritans Purse Christmas Box Appeal.

We continue to work at ways of connecting with more people, so they can connect to Jesus through us, including looking at events that engage the community, making our hall available, pastor offering pre marriage counselling to people in the wider community and connecting with other groups in the community.

St Pauls has 132 members and average weekly worship attendance of 96, including online attendees. In the past two years we have had 9 baptisms, 13 funerals and 4 weddings.

Pr Richard Schwedes

LifeWay Sydney, Newcastle, Illawarra, Westside and Cambodia

LifeWay's current membership is 375 with average weekly worship attendance of 320.

During the last synodical term LifeWay received a \$5000 grant from the NSW and ACT District towards installation of lighting to improve the quality of our live streamed services.

LifeWay also received grant funding from the District to employ Danny Brock as a Church Planter in Western Sydney, and to employ Wilkinson Hu as a Church Planter and Discipleship Mentor to the Epping Chinese Mandarin community.

We praise God for the blessings we have witnessed at LifeWay over the last synodical term. We are blessed to partner with the NSW and ACT District in a Church planting venture as part of the Sydney Future Directions strategy, and employ Danny Brock to plant a new faith community in Western Sydney. While Covid-19 has had a serious impact on the growth of the ministry, as it is a relational face to face ministry, we have made some great community connections through Danny's 'office' at the local café. Mainly music is set to begin in that space, while BBQ Church on the last weekend of the month is another way we build connections around a meal.

Across LifeWay, we were excited at the official regularisation of Pastor Mathew von Stanke as the local pastor at Newcastle. Together, Pastor Mathew and the people of the Newcastle congregation continue to explore how God is calling them to share the love and grace of God with the people of Newcastle and the Greater Hunter region as part of the LifeWay team.

Living Water Lutheran Church (Wollongong/Oak Flats/Nowra) also officially joined the LifeWay family during this time, becoming LifeWay Illawarra. Pastor David Schuppan responded to the call to join the team and together they are exploring new ways of living, sharing and growing in Jesus love with the people of the Illawarra.

Ministry to the Chinese community at Epping has continued to grow and we praise God for the work of Wilkinson Hu and now Francis Leung in leading and ministering to the Chinese speaking community in the area. We are also very excited that Francis has been approved by the College of Bishops for ordination as

an Specific Ministry Pastor. We continue to see baptisms occur among the Chinese community.

Despite the easing of Covid restrictions, we still have a large number of people accessing our live streamed service every week. We are working together across all our sites to explore how we can not only provide worship online, but also how we can disciple and grow those who connect with our online community. At present we are exploring ways to create and deliver online content that draws on the Sunday worship service and helps people engage with faith more throughout the week. One of the exciting developments out of streaming our services is the fortnightly gathering of a number of Indian university students who connected with us online and asked us to disciple them.

LifeWay has also continued to engage with mission work in Cambodia, supporting local missionary, Khit Vibol as he plants a church and spreads the Gospel in a rural area in Kampong Thom. We are now registered as a local NGO (LifeWay Lutheran Cambodia) with the Cambodian government and have a great team of local people supporting Vibol. We partner with other local groups like Lutheran Hour Ministries Cambodia, to run programs in primary and secondary schools. LifeWay raised money to build 4 wells to enable villages to draw clean water in four communities, bought 10 computers and established a facility for teaching computer skills and training local people. During the height of the pandemic, we fed 150 families, and provided books and pencils to 400 students to enable them to learn. We also have a LifeWay soccer team for local students that enables us to share the Gospel with the players before the beginning of each match. God is very much alive and active through this ministry and we praise God that already we are seeing people become part of the family of God in the waters of baptism.

Another ground breaking project has been partnering with the local Together for Ryde network of pastors in the Vertical Villages Project (www.verticalvillages.org.au) which conducted research with Macquarie University on how to build community in high density, high rise developments. We are continuing to explore this space and what it might mean for church planting in the longer term. We are also working with state government and councils in this space.

Through Australian Christian Resources (www.shopACR.com.au) we continue to explore ways to equip the Church and enrich the lives of people through a broad range of resources to encourage in the faith. One of the most exciting developments is the launch of the biodegradable communion cup as bans on single-use plastics increase. It's a compostable cup that can be put in your green bin and is a simple way that your church can care for God's creation and take a practical step towards a greener and more sustainable future. We have partnered with an Australian and now global company BioPak to exclusively manufacture these sugar-cane pulp cups for churches.

Navigating a course through the challenges of the last few years has been exhausting but we are overwhelmed by the grace God has shown to us, and thankful for his faithfulness in leading us every step of the way. As one church in multiple locations, we continue to pray: God 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.

Pr Mat von Stanke

St Matthew's, Woy Woy

Current membership of St Matthew's is 63, and average weekly worship attendance is 20.

In the past synodical term we received a grant from the District for the purchase of streaming equipment.

We held a German Lantern Service for children and their parents, celebrating the feast of St Matthew, and several congregational lunches.

Our main goal as a church parish is to provide support and care for our current members and to extend our invitation to new members. As our numbers are not great we all have to do our part, where and when we can, be it cleaning, morning tea, donation or something else. Due to their age some parishioners have moved away, to be closer to their children.

A lot has happened and our lives have changed due to COVID. Because of the pandemic we were forced to suspend our church services and could only worship online. All other activities were suspended as well. Self-isolation and social distancing became the new trend. Newsletters with updates about the changing restrictions were sent out almost on a daily basis by the pastor.

But our heavenly Father loves us and cares for us, we were able to return to our church and our Sunday services have been taking place as before. Pastor and his wife have continued to live-stream our services. The technological side of things proved to be challenging at first, new equipment needed to be purchased and tested, but glitches are few and far between now. Our live-streams are available on Facebook and YouTube.

The reality has changed, we have individual cups now for Holy Communion, but we have worked out the best practices for communing and

everything runs smoothly. Restrictions change and need to be observed and followed, handshakes and masks go in and out of fashion, hand-sanitisers have become regular parts of our lives and so on. All of this is not easy, but we can indeed put all our trust in the Lord our God.

The German and Finnish congregations have also resumed their monthly services and it is great to have them worshipping at St Matthew's. In time and through the guidance of the Holy Spirit we will grow closer together. Our hall is now also utilised by a folk singing group Troubadour Central Coast for rehearsals.

There are many things in our congregation to be thankful for - and to work towards. First and most of all, we are children of God and citizens of his Kingdom, called by name and set aside for our heavenly Father. We are a small congregation, yet we have been blessed abundantly. Our little church is a house of the Lord where we can all be welcomed, loved and cared for.

We will continue to stay strong, face the challenges before us and trust our Lord to hold us in the palm of his hand and provide us with guidance to grow as his children.

Respectfully submitted,

Pr Allan Taruste

Coastal South Region

Our Saviour, Springwood

Greetings in Jesus Christ's Name.

Our congregation currently numbers 50 baptised members, with 45 active communicant members. We have come down from 67 baptized and 60 confirmed 10 years ago. Our current numbers attending the Divine Service average about 23.

The congregation is currently served by two retired pastors, Robert Hamann and Rex Mickan. They are both members of the congregation and function under appointment of the congregation. Together with our neighbouring congregation, St Paul's, St Marys, we are awaiting the arrival of the called Pastor, Peter Ravikumar, from India. Our Call to him was accepted about 3 years ago, but his arrival has been long delayed by Visa

and Covid 19 realities.

The congregation is gathered by her Lord for the Divine Service each Sunday and classic feast days. It has retained a strong Lutheran confessional practice in its liturgy and hymnody.

It enjoys fellowship through Ladies' and Men's groups, and meals together.

During Covid we attempted to make the Divine Service available to as many as possible - with printed materials, but mostly with pastoral visits to homes with the full Service with Communion being offered to one or two people, later up to five. Over 60 Services were provided in this way in 2022, fewer in 2021. Losses to the congregation were thankfully very small.

We are thankful to our Lord for his presence and his continuing gifts of grace and mercy to us in this place.

Pr Robert Hamann

Pr Rex Mickan

Good Shepherd Sutherland

Greetings from Good Shepherd Sutherland.

The congregation has around 50 people and average attendance is around 18 each week. This has dropped for a number of reasons, Covid being one of them, and people moving locally and interstate.

We give thanks to God for the past two years, and it goes without saying that we were no different to any other congregation with regards to Covid.

During this time, however, we have tried to be open to as many people as possible, on as many Sundays as possible. After both lockdowns we resumed services the first possible Sunday, despite the restriction limit of 10 people in 2020 (when we had 2 services for a few weeks) and the vaccination requirement in 2021.

We moved most of our activities online during the COVID lockdowns in 2020 and 2021. Pastor Mat provided recorded sermons and video devotions for worship and also organised online fellowship and Bible studies over Zoom. During our transition back to face-to-face worship, while singing was restricted we gave people the opportunity to sing in a front-row choir with different participants each week. We are very thankful now to be back in full-swing, having recently returned to continuous communion at the altar, as well as enjoying the blessing of in-person fellowship over morning tea after the service.

Our church holds several regular activities both on Sundays and throughout the week. After service on Sunday, Pastor Mat leads us in a monthly topical Bible study, while on other Sundays we hold more relaxed "Indwelling the Word" Bible studies which gives us a chance to read and reflect on God's Word together. We also hold a Ladies' Fellowship group after services, while our older congregants also meet during the week in their aptly-named "Young at Heart" group.

We are a broadly-spread congregation with people from many places in Sydney representing a range of ages and contexts. To engage with these varied contexts, this year we as a church have been increasing our focus on mission and evangelism. Under Pastor Mat's guidance, we have learned about the Lutheran understanding of mission through topical Bible studies and been encouraged to reflect on ways that we can share the love of God and the Gospel of Jesus Christ to others in our own communities as we go out from the Divine Service each week.

We are thankful to God for the blessing of the Divine Service as we are now able to worship in person once again. We are also thankful for the many new people who have attended our church over the past two years. Some of these people have attended only briefly for the baptism of their children; others have stayed and participated in the life of the church for

many months and continue to worship with us. In every case, we rejoice in their presence with us, knowing that God richly gives them His grace and forgiveness as they receive His Word and Sacraments.

Pastor Mat Eckermann

Good Shepherd Campbelltown

'God's people, growing in Jesus for the sake of others'

We are facing challenging times at Good Shepherd Campbelltown with attendance continuing to decline, long time active members moving away and illness and age impacting us all. And yet the Lord continues to bless us, and His faithfulness never ceases.

Since the end of 2015 we have been without a full time Pastor as Fred Veerhuis retired from full time ministry. Whilst our membership is only about 30 with an average weekly attendance of between 13 to 16, in this small group there are gifted people willingly using their gifts to serve in many ways so that the general running of the church and more importantly, the joining together for worship each week and communion twice a month can continue to be celebrated with joy and thanksgiving.

Members also gather round the Word together with two groups of 6 ladies each working through the KYB (Knowing Your Bible) study material as well as a group of men who meet weekly to study the Word via Skype.

In 2020, Pastor Hans Peethala was installed as part time Pastor at Living Waters Lutheran Church in Liverpool. Good Shepherd Campbelltown was blessed to enter into a shared arrangement of two days a week with Pastor Hans preaching once a month at Good Shepherd.

A highlight for Good Shepherd was celebrating 40 years of ministry in a special service where we looked back with gladness and thanksgiving at all the Lord has done, and with hope to what He is still going to do.

We don't have any big missionary programs happening at Good Shepherd, but we do have faithful people who are engaging in ministry in their local sphere of influence, loving people, caring about them as individuals and sharing small gospels or simply a hug and a prayer as they share the love of Jesus with others.

Covid had a huge impact on Good Shepherd and gave us a real chal-

lenge in how to continue to minister to our people, especially in worship, during lockdowns. Thankfully, due to the insight of Pastor Fred Veerhuis during the 5 years he spent as our Pastor when he decided to record his sermons each week, we were able to provide our people with a service via YouTube each Sunday using his sermons and those of some members of the congregation (after we figured out how to navigate our way around what was for Good Shepherd, new technology!) Now back in face to face worship, we continue to benefit from Fred's sermons on weeks when we don't have someone to preach. (Pastor Fred's sermons are available for download from Good Shepherd's website as a resource.)

Nearing the end of 2022, Good Shepherd is in a place of uncertainty regarding our future as a congregation, but we are by no means uncertain as to who is in control of our future. As we wait upon the Lord, the gospel will continue to be preached each Sunday and hands lifted in praise and prayer as we worship together. We will continue to meet around the Word of God and minister to each other as best we can, and as God's people, we will continue to grow in Jesus for the sake of others always keeping our eyes on Christ. We give God all the glory!

Merrion Hoffmann
Worship/Music Ministry Leader

Bass Hill Finnish

Southern Cross Finnish Church has members across the greater Sydney area. Older members of the congregation live in more peripheral areas such as Penrith, Wollongong and Gosford, whereas younger generations prefer to live closer to Sydney CBD and the ocean. Hence the wide area. The church is located on the lower floor of congregation's manse in Bass Hill.

Monthly services are held in Bass Hill and in Redeemer Lutheran church in Narrabeena. Services in Narrabeena are bilingual (English-Finnish) in co-operation with Redeemer Lutheran church and its pastor Richard Schwedes. In addition to that, the pastor attends monthly meetings in Penrith and Wollongong. Occasional services and events are also arranged in Woy Woy and St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Darlinghurst. Pastor and his wife lead a music playgroup for families twice a month. The congregation is also responsible

for arranging confirmation training as requested by those of Finnish descent.

We have 200 members and on average 52 attendees/month in two regular worship services combined. The pastor interacts with roughly 141 individuals/month for all events combined.

The congregation said farewell to its former pastor Aapo Kaivosoja in November 2020 and received its next pastor Lassi Pappinen in December 2021. Thus during 2021 congregational activities rested largely on parishioners' shoulders. Jarmo Ronneberg and Keijo Plit led services and rites when needed.

In 2022 the congregation has celebrated a few special occasions, the first of which was the installation service of the new pastor. The service was led by bishop Robert Bartholomaeus on February 6th. Another special event was Nepean Guild's 50th anniversary celebrations on 7th August 2022. Both of these occasions saw an attendance well above average and were able to draw together Finns from different areas and even as far as interstate.

The congregation's members have shown utmost dedication in arranging events and organizing fundraising. Nevertheless parishioners average age is relatively high which has caused many of the members to take a less active role. That is largely due to health reasons such as limited ability to drive. Fortunately, parishioners are mutually supporting each other and are reluctant to miss out on congregations activities. Each area (Wollongong, Penrith and Gosford) has their own core group of a few people who are still willing to take responsibility for arranging meetings. However, in the future, the pastor will have to shift emphasis from arranging events to visiting and meeting parishioners in their homes.

Being a church of migrants, many activities carry a twofold purpose. On the one hand people come together to hear the word of God and receive communion, and on the other hand, meeting compatriots, having conversations in Finnish and connecting through shared culture and pastoral support are equally important to many. This very thing forces pastor to balance between proclaiming the Gospel and being a sort of cultural hub for Finns and some of their descendants.

By the end of year 2022 pastor Lassi

Pappinen will have been in office for one full year. In the coming years it is advisable to reform the congregation's activities to better suit people of all ages. Our reach needs to include the older Finns who migrated some decades ago and their descendants. At the same time, the congregation will need to innovate in order to reach younger generations of Finnish expatriates, including those who may have arrived recently or those who are intending to reside in Australia for shorter periods.

Pr Lassi Pappinen

St Pauls, St Marys

Current membership at St Marys is 25, with average weekly worship attendance of 20.

During Covid we all wore masks and whispered the hymns in the early days and then sang them under our masks until we were allowed to take the masks off.

We are thankful for the fact that we and our family members all survived the pandemic, for the love that God pours on us every day, and for his magnificent creation that we call earth.

Future plans: To get a full time pastor installed.

Martin Vanags,
congregation secretary

Sydney Indonesian GKIA

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household. Ephesians 2:19.

GKIA currently has 139 communicant members and 43 children enrolled in Sunday school.

Attendance averages 56 adults and 22 children. On 28 August 65 adults and 30 children attended.

The GKIA congregation is spread all over Sydney from Campbelltown to the inner city. Some older members are still reluctant to attend church in person because of concerns about Covid. For that reason, and for any members unable to attend church, our Sunday services are live-streamed, recorded and downloaded to YouTube each Sunday. On any given Sunday we are likely to have some of our members overseas in Indonesia, especially now that most Covid restrictions have been withdrawn.

Regular church activities include:

- weekly Sunday School; monthly Women's Group meetings (via Zoom); monthly Youth Group meetings; weekly Bible Study meetings (via Zoom); monthly meetings of the Church Council.
- Choirs: Youth choir; Women's choir/vocal group (Blessings); Combined choir; Seniors' choir (Golden Ages).
- A church picnic is held on Easter Monday
- The Annual Congregation Meeting is usually held in July each year.
- At the end of May each year we celebrate the establishment of our church. This year was our 29th anniversary.
- A church retreat is held every three years. This year (2022) the GKIA retreat was held in September at Rathane, Port Hacking, in the Royal National Park.
- Every year the Christmas offertory is donated to an Indonesian charity. In 2021 this was the Pension Fund of the Huria Kristen Batak Protestan (HKBP) which is affiliated with the World Lutheran Federation.

In June 2020 GKIA received an interest free grant of \$20,000 from the LCA NSW and ACT District Mission Capital Development Fund to be repaid within 10 years. However, members of the original church on the site, Concordia Lutheran Church Yagoona, repaid that loan for us in 2021.

Due to Covid restrictions our church was closed during 2020. Every week a shortened service including the sermon and hymns was recorded and broadcast via YouTube on Sunday. Initially, packs of food and household items (e.g. toilet paper) were prepared and delivered to needy members of our congregation. As restrictions were relaxed, Sunday church services were held at 1pm and 4pm and, to maintain social distancing, seats were assigned in both church and church hall. Members messaged or phoned elders to request a seat at the desired time. Before entry temperatures were checked and masks were mandatory. The church was cleaned between services.

We have been very blessed. From 1962 Indonesian students in Sydney from all Christian denominations be-

gan meeting to worship in Indonesian on a monthly basis. They were later joined by Indonesian migrants and the Indonesian Community Christian Fellowship (PMKI) was formed. The fellowship became a church and a full member of the Lutheran Church in 2002 (GKIA) worshipping in Stanley St on Sunday afternoons supported by Rev. Roger Russ and Rev. Sam Simpfendorfer. A series of temporary Indonesian pastors preached at the church before Pastor Sahat Simanullang answered the call in 2008.

Rented accommodation was a problem and Pastor Sahat and family had to move house frequently. Parking was very difficult around Stanley St and many members were buying/renting faraway in southwest Sydney. NSW and ACT District advised GKIA to contact several churches with declining populations and thus contact was made with Pastor Tim Zanker from Concordia Lutheran Church Yagoona.

GKIA afternoon church services began in Yagoona in November 2014. Pastor Sahat and family began rent-

ing the refurbished manse in November 2016. In October 2018 Concordia Lutheran Church Yagoona sold the church and manse to GKIA (for \$1.00), while maintaining their morning service. This truly was a blessing and we are very grateful to our Christian brothers and sisters in Concordia. However, Concordia numbers continued to decline and in May this year Bishop Robert Bartholomaeus preached at the closing service of Concordia Lutheran Church Yagoona.

Trina Supit

Living Waters Liverpool

Our current Membership is 42, and average weekly worship attendance is 28.

We have grown as a congregation spiritually and the members are hungry for the gospel; we currently have 10 women attend our Bible study.

We celebrated 60th Anniversary of our congregation and 30th Anniversary of the building on 3rd July 2022.

The members of the German Lutheran church formerly at Chester Hill have now joined us and we worship together every Sunday. We continue to experience the oneness of the Holy Spirit. There is love, joy and peace among each other and with everyone who enters the church.

As a congregation we were able to have online services and spent time praying over the phone and supporting one another by being in touch. We had 60 members joining us for worship online every Sunday.

I thank God for the members of the congregation who have supported the ministries of the congregation.

The congregation will exhaust their finances by the end of this year and will not be able to afford to pay a pastor for 4 days a week. The congregation needs to submit a grant proposal to the District so that Living Waters can continue to have a pastor and tap into the opportunities to grow and extend the Kingdom of God in Liverpool.

Pr Hans Peethala

Canberra Region

Immanuel Woden Valley

Immanuel is a warm welcoming congregation that intentionally integrates new people into church life. There is often a 2-3 year turnaround for diplomats and military people who join us.

Immanuel is learning more about what it means to be a sending church, a support partner in Jesus' mission with the developing Molonglo Valley Gospel Community led by Church Planter Jacob Traeger. Jacob also serves one day a week at Immanuel, and served more during the pastoral vacancy.

For the last year we have been preaching mainly by series, often going for a month at a time, i.e., in September our worship is focused on creation themes, coinciding with the beginning of spring and the Canberra Floriade Festival.

We have recently initiated a lay preaching team, for training, support and evaluation. The goal is to have at least one lay preaching per month, helping us to hear God's word through a variety of voices. We are also working on developing children and youth for serving in worship.

Covid restrictions have been difficult

and isolating for many, especially those living in aged care. The pandemic has made for somewhat lower attendances at worship and gatherings, and uncertainty around planning. And Covid has gifted us (thankyou NSW and ACT District) with the resources for good equipment for livestreaming our two Sunday morning worship services, and funerals, and a wedding.

Immanuel has a number of Bible study groups. In the past two years The Prayer Course – part 1 and 2, have been a valuable resource. There are people who also practice 'One to One' Bible reading. Covid did not prevent us from having our annual church camps at Warrambui.

Since 2019 we have had a ministry to a group of Mongolians who have come to Australia on working visas. This ministry has been encouraged by Nomin, a Christian from Mongolia, who was here in Australia, and is now with his family in the Philippines, where Nomin is beginning study at the Lutheran Seminary. A Small Group at Immanuel continues to meet weekly on Zoom with Australian Mongolian friends who have returned to their country. The commitment to Bible readings and sharing has been

a wonderful growing time.

We are having a Spirit surge at Immanuel, with 5 children from 4 families baptised in the last month, and another 3 child baptisms coming up in the next month. We are working on congregational sponsors to better support the families.

We look forward to moving into the future with Jesus, being partners in his mission, and seeing what adventures are in store.

Pr Tim Muller

Molonglo Valley

At the time of the last District Synod in March 2020, there was no Lutheran ministry in the Molonglo Valley, a new development in Canberra's inner-west which is projected to grow to 55,000 people by 2040. Following the arrival of Pr Tim Muller at our sending church, Immanuel Woden Valley, a small Gospel Community of six people was established around Easter 2021, meeting weekly in a home in the suburb of Denman Prospect. Together, we have been seeking the Holy Spirit's leading to grow a new church in the Molonglo Valley, praying together, seeking to bless the

community and looking for evangelistic opportunities.

God has been teaching us patience over these eighteen months. The waxing and waning of COVID-restrictions has made it difficult to plan events, or join in events other organisations are running. God has blessed us with growth: up to fourteen people (including children) are now gathering most weeks and we are in the process of discerning whether now is the time to start a simple, regular worship gathering.

Highlights have been:

- leading community carols at the end of 2021 at an event sponsored by the Denman Prospect developer;
- providing games and kids activities for the Molonglo Valley Multicultural Day;
- an Easter egg hunt and craft event which was attended by around 50 kids and their parents, many of whom we didn't know; and
- a dawn service on Easter Sunday with nearly 40 worshippers.

Please pray that God would continue to grow his church in the Molonglo Valley. Specifically, we're praying that God would grow the Molonglo Valley Gospel Community by another ten adults by the end of this year, for the opportunity to invite people to explore faith, and that God will keep sickness and trouble from us so that we reliably run events and activities over the coming months.

We would greatly appreciate your regular prayer – you can sign up for updated prayer points and news from the Molonglo Valley at <http://woden.lutheran.org.au/church-planting-prayer>.

Jacob Traeger

Holy Cross Belconnen

I had just taken over as full-time pastor at Holy Cross, at the beginning of 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic forced Australia, including all churches, into lockdown. Thank God for the technically savvy members at Holy Cross who quickly organised a form of on-line worship that enabled us to provide regular Services, including Easter. A grant from the NSW and ACT District has allowed us to continue to live-stream worship services for those who are not well or anxious or are travelling.

The pandemic also compelled the congregation to change the way it provided pastoral care for members. Up to this time this ministry was prime responsibility of the pastor, with ad hoc support given by a couple of individuals. With the advent of the pandemic, the congregation quickly adopted a more formal pastoral care network. The network generally meets monthly for debriefing, support and some basic care training. This has been another unintended "blessing" of the pandemic.

Holy Cross congregation is also blessed with the number of musicians who lead worship every Sunday; and also with technical people who tend to the sound, recording and preparation of presentations. Our Worship Committee focuses on enriching the major church festivals throughout the year. Recently, we have begun to share our musical talent with Good Shepherd, Tuggeranong. I thank God for this array of talent that we have among us.

While the pandemic affected attendances, with some members failing to return after the lockdowns we have welcomed new people into membership. We continue to reflect on the means by which we can build relationships with our new neighbours in the high-rise apartments that have sprung up around us in recent years. Our playgroup is one way of providing a link to this emerging neighbourhood.

My full-time SMP ministry at Holy Cross will be coming to an end with the coming of Pastor Darren Jaensch, who accepted the call to this congregation earlier this year. Pastor Jaensch's term as Principal Army Chaplain concludes at the end of this year and, after well-earned long service leave, he will be installed at Holy Cross in early May 2023. We look forward to his ministry among us.

Pr Ian Rentsch

I believe that God has blessed me in this ministry at the end of my career, and I pray that God's Spirit will continue to walk with the Holy Cross congregation as its mission and ministry to the Belconnen community continues to evolve.

Good Shepherd Community Church Tuggeranong

The risen Jesus says, *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all*

Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8b).

Good Shepherd congregation participates in God's global mission locally through active and invested community engagement for the sake of the gospel. In LCA NZ terms, we are *growing* together in faith as God's people, *going* as God's people, and striving for leadership that *enables* our growing and going.

We have experienced the challenge of post-covid attendance decline that most churches face today. However, Sunday worship attendance statistics is an inherently narrow measure of church health that misses all the other things that collectively comprise our church life. We may be down in numbers, yet we find ourselves more community-engaged than ever. Most of this happens at various weekday events, activities and groups. One of our principal ministries in this regard is at LDK Greenway Views Senior's Living here in Tuggeranong, which you can read about separately in this collection of Canberra Region reports.

Since gratefully receiving District funding to create a new outreach position, we have been blessed to employ Cheryl Turek as our Community Development Coordinator since mid-2021. With her vision, networking and God-given giftings, we have seen a notable increase in regular events and activities where members of the public interact with congregation members. Good Shepherd is now also known in the local community for its food pantry and hampers to the needy that Cheryl oversees, which includes a clothes pantry and meal freezer.

While the missional (go) aspect of our church life is a particular strength, our fellowship as a faith community (grow) has lost some of its momentum since covid. Our leadership has developed some strategic priorities in response to this, with a focus on better growing together in fellowship and faith as a community, plus better defining and articulating our common vision. We are also most grateful to Holy Cross Belconnen for supporting us with monthly worship band leaders. We look forward to seeing further collaboration in Canberra Region's congregations.

May we each faithfully participate with God in His mission as He serves and grows His church until He returns.

Pastor Paul Hannola

LDK Greenway Views Senior's Living, Tuggeranong

The company name 'LDK' stands for Love, Decency and Kindness. For nearly two years Good Shepherd Tuggeranong has been part of the LDK community with worship services being held every Thursday at 10am in their chapel. The church is well respected and very much part of life there.

We have approximately 18 people listed on our books with an average of 8 residents attending Thursday services each week. On a Sunday morning an LDK bus picks up a small group of interested residents who come and worship with us at Good Shepherd.

It was sad that during the past 12 months two of the founding members passed away. Both were a vital part in establishing the worshipping community.

The management is very open to us being involved by offering pastoral care and visiting those who are lonely or seeking friendship. We have recently commenced a Bible study with a small group meeting fortnightly on Sunday afternoons.

For me it is a real joy to attend worship services each week with such a lovely group of people, followed by a cuppa and chat. LDK is a thriving, busy place. Special thanks to the team who are committed to this ministry and above all, thanks and praise to God!

Yours in Christ,

Cheryl Turek, Community
Development Coordinator
Good Shepherd Tuggeranong

St Peters Canberra

St. Peter's congregation is an aging congregation. Last year on October 30th, we celebrated the 60th anniversary of the dedication of the church building. It was by God's grace and the faith, enthusiasm and hard work of its people which formed the congregation and church 60 years ago. The celebration was certainly a milestone in the life of our congregation. Many former members and pastors joined us together with a few remaining original members in celebration. Our faithful are right to be proud of their Christian witness in the heart of Civic. Despite their advanced age, they are very generous in their support of their local church as well as the work of the LCA in general. They

are still making an effort to reach out to the wider community in Canberra. The last two years of COVID has obviously been a setback in church life due to the long lockdowns. When we could reopen, two thirds of the members returned to regular Worship on Sunday with great enthusiasm. The Ladies' Guild swung into action organizing the op shop, which is their outreach to community.

It is a matter of fact that we are surrounded by secularism, which is especially hostile towards Christian religion. Do we have the strength not to swim with the tide of conformity and secularism? The energy of members is weakening due to advanced age. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak. However, their commitment to God and growth in faith is unbroken. St. Peter's approach is that Christianity is not measured by numbers alone but by the commitment to the Way of our Lord and the witnessing of the Gospel in their lives. Our sheer physical presence in Civic can be a sign which says that salvation is a gift, it is not earned. It is by grace, through faith.

Our commitment is to continue witnessing our Christian faith in this secular world.

Pastor Gábor Szabó

St John the Baptist, Queanbeyan

St. John the Baptist Lutheran Church in Queanbeyan, NSW, is getting smaller in number every year. The Ladies' Guild ceased to exist due to either advanced age or illness and death. School-aged young people who used to join us for Worship grew up and have left the town to pursue their careers. The congregation is struggling.

Pastor Gábor Szabó

Holy Trinity Canberra Finnish

The Holy Trinity Canberra Finnish Church has been serving mainly Finnish emigrants who came to Australia in the 50's-60's, more than 50 years ago. The Finnish congregation in Canberra was established in 1971. Because of COVID the 50th anniversary celebration has been delayed. Our plan is to have that celebration on 7-8 January 2023.

During these decades we have had local church goers who have had a strong connection to people with Finnish background as well among us. Now we face the aging of our

people. The original Finnish emigrants are overwhelmingly older parishioners, many of them now more than 80 years of age. The next generation, the children of these original emigrants, are not used to going to church. No new emigrants from Finland will come to Australia, at least not to Canberra, anymore.

Of course, in these circumstances, we are asking: Where are we going from this point? How long can we go on with a small, mainly ethnic congregation, where the council members and other main responsibility bearers are aging with increasing health problems?

We have had our regular Sunday services with 15-20 attendants every Sunday. This was the case before COVID, this has been the case now when the COVID restrictions have been eased. Some special events (fetes, Finnish independence day celebrations, Christmas carols), can get even 100-200 people together. We have had some smaller group meetings, like a prayer group during the week. In recent years we have had very good co-operation with other Finnish groups in Canberra (Finnish School, FinnSupport, Finnish Embassy, Finnish Pentecostals). Some of 'our people' are members of these other groups as well. And, after all, there are still in Canberra at least more than six hundred people who count themselves having a Finnish background or some other connection to Finnish language and culture. The last ones are for instance married to a Finn or so.

We have had lots of work done on our aging buildings, both the church and the manse. At the moment, we are planning to go on in the same way, despite of people's aging. The parishioners we have had with us during their last years are still eager to listen to the Word of God.

Pastor Janne Pekkarinen

Trinity Cooma

13 years ago at the point of near closure, Cooma church chose to call local Melvin Salzke to become ordained as their local Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP). For 13 years we have met on three Sundays each month, gathering simply as a small community around word and sacrament, and fellowship over morning tea. The church was initially established for refugees from WWII Europe, and in this time the remaining ones of this original group have been cared for in

the closing years of their life.

Cooma being small has no problem with social distancing! After the initial Covid lockdown we have met regularly in a manner careful about each other's wellbeing, using online videos as an alternate to singing, and sharing Holy Communion with individual cups in a covid safe way. During lockdowns we encouraged people to follow online service from other churches. Use of online music video

clips has become permanent and preferred to using recorded music for singing, and this gives us a bigger picture of music and worship outside of our small group.

We are a simple small community, but having our own local pastor is a very different dynamic to being served remotely. This means regular sharing of Holy Communion, and pastoral care in difficult times, and through the sacred time at end of life,

and family bereavement. By simply being here, a number of people have found their way back to the church community in the closing years of their life, and we have a number of interesting connections with people who value us being here. Like many we are an aging community with an uncertain future, but the work of being church continues.

Pr Melvin Salzke

North West Region

North West Zone

Those serving in the North West Zone have met as a zone more frequently during the pandemic than ever before. This was due both to need and to opportunity. The NW Zone is over 600km from end to end. That means most congregations in this zone are closer to Sydney than the other end of the zone. Technology gave us the opportunity to overcome this obstacle and the feeling of isolation.

The need to catch up regularly was also extremely great. This was because most serving this zone in a pastoral capacity were new to the role. This included graduate Pastor Joseph Graham in Dubbo-Gilgandra, and two people (employed just before the pandemic began) to help facilitate mission; David Jarman in Tamworth and Brant Waterson in Orange. Pastor James Leach and myself are each in our second parishes. Lockdowns made ministry hard, let alone mission. So we would meet every fortnight on Zoom to support and encourage each other. This became our lifeline as we debriefed and shared our joys and challenges and prayed for each other.

Pr Darren Kupke,
Regional Pastor for the NW Zone

St. Paul's Tamworth

The past two years of ministry at St. Paul's have been a difficult time for the congregation, as they have been for many. However, despite the obstacles and disappointments, lockdowns and isolation, the little Lutheran flock in Tamworth has endured and persisted, supporting one another with care and compassion. When we were unable to meet in person, we held weekly Zoom worship services that included the Word of God, hymns, prayer, and praise. We estab-

lished (and still maintain) an email devotion that goes out to all members of the congregation and to various friends and family members associated with the church, to help keep people in contact through this difficult period. In addition, the congregation embarked on a series of Bible study sessions focussed on evangelism and church leadership, as a part of a discernment process directed towards the future of the congregation.

Although there are certainly times when it is hard to see how the Lord is acting in a given situation, I believe that God has blessed the little flock of Tamworth with the particular gifts of genuine hospitality and Christian love and fellowship, and it was those gifts that saw us through the worst of the pandemic and sustained the congregation as we faced various other trials and troubles among our membership.

I am especially grateful for all the church council members and their tireless work and their kind support for me for the duration of my ministry in Tamworth, which has now come to a close. Whatever the future holds for St. Paul's – whether it includes renewal or replanting remains unclear – I know that the Lord will continue to bless His people through the gifts that they share together. It has been a joy and an honour to serve St. Paul's through the past 2 years, and I look forward to seeing what the Lord does with His little flock in Tamworth in the years to come. Please uphold the congregation of St. Paul's in your prayers, particularly for discernment, wisdom, and guidance in the future mission and ministry that the Lord may have for the Tamworth community.

David Jarman
Pastoral Care Worker

Central West NSW Parish

Who could have guessed that just two weeks after the last district synod that everything we had planned and hoped to achieve in the immediate future would get thrown into the blender, then thrown into the air and then need to somehow be reassembled. This may seem like I have used a bit of poetic licence, but nonetheless, this is how it felt to me much of the past 2 and a half years. As a parish we had just begun our journey with New and Renewing Churches, we had employed Brant Waterson to assist us in ministry as Discipleship and Outreach Co-ordinator, and various ministry areas were just in their infancy. The promise of growth was well and truly on the horizon, all of which I was excited to report at the last District Synod. Fast forward two weeks and our church buildings were closed, visiting was limited, and my new year's resolution of reducing the amount of time I spent in front of my computer was flying out the window.

The efforts of the CWNSW parish council throughout the past synodical period cannot be overstated especially in the early stages of the COVID pandemic. Looking back, I am proud to say that we made some very hard but very good decisions from the very start. Our first meeting was on the Tuesday before the government declared that we could not meet together. At this meeting we decided to utilise an internet program that no one had ever heard of before called 'Zoom'. We purchased a full licence and had our first service online that very weekend. The sound was average, the visual was lacking, but we were able to continue worshipping. For those unable to join us online we presented the option to worship using a DVD we produced each week. Both of these options were well received by most of our members.

Throughout the first lockdown we were graciously gifted some finance from the District to purchase a new computer and some videoing equipment that greatly improve the quality of our online worship. The hidden cost however of this whole experience was my own mental health and the toll of not being with people 'in real life' as well as the numerous extra hours the whole process of preparing, recording, editing, presenting, delivering, and then repeating the following week.

When the government first allowed us back into our churches to gather together, there was a real buzz. That buzz fizzled fairly quickly when people realised that we would not be able to sing as part of our services. Again our parish council made some very beneficial calls and we changed the layout of our service for this time. Instead of having songs we shortened the sermon, and had a bigger section of time to be able to reflect on the scriptures together. I would introduce the text and we would have some leading questions to begin our discussions. We would then have a time of prayer before finishing with the Lord's prayer and a blessing. While continuing in this way in our church the more traditional format was still available online for those who preferred to continue to do so.

When we finally managed to get back to church there was kind of this feeling of trepidation. Personally, I was wondering how long it would be until we were forced to close again. I remember a great sense of peace in regards to this when we were finally able to celebrate the Lord's Supper up at the altar rail again. After months of serving everyone individually in their seats, using individually wrapped wafers and individual cups, to finally be able to come together and receive the body and blood of Christ together at the altar is something I will treasure forever.

At Parkes, we are once again having "Messy Church" on a monthly basis, as I write this report we are preparing for our third one since the restart. Most of those who came before COVID have not returned as yet for Messy Church, but we have had over 20 people at both of the first two dates, and we are praying that God rapidly grows this ministry.

We have also relaunched our outreach initiative this year using Sam Chan's book "How to talk about Jesus: Without being that guy". We had 16 people commit to this study and have seen fruits begin to bud through

this process, with 4 people (both unchurched and long time away from church) beginning to read the bible weekly with me for the past 8 weeks using "The Word: One to One". Most importantly, through one of these people I am looking at starting an inquirers course in the next couple of months for some of his friends who have never heard the gospel.

We have also been able to re-start an exciting opportunity we had begun between lockdowns in Bathurst. There are now between 9 and 15 people meeting fortnightly at Whid-don Kelso and permission is being sought to extend this ministry into a community gathering so that people from the wider community can attend. We expect this to increase attendance by around 10 people.

Although there is a sense of things slowly going back to normal, others just haven't. Our attendance across the board is down. At Parkes we are down to 24 average weekly attendance. At Orange we are down to 7 average weekly attendance. And at Forbes we are stable at 8 average weekly attendance. I thank God for these faithful people who are committed to worshipping our God together, and together we pray that He will grow His church in the Central West.

Pr James Leach

Temora Lutheran Community Church (Trungley Hall & Temora) and West Wyalong Lutheran Church

As lockdowns commenced, we responded like many churches. We provided resources each Friday for people to pick up and worship at home as families. They could either use this themselves or follow along with the Sunday service on Zoom. Zoom allowed people to connect on an electronic device or listen in via a phone number if they didn't have internet or felt uncomfortable using it (note: NBN only became available in Temora just a few months before lockdown so some had not yet signed up and many farms still have very poor internet). Youth group also went online. We also provided the home devotions and Zoom services to the Aged Care facilities, which were greatly appreciated during lockdowns/lockouts.

Another minister in town contacted the local community radio station in Temora. He arranged for us to provide sermons/church services on the

radio each week, starting with Palm Sunday 2020. We have made good use of this opportunity. We also made this recording available on our website, over the Wyalong community radio station, and on another phone number people without internet can ring and listen at any time. This recording includes a few key parts of the service. One thing I specifically included each week, besides the sermon, is the confession and absolution. Sermons are abundant and easy for most people to obtain. But where can people generally go to hear that they are forgiven and receive a blessing from God pronounced over them?

The congregation leadership were a huge support throughout the pandemic, including when I took a number of weeks of stress and R&R leave to prevent total burnout. On top of this, various restrictions meant some pastors who arranged to lead services during my leave were unable to attend.

It finally seems things are returning to a new sense of normal. So what does our church look like now? One area severely affected by the pandemic is the youth group. Numbers reduced from around 15-20 energetic high schoolers, down to only one high schooler and three young adults. Participation in Sunday services has certainly dropped. Some of this is due to deaths in the congregation. Some is due to the impacts of the pandemic. Hopefully numbers might increase now that the most recent COVID-19 wave has passed and the warmer months are coming. We continue broadcasting services via Zoom, on the radio, and over the phone each week. We are not trying to break any records, but we are battling on. We thank God that he continues to provide and pray for the Lord to re-energise us with his Spirit through his Word. All glory to God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord for sustaining us through this time! May he lead and guide us into the future that awaits us.

Pr Darren Kupke

Riverina Region

Henty Lutheran Parish

At the centre of the Riverina, Henty Parish is certainly in a rural situation. This brings with it many challenges and opportunities for ministry. Over the past couple of years, we have been met with many changes. Obviously COVID has loomed hugely, and Pastor Kees Sturm navigated us marvellously through those challenges. He and his family moved to Queensland at the end of 2021 leaving our Parish in a vacancy. Pastor Will Frost moved in as an interim/relief pastor and he will serve us until our new Pastor Darryl Shoosmith arrives from New Zealand in the new year.

Changes have also occurred in St Paul's Primary School in Henty. At the end of last year, the Henty school was joined with the Jindera Primary School (St John's) under the leadership of Principal Brad Moss. The Deputy Principal on the ground at Henty is now Hollie Kinning. This new arrangement seems to be working well. Moreover, there is a good relationship between St Paul's Primary and the Henty congregation with our interim pastor engaged in morning devotions with the staff and chapel services, as well as school involvement in church services at the congregation.

Our parish chairperson had to step down from his position for health reasons, and as a consequence Pastor Gary Kenney (Emeritus) has had to assume this role. We also face the challenge of being an ageing parish: there are fewer people available to perform various tasks such as eldering, lay reading, and so on. Moreover, while we have an active confirmation class, our children, youth, and young adult ministries are in general lacking. We do, on the other hand, have several families that contribute very much to the life of the parish. Our parish has begun the child-safety assessment and management required by Professional Standards.

There has been a numerical decline in Lutheran membership across the Riverina over the last few years—perhaps due to amongst others cultural mobility, a search for more experiential forms of spirituality, job opportunities elsewhere, ageing congregations, and so on—which is, reflected in the Henty Parish. We thus face the significant challenge, if we are to be sustainable, of having to increase membership in coming

years. Our Parish will therefore need to become more intentionally “missional minded.” We are a fairly traditional Parish, which means that we will need to discover ways of maintaining our Lutheran identity whilst incorporating new ideas for doing mission in our three communities of Pleasant Hills, Culcairn, and Henty. Henty Parish is well known in its three communities and will continue to make important and publicly visible contributions to them. We have good relations with the other denominations in our communities and will endeavour to strengthen these so as to build partnerships for mission. Our Parish will need to reach out to the migrants and refugees that are settling in the Riverina area.

Pr Gary Kenney
Acting parish chairperson

Pr Will Frost
interim/relief pastor

Walla Walla Lutheran Parish

We find ourselves in a vacancy position with Pastor Dan Mueller and family moving to Buderim Lutheran Church in Qld to take up a new call.

We as a parish grew with Pastor Dan's strengths, in many areas. We are now served with the challenge to continue and keep that growth moving forward. While in vacancy, it is a time for us to keep the church active in all areas of ministry from the young through to the senior congregation members.

The process of selecting suitable pastors that best match the direction of our parish has begun. This together with a high vacancy rate, has proved to be unsuccessful at this stage. We are still exploring all options available to us that have been presented to us.

We have been blessed by the ministry of Pastor John Borchert and Pastor Haydn Blaess (Emeritus) to lead us, alongside our lay readers in delivering worship. We are thankful for everyone's contribution within the parish.

Like all congregations and parishes, navigating the way around COVID with the associated restrictions certainly presented as a challenge. Under the technical leadership of Pastor Dan, equipment was purchased for live streaming our services. Unfortun-

ately, the Walla church was broken into, and the equipment was stolen. Thankfully it could be replaced by insurance cover and the streaming could continue. Streaming continues to this day with team of volunteers trained to operate the system. Currently there are over 120 subscribers to the channel and the number of weekly views vary. We thank God for this continued way of reaching out in ministry.

As a parish, we encourage all to continue to connect with each other and God will provide a plan for fulfilling our vacancy.

‘Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the lord, because you know that your labour in the lord is not in vain.’ (1 Corinthians 15:58).

Brice Lieschke
Walla Walla Parish Chairman

Burrumbuttock Lutheran Parish

In my 2020 NSW and ACT synod report, I was wrong! The Holy Cross Lutheran congregation commemorates its 150th anniversary this year and not in 2038. It was established in 1872, and originally met in its first building 5 kilometres outside of the Burrumbuttock township. In 1888 it moved into a new building in the town and has worshipped there continuously since then. This will be the last of the 150th anniversaries in the parish which began in Jindera in 2017. Our parish has much to be thankful to God for.

Since last District Synod, when the COVID-pandemic began, we have been reminded what a gift God has given us in the many small congregations spread throughout the parish. We are thankful that we have been able to return to corporate, “in the flesh” services in the parish earlier than many larger congregations whose Divine Services has been more severely affected by per person density limits. As has been the trend over the years, attendance at worship and participation in parish congregational life has gradually declined. However, in our parish it has returned to 60-70% of pre-pandemic attendances.

The parish's work in engaging with the New and Renewing Churches' process has, for many reasons, not gone ahead as expected. So, we ask

God our Father to 'strengthen what remains', as He continues to gather us to hear His Word. Pray for us, that His Spirit will help us to keep it, to keep on repenting and remember His mercy to us through Jesus Christ His Son, our Lord (Revelation 3:2-3).

Pastor Christian Fandrich

St. Luke's Albury

Over the last synodical period St Luke's has experienced many changes and thanks to the resilience of our congregation we have been able to achieve many things.

At the beginning of 2020 we were ready to continue the Frontier program that had begun two years prior. But just as classes were about to commence Covid arrived in Australia, so this program was put into recess.

Services at this time, which included the Sunday 9.30am service and the 4.30pm Saturday service established by our Church Planter at the time, Malcolm Hall, were suspended for most of the rest of the year. Attempts were made to provide worship material over the internet and to have worship material delivered to homes. Our music director Peter Reed then set up the church for online services. Pastor David Grulke, Peter Reed and Malcolm Hall spent many hours at their homes preparing these services and then they were put together and delivered online through emails and our Facebook site.

In October 2020 face to face church was able to recommence with some Covid government restrictions in place. In November 2020 Pastor David Grulke retired from ministry and Malcolm Hall then assumed the pastoral role.

During 2021 online services continued with in person services where possible and depending on government restrictions. In March of this year a Call meeting was held and Malcolm Hall was called to St Luke's to enter the Special Ministry Pastor. (SMP) Program. Covid restrictions limited face to face services but online services continued throughout the year.

Discussions at this time between St John's school at Jindera, NSW and ACT District and Malcolm Hall resulted in St Luke's being asked to be the Sending Church for a new plant associated with St John's school. Peter Reed commenced working at St John's school for three days a week in November 2021 while still being

part of St Luke's congregation on other days with the aim of establishing a new worshipping community associated with the school. Bronwyn Gabriel was appointed at this time to assist Peter at the school and work in administration between St Luke's and Jindera School.

During the early part of 2022 Peter continued to work at St John's school as a chaplain with Bronwyn assisting and Malcolm supervising both their roles. Peter is continuing currently to develop a music ministry through connections with Lutheran Schools in the area.

In recent months due to lack of trained volunteers we have suspended our online services but the attendance at weekly services has resumed due to covid restrictions being lifted. We have the ability for this to resume in the future. Bronwyn Gabriel and Malcolm Hall have now concluded their time with us at St Luke's.

John McClelland, a member of the congregation has been taking two services a month for the last three months. John has completed LCA Training and is well received by the congregation who look forward to his services. All other services are currently being taken by lay readers, Peter Reed and visiting ministers. St Luke's is currently in a vacancy, and we have commenced the Call process. We look forward to welcoming a new Pastor in the coming months.

Lynne Cox, Chairman

St. Paul's College, Walla Walla

Since the NSW and ACT District Synod hosted by St. Paul's College in 2020, what was anticipated in the vision for ministry took on an adaptive new approach. Very quickly with the onset of COVID restrictions and lockdowns, whole school chapel devotions became pre-recorded and streamed for remote learning. As restrictions gradually eased, there was always celebration as the school community moved toward larger gatherings with year group cohorts, until finally, the whole school could gather together for worship. I am grateful for multi-media technologies that enabled the ongoing proclamation of the Gospel.

Despite the challenges of the last two and a half years, it has been encouraging to see how this community has continually been blessed every day with opportunities, and to see the hand of God working in and through

each other (see St. Paul's College District Synod Report).

In all that has taken place over the last synodical period, I am reminded of the Apostle Paul's words of encouragement in writing to the Church at Thessalonica saying, "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

There are too many ways to recall how and through whom we have been blessed, but we can be sure God has been with us and will continue to be with us as we navigate his call on us in ministry at St. Paul's College. For that I also give thanks and look forward to all he has in store through the next synodical term.

Pr John Borchert

Albury Lutheran Aged Care

Aged care is a challenging environment at the best of times, but the past two years have been an incredible time of crisis for both staff and residents. It would not be an understatement to say that the pandemic has been traumatic for the industry (as it has been for many communities). As the rest of the world seems to move on past the acute stage of the pandemic (thanks be to God), the aged care sector remains in a high state of vigilance, doing all that it can do to protect some of our most vulnerable persons. Masks and rapid antigen tests remain a daily reality for the foreseeable future. Staff stress and turnover remain high. There are still shortages in care and nursing staff. And on top of all that, the recent (2018) Royal Commission into Aged Care adds further pressure as higher standards of care are brought into effect by the federal government.

Lutheran Aged Care has not been left unscathed by all this, and I was invited to step into this storm-tossed community as a relative newcomer to the industry and the Albury-Wodonga region in March of this year. For the past sixth months I have had the honour and the privilege of working, learning, and seeing God move amidst the ups and downs, the little triumphs and disasters of daily life in this little part of God's kingdom.

Chaplaincy in this setting, from what I have learned, requires two different hats, that are worn interchangeably throughout any given week (or day). On the one hand, you have the tradi-

tional role and responsibilities of Word and Sacrament ministry, the preaching of the Gospel to all sorts of people going through all sorts of situations, as in regular parish life. On the other hand, you have the role of manager and mediator, working in and among the many intricate gears of an organisation dedicated to the 24-hour care of its residents. To an extent it is a little town within a town that never sleeps, an engine that cannot be turned off for the sake of its charges. As a chaplain, it seems that one must learn all of the different ways that the various parts work together, to provide support and help to those parts that are under strain (nearly all of them in different ways), to work out ways to give relief to one part of the machine without breaking the other areas, all for the sake of keeping the engine running - ultimately expressing the love of Christ through the care that we give.

I am humbled to have an excellent pastoral care team to work with, and perhaps that is a third hat and aspect to this ministry – to build up, support, and encourage a cadre of dedicated Christians as they move among the staff and residents, being a listening ear, a shoulder to cry on, and representatives of Christ in amongst the organised chaos of daily ministry spread across three different facilities, one of which is 1.5 hours' drive distant from the others. One of the definite challenges has been to come together as an almost entirely new pastoral care team, trying to complement each other's gifts as we learn and grow together in this dynamic and demanding environment.

By the grace of God, and the patience of the team (especially as I have found my feet), we have been witnesses and participants to the Lord building up a new foundation of Christian ministry in LAC. In some ways I have come to see it as a mission field – where we as ministers of the Gospel have to learn the language of clinical health, of person-centred care, and of the high standards expected towards the residents. There is an entire culture surrounding that language in which we must gain fluency, working alongside staff and caring for residents in a way that builds trust and brings healing from the traumatic experiences of the past two years. We are only just starting down this journey with God in LAC – in what seems a grand (re-) construction project of healing and renewal after COVID not dissimilar to the physical construction projects

LAC is currently undertaking. It has been an enormous blessing (and humbling) to serve in this capacity, and I am grateful for the support and encouragement received from the pastoral care team, staff, and management at LAC, as well as that of the district and especially local pastors (current and emeriti) serving in the Riverina. Please keep the community and ministry at LAC in your prayers as we continue into the months and years of hard work ahead. May the Lord guide and keep us all as we finally see the back of this pandemic.

David Jarman
Pastoral Chaplain

Griffith/Leeton/Narrandera

The Griffith – Leeton – Narrandera Parish continues to be served by Pastor Ian Kotzur three times per month. The first Sunday of the month service is held at Narrandera, and the second and fourth Sundays, services are at Griffith and Leeton. The congregations attract a small number of members, some of whom travel long distances to attend services. A confirmation ministry has taken place in the Griffith congregation this year with two young people attending. God continues to bless this parish as members gather in Jesus' name to hear the Word of God, receive the Sacraments and mutually encourage one another in the Lord.

Pr Ian Kotzur (Interim)

Wagga Wagga Parish

Bethlehem Wagga Wagga has been without a pastor for the last two years. During this time, we sought to review our pastoral responsibilities. While this was happening, we were assisted with many locum pastors helping and would like to thank all those who helped us out during this period. We are now served by a full-time pastor, graduate David Cherry, who was placed with us at the beginning of 2022.

As we move forward, we are continuing to practice what we learnt from the grow coaching course LCA Grow Ministries provided. After the time of COVID and vacancy we are seeking to re-engage in fellowship with each other and Lutheran School Wagga Wagga. At the beginning of 2021 Lutheran School appointed a new principal, Janet Moeller. With the new principle and new pastor, we are

seeking to deepen the connections between the school and congregation.

Bethlehem Milbrulong is still meeting fortnightly with families and visitors coming out to visit. The community is always warm and welcoming and have greatly appreciated the appointment of a new pastor in Wagga Wagga. Where possible Bethlehem Milbrulong still endeavours to have worship and fellowship with Bethlehem Wagga Wagga.

Pr David Cherry

District Church Council



Liz Eckermann

This last synodical term for the District has required us to be adaptable and flexible, as it has been for everyone, with the arrival of Covid-19. Lockdowns and infection control has seen new ways of holding meetings and church services. DCC also held many meetings online, which unfortunately meant that we haven't been able to visit various parishes around the District as often as we have in the past. Nevertheless DCC, through government grants, was pleased to be able to assist parishes who struggled financially to pay their pastor and essential staff as a result of falling offerings.

DCC has also worked further on the strategic plan for the district, with the appointment of a strategic directions facilitator to assist congregations in the implementation of the District's strategic plan. This continuing work saw the development of policies and MOUs to enable the implementation of the strategic directions. All grant applications are now considered with these directions in mind.

Dean Eaton, Council for New and Renewing Churches, worked with the District on church planting. Since Dean resigned from this position, this work has continued with Pastor Nathan Hedt reporting to DCC.

In line with the strategic directions, DCC agreed to support the western Sydney church planting project, including the purchase of a mission house for church planter Danny Brock. Regular reports have been received from Pastor Mark Schultz on Danny's work.

Guidance and support were provided to Warrambui Retreat & Conference Centre, which struggled due to the loss of bookings income. Following many lengthy considerations and discussions, DCC supported Warrambui to use the opportunity to refurbish the Dome building while no campers were on site with the provision of a substantial loan.

Meetings with the LCA Child Protection Officer have highlighted the need for all congregations and ministries to have safety standards in place to protect children and vulnerable people. This is a Government requirement as a result of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

Regular reports have been received from LEVNT on the progress of the schools in the District, from Lutheran Aged Care Albury, New and Renewing Churches, Warrambui, TPM and the LCA Professional Standards Department. We thank God for the continuation of His work and the blessings received through the various ministries within the District.

An ongoing task for DCC is assisting to seek appropriately skilled people to fill vacancies on the various boards within the District. Everyone is encouraged to prayerfully consider using their gifts and talents in this way.

We pray for God's continued guidance and blessing as we enter this new synodical term.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Eckermann
Secretary, NSW and ACT
District Church Council



Proposals from District Church Council

Convention Book of Reports and Minutes in digital form

Be it resolved that the LCA NSW and ACT District Convention Book of Reports and Minutes of Convention will be distributed to delegates in a digital format, and will only be available in a printed version upon request.

District Church Council

Rationale:

As many delegates already know, digital versions of the Book of Reports and Minutes have advantages over printed copies: They are easier to search and easier to cut-and-paste into other documents, and they are certainly lighter to carry. But perhaps most of all, by saving paper we are better stewards of this world over which we are given dominion.

LCA Safe Church Training for all Synod delegates

Be it resolved that all delegates to the LCA NSW and ACT District Convention of Synod be required to have completed Safe Church Level 1 training, and a Working with Children Check or Working With Vulnerable People registration.

District Church Council

Rationale:

Delegates to General Synod have been told that it is expected that they complete Safe Church Level 1 training and obtain a police check, in accordance with LCA guidelines. The District Church Council endorses the underlying rationale, that all who make decisions affecting children, families, and vulnerable people should be appropriately trained and vetted. The District Church Council

brings this to Synod, so that we can determine whether we, as decision-makers for the District, should formally accept this responsibility in the form of a Synod resolution.

District Constitution

The District Church Council has undertaken to re-write the District Constitution so that it better conforms to the model district constitution set out in the Lutheran Church of Australia Constitution. A draft constitution and a discussion of the impact on the status quo will be distributed to Synod delegates presently, so that delegates can consider the proposal prior to the Convention.

District Treasurer



Bruce Arnold

As the District Treasurer this past synodical term, I continually think about the Parable of the Talents, in Matthew 25:14–30, and in particular, about that third “wicked and slothful” servant.

The Church, not the churches

In my hometown, there was a corner with three Lutheran churches on it — and no, this was not in the Barossa. Those three churches were the results of mergers with five other congregations. In the years since, the three congregations have become one. Yes, there is still a Lutheran church on that corner, but seven congregations are no longer. The reality is that, while the Church is eternal, churches, or congregations, or even districts, are not. Congregations have life cycles, and for every one that can trace its history back centuries, thousands have come and gone.

“Thou deliveredst to me talents: lo, I have gained by them”

We know, in our heart of hearts, that the current configuration of the Lutheran Church in our district is on a path of decline. For every growing congregation, there are many others with dwindling attendance and finances, and with empty pulpits. Except ... like those servants in the parable, our District has been given an enormous sum of money. If we are afraid, and bury that money in the earth, then this wicked and slothful district risks dying with millions of dollars in the bank. But if this good and faithful district puts that money to work, there is a path to survival, a path to growth, a path to a thriving Lutheran Church.

And so, in these past few years, we have funded a number of initiatives to take our District in new directions: an innovative new church in Sydney’s west, and three other church planting efforts throughout the district; a teaching program, and pastoral, audio-visual, and cash-flow support to more than a dozen congregations. We also made a long overdue investment in St Paul’s College in Walla Walla, to build a new learning hub. In short, if there have been challenges in the district that could

have been solved financially, we haven’t hesitated. The talents delivered to us — let us gain by them.

The tricky bit about the parable, though, is that the servants who didn’t bury their talents were both wildly successful. It would be naïve, though, to think that every initiative that we fund will become an unmitigated success. Some of those efforts will fall short of our expectations — that is inevitable. But while we must learn from our failures, to become ever more discerning, we must never be afraid.

Warrambui

I feel that additional comment is warranted in respect of the Warrambui Retreat and Conference Centre. Two synodical terms ago, we helped consolidate Warrambui’s finances by forgiving Warrambui’s debt to the district, in effect converting debt to equity. When Warrambui’s camping business (and ministry) was crippled by Covid-19, your District Church Council decided to lend the money to refurbish the Dome, to use the slack time, as it were, to good effect. Through no fault of the Warrambui board or management, the costs were higher than budgeted, and the restart has been hampered by staff shortages. The district has been providing cash-flow support to Warrambui, and support will continue to be required for the indefinite future. It is an issue we wrestle with at every meeting of the DCC. But in sum, we believe that these cash injections are necessary to protect this vital asset and ministry of the District, and that our overall investment in Warrambui is sound.

Share portfolio

Speaking of investments, at the last convention of Synod, the district was given a green light to invest some of the proceeds of Concord House in equities. Like the two good and faithful servants, we enjoyed great success, and at one time our \$13 million investment allocation was showing a \$2 million gain. But what goes up can also go down. And for anyone who has been following the share market over the past year, down it went. The value of our portfolio is roughly the same as what we first invested. Over the past two years, however, we have earned over \$1.4 million in dividends, vastly more than we could have earned in inter-

est. So we remain confident in our decision to keep these assets invested as they are.

Finance Advisory Committee

The Finance Advisory Committee is a little heralded group that meets two weeks before every DCC meeting, to advise the DCC on all matters financial. For the last five years, the FAC has functioned under the able chairmanship of Peter Weber. All on the committee were saddened to learn that Peter has decided not to stand for reappointment, and all on the committee are grateful for the leadership and service that Peter has given us. The entire District should be similarly saddened and grateful, and on behalf of the District, let me now thank Peter for his thirty years’ faithful service, and wish him Godspeed.

Special thanks also go to FAC member Mark Waldron, who led our efforts on the share portfolio. The same to Andrew Hoffman, who helped us in the transition to our new approach to preparing our financial statements. And of course to Russell Veerhuis, who keeps the whole thing ticking.

Entering into the joy of our Master

Finally, your prayers for discernment and wisdom are greatly appreciated, as we fulfil our role as stewards of the talents delivered to us.

Bruce Arnold
NSW and ACT District Treasurer



Investments in Ministry

During the past synodical term, grants have been made to various ministries throughout NSW and ACT District and the LCA. These have been made possible due to the investment of the funds from the sale of Trinity Lutheran Church, Sydney, and Concord House.

Investments in Ministry include the following:

2017 – 2019 ongoing support

- \$90,000 per year for 3 years to Albury to support a Church Planter (approved 2017)
- \$20,000 per year for 3 years to Dubbo to support a full-time Pastor (approved 2017)
- \$52,500 per year for 4 years to Woden to support a Church Planter (approved 2018)
- \$43,875 per year for 3 years to Wollongong for Pastoral Support (approved 2019)
- \$200,000 over 3 years to Lifeway for Asian Church Plant (approved 2019)
- \$10,000 to Sydney Future directions to implement Renew Mission 2020 plan
- \$6000 to Pastors Wives retreat to support retreat costs (ongoing)

2020

- \$101,146 over 4 years to Tamworth for Pastoral Support
- \$265,978 over 3 years to Lifeway for Western Sydney Church Plant
- \$5000 per year for 3 years to Temora for youth Discipleship Grant

2021

- \$238,810 over 3 years to St Pauls Sydney for Ministry Facilitator
- \$40,751 over 3 years to LCA NSW and ACT District for Communications Officer
- \$8500 to Liverpool for the installation of air-conditioning
- \$201,177 over 3 years to Tuggeranong for Community Development Coordinator
- \$252,277 over 3 years to Albury Lutheran Church for Jindera Church Planter
- \$393,293 over 3 years to LCA NSW and ACT District for Strategic Plan Facilitator
- \$152,500 over 3 years to LCA NSW and ACT District for Frontier School of Mission
- \$113,301 over 3 years to Narraweenaa for Mission Worker

2022

- \$10,000 to LCA to support CSS Implementation Officer
- \$270,500 over 4 years to Woden to support a Mission Facilitator

Bruce Arnold,
NSW and ACT District Treasurer

District Administrator



Russell Veerhuis

Within weeks of our last District Synod, NSW and the ACT had gone into the first of many lockdowns due to the Covid-19 pandemic. What a blessing it had been that the NSW and ACT District had been

meeting and operating using video conference meetings for many years prior to this. Thus our transition to working from home was seamless, and anyone calling the office had no idea we had even transitioned to working from home as calls and emails were put through and answered with a business as usual approach.

The Covid pandemic brought with it many interesting habits and challenges. For the District Office staff that often meant watching the Premier at the 11am press conference, then updating our congregations and organisations on all the latest protocol changes for that week.

DCC during this time were also very proactive, and the District Office were able to simply and easily support all congregations to ensure timely information, and also ensure all staff and pastors were getting paid. Thanks to the federal and state governments' CashFlow Bonus, JobKeeper, JobSaver and business support grants, we were able to help secure over \$1.3M of funding support for congregations across the District. This funding was essential to so many of our congregations in helping them continue to pay staff salaries through the pandemic. On top of that, DCC approved a further \$39,500 in funding support for congregations that were unable to receive the government support.

Covid gave us room to rethink what it means to be church, and what it means to be missional. Our challenge is to not fall back into just doing what we were doing, but to keep Christ's heart for mission front of mind as we reassess what it is to be Church together.

One of the big changes from the last synod was the formal recognition of the ACT within the District as we updated our name and logo from 'NSW District' to 'NSW and ACT District'. This meant a change of branding and logos around the place, but has been

a well received and much needed update to who we are as a District **Walking Together in Mission.**

With all the changes happening in the world, it has been a blessing to have a stable staff through this period. The team of Bishop Robert, Kaye and myself, have been ably supported by Assistant Bishop Richard Schwedes, the DCC and also the addition to staff of Tanya Cunningham in a part-time Communications Officer role. The addition of Tanya to the team has led to the long awaited update to the NSW and ACT District website (www.nswact.lca.org.au) as well as the newly developed Frontier School of Ministry website (www.frontier.lca.org.au). Log in and check them out.

The Frontier School of Mission transitioning to the District in partnership with Melbourne School of Theology is the next big thing absorbing elements of our time. The Frontier School of Mission Academic Dean is Dr Mark Worthing who is based out of the Port Macquarie congregation. The administrative function of Frontier, including registration and finance will all be operating out of the District Office, with Kaye Simpfendorfer extending her role to include that of Frontier registrar. We very much look forward to seeing how Frontier can support the many ministries in our District and equip God's people to do God's work in the world. Frontier has elements of both academic study starting with a diploma of Ministry, but also practical subjects such as Church Planting, Preaching and Pastoral Care.

During the last Synodical period the DCC established the James Haak Memorial Fund in recognition of Bishop James Haak who passed away in 2018 whilst in office. The District channelled monies from bequests gifted by Joyce Butterfield (Campbelltown) and Roy Schultz (Burrumbuttock). The James Haak Memorial Fund is for the purpose of professional development for pastors and paid lay workers in theology, governance, leadership, counselling, training and mentoring. Funding is up to \$2000 per annum. If this is something you would like to know more about, please talk further with Bishop Robert. The other funds received included the Rural Congregational Support Fund with the money being provided by the Anna Bay congregation to support struggling Rural Con-

gregations with a Missional focus. If you would like to know more about accessing these funds, please talk to Bishop Robert.

As the District evaluated missional opportunities, the opportunity to undertake a church plant in Western Sydney pioneered by Danny Brock became a real possibility. As part of supporting this mission, the District purchased a Missional House in Glenmore Park to rent to Danny and his family, as a base for this Missional Community. From a District perspective, whilst this house forms part of the missional base, it is also part of the District broader property investment portfolio.

The NSW and ACT District Office continue to see their core role as serving and supporting congregations to do ministry well in their context. These methods of support continue to include assistance with ensuring all congregations have Working with Children and Vulnerable People accreditation up to date and screened along with Professional Standards training. Further, the District Office assists with ensuring all our SRE teachers who do such a wonderful job teaching across a wide variety of schools have all their accreditation and training up to date. Many parishes are struggling to find treasurers who can keep pace with the growing demands of pay roll requirements and so the District Office together with HRS now assists with the pay roll function for the majority of our parishes, taking care of the PAYG tax returns, removing the responsibility off congregation treasurers and making their role easier.

Finally, as I write this, we would like to thank the DCC members and the many members of the District who do so much to support us in our roles and make our job easier. We could not do what we do without your support. In conclusion from the NSW and ACT District Office team, if we can help you in any way to support your congregation/parish, organisation or team in your ministry context, please give the District Office a call, we are here to support you.

Russell Veerhuis
Administrator



District Income and Expenditure

Revenue	2019 actual	2020 actual	2021 actual	2022 budget	
Operating Income					
contributions from congregations	160,735	151,400	140,150	160,100	
contributions from individuals including LLL interest foregone	47,449	30,512	30,035	23,500	
Turning Point Ministries camp revenues	128,024	30,493	48,214	118,750	1
Other District revenues	45,190	52,650	46,240	63,700	
Earmarked grants and donations	467,326	113,548	12,089	34,000	2
Investment Income					
Interest	488,860	184,968	7,938	10,223	3
Distributions from investment funds	0	59,866	693,156	467,020	3
Warrambui profit/(loss) accounted for using equity method	59,655	-169,634	21,987	60,000	
Government grants	0	83,000	71,113		
Total Income	1,397,239	536,803	1,070,922	937,293	
Expenses					
Contribution to the LCA	205,890	207,750	210,779	214,355	
Employee benefits expense	364,325	299,820	320,522	331,807	
Turning Point Ministries camp expense	118,234	20,316	45,052	116,900	1
Depreciation and amortisation expense	83,128	144,879	183,275	172,450	
Other expenses					
Office expenses	91,510	44,502	67,527	76,100	
Ministry support expenses	32,526	32,315	39,072	38,600	
Property Expenses	29,132	30,749	21,841	16,750	
Event expenses	19,183	28,751	16,194	35,000	
Legal/Audit expenses	26,530	19,476	20,305	25,000	
Travel expenses	25,151	14,604	9,007	13,500	
Grants expended	0	34,447	19,567	34,000	
Other expenses	11,701	30,891	37,491	5,200	
Total operating expenses	1,007,310	908,500	990,632	1,079,662	
Operating Surplus	-389,929	-371,697	80,290	-142,369	
Mission development expense	437,647	1,426,644	424,228	692,988	4
Deficit for the year	-827,576	-1,798,341	-343,938	-835,357	
Other comprehensive income					
Revaluation of investment funds	0	893,628	1,384,423	0	
Total comprehensive income for the year	-827,576	-904,713	1,040,485	-835,357	

Notes:

1. 2020 and 2020 are lower due to cancelled camps from Bushfires and Covid.
2. 2019 and 2020 include Bequests and grants that made up the James Haak fund and the Rural congregational support fund budget based on an equity risk premium of 3%
3. recognises the transition from Bank interest to Distributions from investment as funds were invested
4. 2020 includes the \$1M grant to St Pauls College as approved by the 2020 Synod.

Warrambui Board



Neal Mason

On behalf of the Warrambui Board, I present the following report for Synod 2022.

The past Synod term has been a tremendously difficult one. Like so many in Australia

and around the world, COVID has had and continues to have a deep impact on Warrambui. It has greatly reduced our ministry opportunities, significantly impacted our workforce and shaken us to our very foundations. At no time in Warrambui's history as a Centre has our ability to host groups been so severely impacted. Whilst we pray we have come through the worst of it, the challenges of COVID have meant Warrambui has needed to adapt, re-adapt and adapt again based on the various requirements of State and Territory Jurisdictions, border and local area lockdowns, and school regulations just to name a few.

Whilst this has been a difficult period, the Board, with the support of the District, undertook a major refurbishment of the Dome to remediate the asbestos risk, upgrade its safety and fire protection measures, upgrade accessibility to and throughout the venue, and to increase our capability to cater for groups across the entire centre with a new, fit for purpose, kitchen. Many of these improvements had been planned for a very long time, with some, such as the installation of a ceiling, taking almost 40 years to be achieved.

The road ahead currently for Warrambui involves a time of rebuilding on a number of fronts. We look to God for his wisdom and guidance on His pathway forward.

Ministry

Warrambui's Ministry has been severely impacted by the COVID pandemic. COVID has impacted not only our ability to deliver camping ministry, but also our ability to attract young people to join us on our journey. The Intern programs for 2021 and 2022 have been suspended, and in the 2020 program was subjected to multiple COVID lockdowns and the ensuing hardship that placed on interns and staff.

Many of our staff choose to work here to experience a Christ-centred community, to work with children and

young people, and to share God's love with guests. When this is denied for such long periods of time when it has not been possible to gather together or to host groups, or experience the living-out of our ministry, it has been dis-heartening for many staff.

Understandably, after such a difficult period, we also farewelled the Ministry Development Manager, Lyzzi Donnelly-Coode who moved back to Sydney earlier this year.

On a more positive note, the Board and leadership team of Warrambui are making significant progress to supporting a cohort of international interns from Papua New Guinea in 2023. Warrambui has been issued with a special purpose visa agreement and has commenced discussions with a senior PNG leader to scope out a purpose built Intern program and review the necessary on-site capabilities required to support such an endeavour. We believe Warrambui will be accepting our first interns from PNG in 2023, and we are excited at the potential for this program to not only benefit young people from PNG, but to add to the richness of our current Intern program and community.

Operations

In 2019 Warrambui welcomed 153 groups, totalling around 7,800 guests, with additionally the retreat hut, available to those involved in Christian ministry, being occupied for approximately 200 nights. Across 2020 and 2021 combined, Warrambui welcomed just 75 groups and around 4,400 guests. This was, of course, primarily due to postponement and cancellations due to COVID restrictions and related uncertainties.

One of Warrambui's target markets is schools travelling on educational excursions to the national capital. It is estimated that this market generally is currently operating at 40% of its pre-COVID level and it is not anticipated to return to 100% until 2024-2025.

With national borders also being shut for over 12 months, and record low levels of unemployment, attracting the right staff, particularly qualified kitchen staff, has also been a major challenge. Whilst Warrambui does provide a unique offering as a place to minister and grow in faith, demand for chefs, kitchen hands, and clean-

ing and programs staff across Australia is at an all-time high.

At the Christians Venues Association conference in July, many venues expressed that 2022 has been the most challenging year since the pandemic began due to multiple reasons including team fatigue, staff turnover, difficulty in recruitment, and continued restrictions and measures required to host groups under COVID protocols.

Despite this, Warrambui is pursuing opportunities to grow our team, including the visa sponsorship of chefs from overseas to ensure we have the right mix of skills and capabilities to take advantage of our brand-new, state of the art kitchen.

We praise God that Warrambui has been able to again host key TPM events this year, with Better Blokes, Sisterhood, History Makers and Junior Youth camps making welcome returns. Use of the retreat hut is also building toward pre pandemic levels.

Dome Refurbishment

In January of 2022 we were pleased to re-open our beloved Dome facility following its refurbishment.

The Dome is 40 years old this year, and it was in major need of an upgrade. The process was long, subject to pandemic related delays in construction and with changes late in the shire council's approval process necessitating the need to upgrade the facility to a higher standard than originally expected.

The Dome's original wall sheeting contained bonded asbestos requiring regular inspection and management, hampering maintenance efforts and presenting a potential risk if damaged. A major driver for the project was the complete removal of this material.

The safety, comfort and useability of the Dome has also been tremendously improved through upgrade construction measures including:

Installation of fire safety measures to meet current standards

Improvements to meet modern accessibility requirements (we finally have a disabled car park and all-access compliant ramps) and doors

Installation of a ceiling, insulation, skylights and an air-conditioning/ventilation system

The construction of a larger kitchen through an extension of the Dome to enable us to better cater for groups across the entire site

Increased dining space and a better service flow to cater to large numbers of guests in a shorter timeframe.

It is now a modern, attractive venue that will continue to be appealing to guests for many years to come.

The silver-lining of the COVID pandemic was that this project was completed with a hugely reduced impact on bookings than would have otherwise been the case if we had been able to host groups as normal.

A Dome blessing and re-dedication was held in late January 2022 prior to the first use of the venue for camping by Turning Point Ministries (TPM), re-committing the venue to God for His Kingdom work. Unfortunately, the following TPM History Makers Camp came to a premature end due to COVID-19, however, COVID Safety plans were rapidly and successfully implemented.

In April we then hosted the official re-opening and celebration service to thank God for His provision, for the blessing of the refurbished venue and for all the many hands involved in the project. The text for the day as recorded on the commemorative plaque is from Mathew 7:24:

"Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person

who builds a house on solid rock"

We thank God for a generous donation from the Anna Bay congregation towards the Dome refurbishment, which gave us the confidence to proceed with such a major project.

Governance

Over the past term, the Board has become used to zoom and hybrid meeting arrangements with an annual average frequency of 11 meetings a year with 2020 actually having 15 meetings.

The Board has undertaken a range of strategic planning initiatives and consultations however, plans that were set have quickly been overtaken by COVID and its operational impacts. Regular meetings were held with DCC to ensure they were informed of the decisions being taken and that required adjustments were enabled to offset the difficult period.

In 2022, the Board commissioned a review of culture at Warrambui. This

has been a very valuable exercise, and provided further evidence of the challenges that have impacted all of us. A reset of some of the policy, guidelines and expectations of staff will flow from the review in order to rebuild our community. The Board is in the process of recruiting a consultant to support and mentor the Warrambui team in this rebuilding work.

Earlier this year, Warrambui undertook its first full renewal audit of its Safeguarding Children accreditation. Pleasingly the Australian Childhood Foundation has reaccredited Warrambui for a further 3 years. Of the 22 venues who accommodate school children in the Canberra region we were the first and now are 1 of only 3 to hold this accreditation. Significant improvements have also been made in the way Warrambui manages risk through a careful review of policy and process resulting in clarity and simplification.

The Board has remained extremely stable through this period, with all members actively contributing, and only one retiring mid term. I would like to thank our Board members for their contributions and the way they have deployed their unique gifts during this difficult period. I would particularly like to thank Phil Spann and Pastor Mat von Stanke who have indicated they will not be renominating for the coming year. I'm grateful they have offered to continue to support Warrambui with their gifts in other ways as time permits. Both have made a significant contribution to the Board over the past term and the Board will miss their valued contribution.

Quarry

From the 1980s the quarry has been a financial blessing to Warrambui through royalties received from the extraction and sale of material. The quarry is now approaching end of life, however is still returning a financial dividend through royalties from quarry refill. The board is engaging with stakeholders to understand possible future usage of the 12 acre site that will inform the rehabilitation of the site in conjunction with the quarry operators. This process will be covered financially by the rehabilitation fund that has been accruing money since the approval of the current development application in December 1998.

Financials

As expected, Warrambui's finances have been severely impacted by the

pandemic over this last Synodical term.

The operating loss for 2020 was \$216k, after government cash flow boosts and Jobkeeper support. The operating loss for 2021 was \$420k, after Jobkeeper support in the first quarter. The operating loss as at 30 June 2022 is \$368k. Low bookings in the first half of this year were expected. Unfortunately, the on-going impact of COVID-19 and the tight labour market means bookings will not be as high as expected in the second half of 2022, and the estimated loss for 2022 will be higher than anticipated. There are many uncertain variables but the staff are working hard to maximise bookings and minimise expenses where possible.

Not included in these operating losses, are quarry royalties received, including some from extraction, but most now from infill. In 2020 \$50k was received from quarry royalties, in 2021 there was \$101k, and as at June 2022 there is \$49k. Accumulated royalties over the years have been set aside for capital expenditure, although in 2020, they did assist with operating cash flow due to the pandemic. In 2021 works on the waste water treatment system were completed at a cost of \$148k. The balance has now been used towards the dome refurbishment.

The total cost of the Dome refurbishment was \$3.43 million, of which \$2.84 million has been loaned by the NSW and ACT District.

Warrambui's contributions to the District for Special Ministry have totalled \$98k in 2020 and \$84k in 2021. These have been lower than previous years due to the pandemic. These are costs involved in the provision of the Intern Program (the Ministry Development Manager employment costs), the Retreat Hut, and providing discounts to Lutheran camps.

Next Steps

Over the past couple of years, Warrambui has been repeatedly challenged in various ways, but challenges always present opportunities under God. We have an opportunity for 2023 and beyond for the Warrambui community to rebuild in a considered and deliberate way. The foundations are there but require care and support to recover and grow from what has been a tremendously difficult time for all Australians, Warrambui included.

continued next page

After these difficult years of few or no groups being able to attend, and the isolation experienced by us all, there is a renewed understanding of the importance of bringing people together to grow and form bonds, and demand from schools and other groups is increasing. We expect this in-

crease to continue, and we pray that God will continue to open pathways for us to grow and to serve more people by living Jesus.

Respectfully submitted

Neal Mason,
Chair Warrambui Board



WARRAMBU I
RETREAT & CONFERENCE CENTRE

Warrambui Retreat and Conference Centre

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2021

	2021 \$	2020 \$
Assets		
Current Assets		
Bank Accounts	1,031,918	1,045,117
Trade Debtors	3,275	17,205
Sundry Debtors (Staff)	711	1,087
Accrued Income	-	24,600
Pre-paid provision Insurance	47,673	28,487
Total Current Assets	1,083,578	1,116,496
Non-Current Assets		
Property Plant and Equipment		
Land	422,000	422,000
Buildings	6,034,010	6,034,010
Workshop	18,277	18,277
Woolshed & Yards	8,000	8,000
Quarry	525,000	525,000
Infrastructure	342,706	342,706
Facilities	31,419	31,419
Capital Improvements	3,461,138	452,103
PPE Revaluation	(3,878,352)	(3,878,352)
Total Property Plant and Equipment	6,964,198	3,955,163
Vehicles	60,476	59,567
Total Non-Current Assets	7,024,674	4,014,730
Total Assets	8,108,252	5,131,226
Liabilities		
Account Payables	258,756	118,436
NSW District Loan	2,802,826	-
NSW District GST Loan	50,000	-
GST Liabilities	(124,336)	(14,783)
PAYG Payable (employers)	7,050	7,130
Superannuation Clearing A/C	1,839	4,350
Client Booking Deposits Paid	108,493	119,255
Insurance Claims	18,566	-
Unexpended Donations	137,847	411,827
Unexpended Grants	-	1,000
Staff Leave Provision	28,999	33,276
Quarry - Trust	378,970	373,316
Total Liabilities	3,669,010	1,053,806
Net Assets	4,439,242	4,077,420
Equity		
Capital Contributions	2,224,061	2,224,061
NSW District Contributions	339,836	-
Retained Earnings	1,853,358	2,022,992
Current Year Earnings	21,987	(169,634)
Total Equity	4,439,242	4,077,420

Warrambui

Warrambui Retreat and Conference Centre

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
Camp Income		
Accommodation Income	183,857	138,901
Programs	16,682	12,238
Rent - Staff Housing/Utilities	32,970	28,425
Catering Income	174,428	152,464
Miscellaneous Income	15,898	42,321
Total Camp Income	423,836	374,348
Camp Expenses		
Accommodation Expenses	13,592	8,316
Programs	2,337	49
Maintenance	80,478	54,835
Catering Expenses	69,950	51,187
Overhead Expenses	96,815	121,107
Advertising & Promotion	8,892	9,684
Wages, Salaries and Allowances	716,917	777,321
Total Camp Expenses	988,980	1,022,498
Other Income		
Donations	303,831	1,312
Covid 19 Cash Boost	74,600	110,000
JobKeeper Income	74,100	304,800
JobSaver Grant	32,864	-
Quarry	103,933	52,108
Pine Harvest Income	-	38,424
Total Other Income	589,328	506,644
Other Expenses		
Quarry Electricity	1,280	1,953
Quarry Development	-	10,898
Retreat Hut Expenses	917	1,418
Pine Harvest Costs	-	13,860
Total Other Expenses	2,197	28,129
Net Profit/(Loss)	21,987	(169,634)



John Beard Audit
REPORTS & ADVICE

Registered Company Auditor 15775
22 Hensman Street LATHAM ACT 2615
Mobile 0466 317 120

ABN 36 761 490 955

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE DIRECTORS OF WARRAMBUI RETREAT AND CONFERENCE CENTRE

Opinion

I have audited the financial report of Warrambui Retreat and Conference Centre, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2021, the statement of profit or loss for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies and managements' assertion statement.

In my opinion, the accompanying financial report presents gives a true and fair view of the financial position of the entity as at 31 December 2021, and of its financial performance for the year then ended.

John Beard

John Beard
Registered Company Auditor 15775
22 Hensman Street LATHAM ACT 2615

Dated this 10th day of May 2022

Turning Point Ministries



Peta Bennett

It is a privilege to continue to serve on the Turning Point Ministries team (TPM), to work with such passionate volunteers and to see the impact camping ministry has firsthand. Since the last District Synod, Dion Jaeschke has

stepped down from his role as Chairperson. We are thankful to Dion for the experience and wisdom he brought to the team and for his leadership over many years. Under his guidance we have formalised a lot of our processes and policies and have been even more committed to the safety of our events; physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual.

The purpose of TPM has always been to run camps that provide a space away from the busyness of everyday life and give people time to focus on our Creator God and build a genuine relationship with Him and others. We all know the impact COVID-19 has played on communities, individuals, and mental well-being and TPM has been affected just like any other ministry. We faced a run of camp cancellations, firstly due to the 2020 summer bushfires, and then the pandemic. Some tough decisions were made to protect all individuals and the broader community. At the time of writing this, we have recently held three events (Back2Base, Junior Youth Camp and Better Blokes) with success; that is, not having to cancel before the event, or during the event with Covid-positive cases. One challenge with the pandemic has been and will continue to be to rebuild momentum for our events, particularly with the younger group of junior campers who have lost almost all camping opportunities in their primary schooling years.

The TPM Team used the downtime of the pandemic to evaluate and reflect on the programs we run. Some growth and highlights in our ministry have included:

- The ever-growing group of young adults who have attended our Young Adults Retreats. These retreats have been a great chance to listen to and be challenged by what guest speakers have presented, and for strong friendships to build. These camps have proven to be a

safe place for young people who hold differing views and who come with varying experiences, to discuss, wrestle with, and “chew on” a range of topics from a faith perspective. Each of the 11 events we have run since 2017 has averaged 40 participants, often returning campers, but there seems to be a group of around 80 individuals who come in and out of these events.

- We held an online Young Adults trivia night during lockdown. This was a fun and relaxed way to keep connected despite being isolated in our communities.
- A core group of young servant leaders who volunteer their time and effort to be on camp. With the pandemic, our group of now 18/19-year olds missed out on their first few chances to lead at camp. We are grateful for their commitment to the safety of our campers and for completing the vital Safe Church training. This training is truly put into action on camps.
- Funding from the LLL Camping Ministry Grant which has allowed us to reduce fees for first-time attendees and subsidise part of each fee for all attendees.
- A restructure of the team and directing teams, investing in a range of people and developing their leadership skills.
- The joy of being together again.

The time to reflect has also allowed us to identify some challenges and areas for prayer support. One key event we are looking at is Easter Camp. Easter Camp has been a vital part of the TPM calendar for many, many years. It was originally an event that supplemented Confirmation and we encouraged each of our campers to attend this impactful camp (regardless of Confirmation or denomination.) We are looking at how we can evolve Easter Camp into a camp that suits families. Some of the questions we are asking include, “is Easter the best time to run this event?”, “Should we increase the age from 13 to 16 where participants are more mature and able to benefit more?”, and “how can we keep the core purpose and aspects of Easter Camp, but make it more relevant to today’s youth and climate?”

Another change has been moving Back2Base to the July school holidays. It is now held directly before Junior Youth Camp. This change was

made to better suit the various university holidays and schedules. It has also provided the ability for our younger, emerging leaders to attend Back2Base as a camper and then stay for JYC as junior leaders.

I believe it is also important to note the changing demographic of attendees and leaders. Increasingly, more and more attendees and leaders are involved from outside the LCA. We have moved from a time where the majority of our participants were LCA attendees, to then where most had some connection to the LCA (e.g., parents were once TPM attendees/LCA church members), to now a situation where a link to the LCA/TPM is less concrete or obvious. TPM continues to advertise through the LCA, social media and our contact list. We are yet to advertise more broadly, and so it is simply through word-of-mouth and growing connections that we believe this change in demographic has come. We do not see this as a threat or challenge, but rather as an opportunity to work with and consider as we share Christ through camping ministry. We continue to be a Bible-based Lutheran ministry and welcome anyone at our events, seeking to know Jesus, regardless of background or denominational connection.

Our current camping Calendar is:

- History Makers (high school) and Junior Youth Camp (primary years 3-6) in January
- Young Adults Retreat - two events per year; generally, one with a ‘teaching’ focus and one with a ‘community’ focus
- Easter Camp
- Better Blokes
- Back2Base (high school) and Junior Youth Camp (primary years 3-6) in July
- Sisterhood
- Leadership Camp - this has moved from being held in the days leading up to History Makers in January, to a standalone camp in Nov/Dec.

Our current Team Members are:

- Peta Bennett – Chairperson (and paid casual Admin)
- Brianna O’Keeffe – Vice Chair
- Russell Veerhuis – Treasurer
- Cameron Veerhuis – Secretary (and paid casual Admin Assistant)

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St Paul's College Walla Walla



Anita Morton

The First 90 Days

At the beginning of my tenure as Principal of St Paul's, I set out a clear direction to spend time getting to know the staff, the community and our students. I wanted to understand the idiosyncrasies of the community and align my vision with the needs of the College and its people. This time was a rich and rewarding experience in which I got to speak to every member of our teaching and support staff. In Semester Two, I attended each of our Care Groups with a continued focus of connecting with the community.

Community

The College currently sits at 285 students with 86 boarders and 67 staff. We draw boarding students from rural NSW and Victoria and day students from our surrounding local towns as well as the Albury-Wodonga region. In 2023, our enrolment interest has meant the need to plan for an additional stream in Year 7.

Due to COVID our international boarding has been impacted with no students currently enrolled. However, we have retained our CRICOS registration and accreditation to allow for this option in the future.

Turning Point Ministries cont.

- Ps Darren Kupke – Pastor Representative
- Tara Collier
- Megan Plummer
- Lachlan Reichstein

We are grateful to our congregations who continue to support our ministry, your prayer and financial support, and the parents and families who partner with us and entrust their children to us. It is a joy to serve the Lord in this way.

On behalf of the Turning Point Ministries team,

Peta Bennett
Chairperson



TURNING POINT
MINISTRIES

In June, the College successfully retained NSW Education Standards Authority registration and accreditation for the next five years. This is a credit to the exemplary work of the Executive in preparation during the end of 2021 and beginning of 2022.

As a college, we are committed to developing strong partnerships within our local community and within the Lutheran community. Our ties with St Paul's Henty and St John's Jindera remain strong with both staff and students supporting these schools in sporting programs. The Principals of the Riverina area are also committed to developing productive and collaborative working relationships. We meet once a term to support, share, and plan joint professional learning opportunities. In addition, we have appointed a Regional Business Manager primarily based at Walla, but with oversight of Jindera and Henty. A Finance Manager based at Jindera has provided additional support and the three schools are sharing, providing additional staffing coverage, and developing efficient working practices and relationships.

Navigating the new normal

The last few years have significantly impacted on the experience of schooling for our students. Many events were cancelled or scaled back. In 2022, as we have been able to return to events and excursions, students have taken advantage of the unique opportunities available at St Paul's. Our Show Teams have been representing the College at various local shows, our sporting students have attended state events and our equine students have been participating in clinics and competitions. Aside from our co-curricular activities, excursions and events have also returned, supporting our holistic approach to learning. COVID is still having some impact on our lives with staff and students impacted through sickness and the need for continued and thoughtful mitigation strategies within the College.

Service Learning

Service-Learning at St Paul's College has seen growth this year with the introduction of timetabled classes. Years 11 and 12 participate in Service-Learning once a fortnight for 1hr lessons. In coming years, Service-Learning is expected to expand

with a variety of service-learning projects pitched to younger year levels.

St Paul's follows the Service-Learning model (head-heart-hands) created by Lutheran Education Australia. In Term 1, both Years 11 and 12 engaged in a variety of learning experiences that developed their awareness of each of the service-learning concepts. Term 2 and 3 has been a time of exploring social justice issues that impact communities on local, national, and global scales. The Year 12s are actively working on the ALWS event, 'Walk my Way'. Each Year 12 Care Group leader is teaching and sharing with their group about the importance of education in refugee camps around the world. As a whole class, Year 12s have dedicated themselves to walking 26km over Terms 2 and 3 with their Care Group whilst donating money to the 'Walk my Way' webpage.

Student comments on Service-Learning:

"It encourages collaboration, teaching and learning with friends. We all are a team when we have Service-Learning"

"Service-Learning helps prepare you for the workplace by teaching you how to work with others"

"Service-Learning is a great opportunity to work with everyone in our year and to connect with each other"

"I like Service-Learning because it makes me feel like I am doing something good in the world"

"Service-Learning gives us an opportunity to progress our leadership skills and build our community and practice service for others"

"Service-Learning has really helped me to get a better understanding and empathise with those from other countries"

"Service-Learning allows us as students to expand our vision of the world and realise how lucky we are and what we can do to support others in tough situations"

Chapel

During the Pandemic, the student body were unable to meet as a whole cohort to participate in worship. This year, we have resumed full chapel services with the return of live music

continued next page

from Chapel Band and Care Group led devotions. It has been great to see the students' engagement with this and the encouraging messages being shared.

Boarder visits to Zion and Community Church Services

Our boarders are weekly visitors to the local Lutheran Parish at Walla, attending during the school term as part of their weekend activities. Boarders, day students and staff also participate in the interdenominational Community Service held at the college three times a year.

RAP

A team of staff are currently ensuring we have a considered and embedded Reconciliation Action Plan for the college. Understanding of diverse cultural and religious perspectives is a high priority of St Paul's as we aim for a safe and supportive environment for all members of the community.

75th Anniversary

In 2023, St Paul's College will celebrate our 75th year of operation. Plans are underway to honour our

history and begin our planning to ensure we remain relevant, and mission focused for the next 75 years.

Anita Morton,
College Principal



St Paul's College Walla Walla

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at 31 December 2021

	Note	2021 \$	2020 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	5	1,095,741	474,949
Trade and other receivables	6	460,740	404,309
Inventories & Biological Assets	7	219,882	246,154
Other current assets	8	173,653	195,097
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		1,950,016	1,320,509
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	9	11,554,202	11,914,110
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		11,554,202	11,914,110
TOTAL ASSETS		13,504,218	13,234,619
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	10	516,467	359,279
Borrowings	11	171,155	269,201
Provisions	12	714,465	759,643
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		1,402,087	1,388,123
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Borrowings	11	2,126,678	2,313,290
Provisions	12	77,815	78,539
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		2,204,493	2,391,829
TOTAL LIABILITIES		3,606,580	3,779,952
NET ASSETS		9,897,638	9,454,667
EQUITY			
Reserves	13	6,104,536	6,104,536
Retained earnings		3,793,102	3,350,131
TOTAL EQUITY		9,897,638	9,454,667

St Paul's College Walla Walla

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME For the Year Ended 31 December 2021

	2021 \$	2020 \$
Operating revenue	8,597,371	7,498,879
Employee benefits expense	(5,879,376)	(5,410,179)
Teaching and administration expense	(1,183,798)	(983,153)
Property and related expenses	(290,047)	(291,661)
Finance expenses	(32,035)	(60,076)
Depreciation/Amortisation expenses	(593,049)	(802,351)
Bad and doubtful debts	(121,392)	(90,601)
System levies - LEVNT	(79,240)	(66,455)
Net Trading Activities	23,177	28,016
Operating Surplus / (Deficit) for the year	441,611	(177,581)
Capital income	1,360	1,002,123
Surplus / (Deficit) for the year	442,971	824,542
Other comprehensive income		
Revaluation of land and building	-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	442,971	824,542



■ PARTNERS:
P.J. King CA
A.P. Powell CA
D.R. Uden CA
R.K. Nicoll CA
M.A. Smith CA
D.T. Rosetta CA

AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION TO THE BOARD OF ST PAUL'S COLLEGE LTD

In accordance with the requirements of section 60-40 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, as lead auditor for the audit of St Paul's College Ltd for the year ended 31 December 2021, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

- No contraventions of the auditor independence requirements of the 60-40 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 in relation to the audit; and
- No contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

JOHN L BUSH & CAMPBELL
Chartered Accountants

David Rosetta
Partner

Wagga Wagga
24 May 2022

Lutheran Education



Julian Denholm

Introduction

The work of the LEVNT office has been focused on the Strategic Intentions. These are:

1. Develop and implement formation opportunities to ensure educational communities are authentically Lutheran and are an integral part of the Church ministry.
2. Drive effectiveness through the promotion and facilitation of collaboration within and beyond regional boundaries.
3. Promote and facilitate innovative, evidence-based learning within, and between, education communities.
4. Nurture the development of people and encourage the celebration of excellence and success.
5. Ensure best practice in governance and leadership is embedded at all levels in our educational communities.
6. Work to encourage more sustainable models of schools and ECSs.

During 2021, the focus of the LEVNT office continued to provide support to schools during the COVID-19 pandemic. This support included providing advice regarding health directions and facilitating meetings with school leadership.

Schools and Early Childhood Services have continued to manage the pandemic response exceptionally well, with continuing strong focus on providing support to students and their families. Feedback from parents about this exceptional care has been very positive. There is no doubt that God's love comes to life through the actions of our schools and ECSs.

BLEVNT met earlier this year to re-

view the LEVNT strategic plan and make changes to cater for the current environment that our schools and ECSs are working in. These changes also included developing some core values to assist drive the work of the LEVNT office. These are:

We are relationship focused – therefore, we commit to being authentic, inclusive and honest.

We are future focused – therefore, we commit to being creative, courageous and hope-filled.

We are service focused – therefore, we commit to being supportive, empowering and responsive.

LEVNT Office Staff:

Executive Director: Julian Denholm

Director: Leadership and School Improvement: Shane Paterson

Director, Operations: Tammy Hughes
Director, Business Services: Lester Kerber

Learning Leader, Innovation: Kim Powell

Learning Leader, Identity: Gary Jewson (0.4)

Learning Leader, Formation: Pastor David Spike (0.6)

Early Childhood Manager: Kate Hill (0.4 casual)

Business Services Analyst: Teressa Yamada

Executive Assistant: Josie Muratore (0.8)

Operations Officer: Stephanie Hughes (0.4)

Pastor David Spike has accepted the Call to serve as Pastor of Formation and Ministry at LEVNT commencing in January 2023. Pastor David will continue to support staff across the region in leading the Equip Christian Studies program, the Connect formation program and regional spiritual retreats. David will now also provide ministry support to School Pastors and theological support to School Chaplains within our Schools and

ECSs. We feel very blessed to have David serving within our Region and are excited about the new role David will have supporting our schools and early childhood services in ministry and mission.

Mr Gary Jewson has announced that he will retire from his role of Learning Leader: Identity at the end of this year. Gary has served our Region in many roles, as a teacher, Principal (including founding Principal of Geelong Lutheran College), and more recently working within the LEVNT office supporting the ministry and mission of our school communities. We thank Gary for his wonderful service to the students and families within the Region.

NSW School Principals:

Brad Moss St Paul's Lutheran Primary School, Henty

Brad Moss St John's Lutheran School, Jindera

Janet Moeller Lutheran School, Wagga Wagga

Anita Morton St Paul's College, Walla Walla

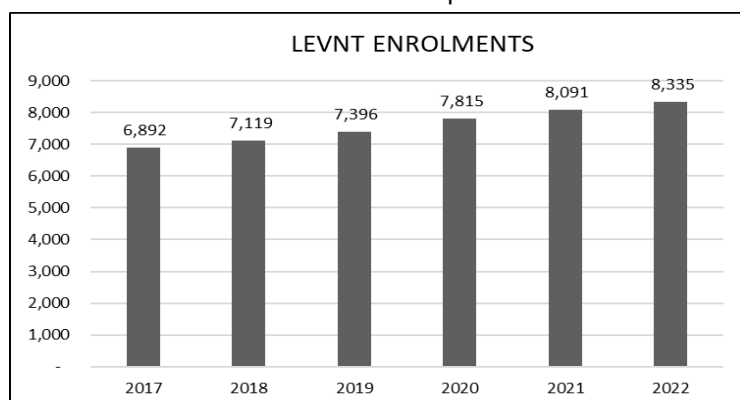
Early Childhood Service Leaders

Louise Rouch Little Saints Preschool, Jindera

Board for Lutheran Education VIC, NSW, TAS and ACT Ltd (BLEVNT) members:

Greg Schneider	Chair
Matthew Miller	Vice-Chair
Debbie Bennett	Board Director
Jeff Gork	Board Director
*Marianne Hammerton	Board Director
Peter Hoffmann	Board Director
*Kevin Klose	Board Director
Lisa Westphal	Board Director
* Directors from NSW	

Mr Greg Schneider has decided to retire at the end of this year from his position as Principal of Good Shepherd Lutheran Primary School after



Year	% Increase
2017	2.9%
2018	3.3%
2019	3.9%
2020	5.7%
2021	3.5%
2022	3.0%

over 26 years of service. Greg has also served in other Lutheran schools across the country and has been instrumental in supporting schools and their leaders through his role on the Business Committee and as a mentor to many principals and aspiring leaders. We thank Greg for his dedicated service to Lutheran Education within the region. Greg will continue to serve on the Board for Lutheran Education VIC, NSW, TAS and ACT Ltd.

School Enrolment Growth

Enrolment growth across the Region (including Victorian schools) has continued to be strong, with an average school enrolment increase of 3.9% per annum over the last 5 years.

Lutheran Identity

Formation of staff working in Lutheran Schools remains a high priority for LEVNT. Staff commencing their first appointment in a Lutheran school undertake *Connect* which is designed to support staff making connections between their vocation and key theological principles that inform Lutheran Education. These half day sessions around the themes of Grace, Creation and Community are generally delivered at the school level with the final 1-day session on the Bible, delivered by LEVNT. An ePortfolio charting their learning journey is submitted to LEA for accreditation.

Schools have continued to deliver *Connect* with staff new to our Lutheran Schools, though the challenges of Covid have impacted this in some settings. LEVNT has supported schools with online delivery of *Connect*, where local resources are stretched. This has been well-received and allows staff to build relationships across the Region. Staff engage in discussions with a school-based mentor to provide local support and context.

An annual Connect Facilitator Training Day on March 11th, brought together 11 new and existing school-based facilitators to share resources and approaches to Connect delivery.

Staff who are required to teach Christian Studies undertake a further course called EQUIP. Consisting of 6 days of professional learning, EQUIP 1 and EQUIP 2 support teachers to develop their pedagogical approaches and theological capacity to teach according to the Christian Studies Curriculum Framework (CSCF).

Equip 1 and 2 were delivered in Hub settings this year as follows: Riverina (6 pax), Western (8 pax), Central (6

pax) Tarneit (5 pax) Hobart (2 pax). We anticipate larger cohorts to begin Equip 1 in 2023.

LEVNT continues to work with school leaders to ensure all who require *Accredited to Teach Christian Studies and Lead (Acl)* or *Accreditation to Lead (Al)* either have or are working toward achieving the required accreditation.

Ongoing theological formation takes place in each of our schools through regular staff worship, bible study, retreat days and planned professional learning. A number of Retreat Days were held in schools with support from LEVNT staff as well as a Principal's Retreat in March.

The NAVIGATE survey has been conducted across 8 schools in the Region over the past year: a mixture of both primary and secondary schools. This survey, grounded in *Growing deep*, gathers data from stakeholders including staff, parents, governance and students to give a point in time picture of the health of the school in several areas.

The survey gathers data on the five vocational practices of *Growing deep*: Lutheran Identity, Excellence in Learning, Community Building, Improvement and Innovation and Organisation and Management. A major point of celebration is that schools 'feel' like Christian schools and stakeholders acknowledge that worship is an essential component of any day in a Lutheran school.

Leadership Development Program (LDP 8)

The eighth iteration of LDP began in the second semester of 2021. Nationally there are 30 participants in the program with the LEVNT cohort being 9. The participants of this leadership development program are currently undertaking their third unit of four, which is a unit facilitated by Australian Lutheran College, 'Theology and Education in Dialogue'. The other three units are facilitated by Queensland University Theology.

The participants of the program are refining and developing leadership skills, with the program having a balanced blend of theory and practical elements.

Preliminary work is now being undertaken for the ninth iteration of the program that will begin in 2023. Many of our principals and senior leaders are graduates of this program.

...an Authentic Lutheran School

Over the last twelve months the module, "*...an Authentic Lutheran School*", has been delivered to School Boards and staff across the region. This module explores what it means to be a Lutheran school and is based on the *Growing deep* document. It is expected that all schools, Boards and staff, will have the opportunity to participate in this module over the coming eighteen months.

Educational Programs

Contemporary Learning Tours

Tours have undergone some change in 2022 as we continue to respond to the needs of schools. We have worked to update the itineraries of all tours to ensure that the schools we engage with are best poised to share an impactful contemporary transformation. We developed and ran a Secondary focused tour around SE Queensland in Term 1. We have developed a new South Australian tour focused on schools in the Adelaide Hills, City centre and Barossa. We have also developed a new international tour of schools in the Auckland NZ area that will take place in September.

Another area of growth for the tours is that LESNW has now joined the learning innovation team so that work in this area is embedded across all three regions.

Contemporary Learning Framework

LEVNT continues to provide support for schools to engage with and build strategic change out of the contemporary learning framework document. Schools who are working with the document are finding it a useful framework to develop implementation around contemporary learning across a range of domains.

Professional Development

In 2022, 28 school leaders across all regions have been engaging with a 10 part series of workshops hosted by Louka Parry who recently presented a keynote at the Australian Conference on Lutheran Education (ACLE). The "Leading Learning Futures" series has focused on 3 phases. Discovery where participants learnt about the emerging research about the influence of neuroscience and leadership on education. Design, where leaders use Design Thinking to undertake a meaningful project in their school and then Deliver- the final session where leaders will share their research and projects with a wider audience. Feedback from this

professional learning series has been excellent.

Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)

The LEVNT Board has endorsed the recently completed LEVNT office RAP. The Working Group has detailed in this plan the way in which the office will conduct its reconciliation journey. This RAP is now waiting on feedback and endorsement from Reconciliation Australia before it is made public to schools and ECS.

It is expected that LEVNT will provide support to ensure all schools will complete their RAP in the next twelve months.

School Performance re reporting and monitoring

Most LEVNT schools performed well during the 2021 financial period with better profitability being a feature for those who improved their classification. Some of the smaller rural schools found it challenging because of a loss in enrolments through families moving from the area or who experienced a change in their financial circumstance. A summary of the school classifications follows:

	2021	2022
Performing	8	7
Monitor	6	8
Focus	5	5
Compass	1	0

The LEVNT office will continue to work with and support the Compass and Focus schools to ensure they continue to be profitable, sustainable and solvent.

St Paul's Lutheran Primary School - Henty

The beginning of 2022 brought in a new leadership structure at St Paul's, with Brad Moss taking over as Principal, alongside Hollie Kinning as Deputy Principal. It was a timely partnership with the introduction of the new Strategic Plan. Specifically, the focus on connecting our community to Christ.

In the strategic plan, the pillar of 'Building Community, BC-3 states; to partner with St Paul's congregation in Ministry and Mission'. Both Brad and Hollie have intentionally engaged with the congregation at Church board meetings, which has resulted in the reintroduction of several relational initiatives between the Church and the school. A few examples are the financial support from the congregation towards a student in need at

St Paul's. Secondly, the school, students and staff have been leading a worship service each term on-site at Church.

It is an exciting time for St Paul's school as we refocus on how we can be a place of the gospel and work in partnership to lead the Henty community to Christ.

St John's Lutheran Primary School - Jindera

2021/2022 provided a clear vision for ministry at St John's, as we partnered with St Luke's Church and welcomed Pastor Malcolm, Bronwyn Gabriel and Peter Reid as church planters on-site in our school hall. Initiatives included leading Chapel services and Monday morning staff bible study sessions by Malcolm and well-being staff check-ins by Bronwyn and Peter. We initiated targeted student well-being support provided by both Peter and Bronwyn with additional time spent in class supporting students and working with them at lunch times.

It is unfortunate that circumstances have impacted our effectiveness to continue these initiatives at St John's at this point in time. We are currently in a phase of building purposeful relationships with Bethlehem Church to imbed our new strategic plan that fosters a collaborative vision between St John's and the Bethlehem Lutheran Church to build a community of worshippers at St John's.

Lutheran School Wagga Wagga

Established in 1982, Lutheran School Wagga Wagga (LSWW) provides inclusive, nurturing and high-quality education for students in Kindergarten to Year 6 and prides itself on adapting to each student's learning style. Each student is promised a caring, safe, supportive and stimulating environment in which to grow and develop their full range of abilities and talents in all areas of their lives – a place to grow. At Lutheran School Wagga Wagga the 14 homeroom classroom teachers have more than 130 years total teaching experience. They combine those years of expertise with continuous review of the best educational research to foster a community that is continuously learning.

Using innovative, evidence-based methods, LSWW provides progressive educational opportunities that reflect the core values of the LEA. Teachers commit to partnering with parents to help children be resilient, compassionate humans who make a

positive difference locally and globally.

A Master Facilities Plan is being finalised that will further enhance the learning environment while maintaining natural native ecology within the grounds.

In His Service

Julian Denholm, Executive Director
Greg Schneider, Board Chair
for Lutheran Education VIC, NSW,
TAS and ACT Ltd

Aged Care Albury



Tim McInnes

It is our pleasure to provide a brief report to Synod regarding the ongoing outworking of the Mission of Lutheran Aged Care Albury (LACA)

Covid-19

The 'times' have been extraordinary and remain so as the COVID pandemic continues to be a major factor for all, and especially for the aged care sector. Two of LACA residential homes have experienced COVID outbreaks during the period, albeit small and quickly and well contained. There have been no hospitalisations and no deaths associated with these outbreaks. Emily Gardens at The Rock has escaped an outbreak thus far. Consistent infection prevention and control work has continued throughout 2020, 2021 and continues in 2022. Vaccination rates across the organisation for both influenza and COVID are above 94% and this includes the residents who, in the majority have had their fourth or 'Winter' dose of COVID vaccine. Screening of staff and visitors continues daily and on a shift by shift basis, as COVID rates continue to be a concern in the community. We continue to communicate with resident's families very regularly and at peak times such as outbreaks, communication occurred weekly and sometimes more frequently.

Compliance

The 3 residential homes remain accredited for 3 year periods, with Dellacourt undergoing its reaccreditation unannounced audit this year, amid considerable construction work as the Arrunga Project enters its 2nd year. It was pleasing that Dellacourt achieved very positive outcomes and feedback from the Quality and Safety Auditors. Emily Gardens is still waiting for its reaccreditation audit, and is well overdue, as the Quality and Safety Commission have quite a backlog related mostly to the pandemic issues.

LACA Homecare

Workforce is the major challenge for LACA residential and home care, as it is across the nation and particularly across the aged care sector. The LACA homecare business has more demand than it can meet, and this has been the case for over 2 years. The lack of suitable available staff is

the major reason that growth cannot occur. Home Care currently delivers services to approximately 300 clients, with additional Short Term Restorative care and Commonwealth Home Support (CHSP) services also in place.

Home Care expects its reaccreditation audit at any time.

The Villages

The 2 independent living villages have continued to be fully occupied, and these and home care clients often feed into the residential care homes, if/when this becomes appropriate. Both Villages have an ongoing upgrade program, that ensures both aesthetic and practical improvements occur whenever a house becomes unoccupied.

Onward and Upward

Despite the Pandemic and all its challenges, LACA has had a very busy few years improving the efficiency of the organisation (and consequently improving services to our clients and residents), with the implementation of several new IT systems. We were fortunate to be a successful recipient of the government 'Business Improvement Grant' for which we applied, with the business case projecting the purchase and implementation of upgraded/new systems in admissions, electronic medication management, finance, and an end to end Human Resources/ Payroll/Time and Attendance/ Learning Management system. We will be busy completing these implementations up to the end of this calendar year.

The 'Arrunga Project' continues to rollout, and happily proceeds without any major issues, thanks to the board's excellent tender and selection process of the construction group and project managers. By December, this year the 40 beds that were the 'old' Arrunga will be fully replaced, and a good number will be able to be occupied. The staff and residents retain a lively interest, as the construction occurs within the current Dellacourt site at this stage. The construction group regularly create 'windows' in the hard hoardings and residents can be seen enjoying watching the activity of the workers at all times of day. The new sections already completed have drawn considerable interest and give a glimpse of what a beautiful over all campus Dellacourt will be when all is complet-

ed. It goes without saying that COVID has impacted on the project, however, there has been no departure from the overall targets and timeline, (completion in mid-2024) for which all associated are to be commended.

The Board

The board, although small in number and always striving to attract additional members and maintain realistic succession plans, is a dynamic group and does provide and monitor positive governance across the organisation. It has fulfilled the requirements of the Aged Care Quality Standard 8 on 2 reaccreditation occasions over the past 2 years and considering this is one of the standards that often results in a 'Not Met' for organisations (see the website for Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission), is something for LACA to be proud of. It is a never ending task, however, keeping abreast of the constant change in a manner that doesn't surrender to fear and anxiety!

Sustainability

LACA's audited financial reports demonstrate its sustainability, however, the sector generally may not be sustainable if there is no change to the current funding and indexation system. (Stewart Brown and Co. reports indicate that over 60% of the sector are currently in deficit, and this percentage increases year on year). A new funding tool commences in October 2022, and much is yet unknown about what the government intends as far as the base funding and indexation related to the AN-ACC (acronym for the funding tool). The announced 2022-23 1.7% indexation does not fill the sector with hope, given the escalating costs which have for several years outstripped the government aged care indexation formula (or COPO). In 2023 as part of the change in funding structure, the Independent Pricing Commission is set to take over the ongoing 'pricing' for aged care services and therefore funding levels. Time will tell if this is truly independent, and if indexation is still 'special' to the sector. Sustainability is a major factor in every aged care organisation's strategic planning, and it is easy to see why economies of scale come into the equation.

Chaplaincy and Pastoral Care

We welcomed David Jarman as Pastoral Chaplain this year following con-

sultation and support from Bishop Robert Bartholomaeus. LACA has strengthened its Pastoral Care team through this appointment, and recruitment of additional Pastoral Care hours. The recruitment of 2 new members of the team, who bring with them advantageous qualifications and experience in pastoral care ministry and social welfare, added to David's leadership has seen great improvement in the support we can offer to our residents and staff.

The Workforce

Workforce is the greatest challenge we face and is a multifaceted issue. Scarcity of suitable workforce is and always has been a challenge and this has worsened through the COVID years. This is not, of course only in the aged care sector; however, the sector was starting from a lower base. LACA employs several measures to attract and retain workforce. Negotiated flexibility for staff,

an intentional culture of valuing and appreciation of staff, ensuring that residential homes are as free from COVID as can be achieved (this is factor as we have observed and interviewed staff leaving other homes because 'they are always on lock down'), paying isolation leave long before the government did, and continuing to do so, ensuring staff are genuinely rewarded for additional hours in time or overtime payment, staff recruitment open days. We have also invested in being a participant in the 'Transition to Practice' program under the auspices of the peak body ACCPA. This program provides support and facilitation for any Registered or Enrolled Nurses who wish to return to the workforce or are new graduates and wish to complete a graduate program in aged care. We also continue to sponsor some migrant staff under appropriate visa arrangements and look for other skilled immigration initiatives that

may result in the ability to attract staff. (eg. The Pacific Labour Mobility (PALM) program)

The workforce we have in both direct care and all levels of management are simply amazing and are the backbone of LACA's Mission. We are thankful for them and endeavour to show this every day.

Tim McInnes, Board Chair
Wendy Rocks, Managing Director



AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION UNDER SECTION 307C OF THE CORPORATIONS ACT 2001

TO THE DIRECTORS OF LUTHERAN AGED CARE ALBURY

In accordance with section 307C of the Corporations Act 2001, I am pleased to provide the following declaration of independence to the directors of LUTHERAN AGED CARE ALBURY. As the lead audit partner for the audit of the financial report of LUTHERAN AGED CARE ALBURY for the year ended 30 June 2021, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been no contraventions of:

- i. the auditor independence requirements as set out in the Corporations Act 2001 in relation to the audit; and
- ii. any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

Mark LeCornu - MRL Group
Chartered Accountants
PO Box 83
Kent Town, SA, 5071


Audit Partner: Mark LeCornu

Kent Town

Dated: 25/10/21

LUTHERAN AGED CARE ALBURY
ABN 95 140 144 798

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS and
STATEMENT OF OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
Revenue	25,671,319	25,083,288
Other income	17,326	388,128
Employee benefits expense	(19,616,249}	(18,523,068}
Impairment losses from financial assets	(1,579)	(807)
Depreciation and amortisation expenses	(909,643}	(876,287}
Finance costs	(42,566}	(120,914}
Catering Costs	(860,549}	(841,725}
Cleaning Expenses	(964,860}	(831,113}
Laundry Costs	(432,273}	(386,861}
Gas & Power Expenses	(429,712}	(477,215}
Resident Care Expenses	(778,594}	(671,725}
Repairs & Maintenance Costs	(621,064}	(540,983}
Rates	(189,084}	(198,600}
Subscriptions & Licences	(375,967}	(302,935}
Other expenses	(1,029,166}	(1,338,564}
(Loss) Surplus before income tax	(562,661)	360,619
Tax expense		
(Loss) Surplus for the year	(562,661}	360,619

Other comprehensive income:

Items that will not be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss:

		(1,023,086)
Net loss on revaluation of buildings, net of tax	204,822	(20,352)
Unrealised capital gain/(loss) on financial assets, net of tax		650,001
Net gain on revaluation of land, net of tax	204,822	(393,437)
Total other comprehensive (expense) income for the year	204,822	(393,437)
Total comprehensive (expense) for the year	(357,839)	(32,818)
Total comprehensive (expense) attributable to member of the company	(357,839)	(32,818)

Lutheran Women of NSW & ACT



**Tanna
Mackenzie**

Lutheran Women of NSW & ACT 2022 Convention of Synod

It is my privilege as President of the Lutheran Women of NSW & ACT to report on our activities during the last synodical term. Reading the Synodical Report of LWNSW for 2020 reminded me of the angst Covid created for us all just after 2020 Convention of Synod. Lockdown started and none of the planned events men-

tioned in the Report were able to happen in 2020.

The Women's Retreat did not occur as Warrambui was in lockdown, causing it to be postponed to March 2021. Some of the Regional Fellowship Days as well as Executive meetings were cancelled. This was a time of uncertainty. It was a time of much prayer and asking God for guidance and mercy. How each of us dealt with this was a new experience, probably lots of phone contact. But God led us through and we eventually were able to function as Women's Fellowships again.

There was a break in the lockdown and finally we were able to have a Lutheran Women's District Convention in June 2021 at Immanuel Woden Valley, Lyons in Canberra. I was elected as President as our former President had decided to become one of our extra members. The rest of the Executive have continued. Some Regional gatherings commenced again depending on Covid safety protocol being followed.

The 2019 Women's Retreat at Warrambui was rescheduled. With a large gathering, uncertainty as to

continued next page

LUTHERAN AGED CARE ALBURY ABN 95 140 144 798

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2021

	2021 \$	2020 \$
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	21,544,122	24,944,565
Trade and other receivables	1,501,547	1,236,251
Inventories	14,152	16,107
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	23,059,821	26,196,923
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Financial assets	1,008,544	772,937
Property, plant and equipment	35,927,819	31,217,075
Investment property	19,590,000	19,580,001
Intangible assets	1,050,693	1,139,400
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	57,577,056	52,709,413
TOTAL ASSETS	80,636,877	78,906,336
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade and other payables	1,903,670	1,183,194
Borrowings	33,571	
Provisions	2,058,729	2,003,256
Other Liabilities	34,403,277	32,968,780
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	38,399,247	36,155,230
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Provisions	1,195,463	1,351,099
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	1,195,463	1,351,099
TOTAL LIABILITIES	39,594,710	37,506,329
NET ASSETS	41,042,167	41,400,007
EQUITY		
Reserves	8,373,658	8,254,866
Retained earnings	32,668,509	33,145,141
TOTAL EQUITY	41,042,167	41,400,007

from previous page

availability of a hosting venue meant postponing the Retreat till March of 2022. What a blessing it was for us all to gather under the theme 'Pathways with the Good Shepherd' hosted by St Matthew's Woy Woy with team leader Elaine Harvey. LCA Bishop Paul Smith graciously attended and was presented with a hand carved silky oak shepherd's staff as the symbol of the Good Shepherd. It was also the first official function he attended in NSW. During the weekend we had four Bible studies on the Good Shepherd. Our guest speakers from the Evangelical Sisterhood of Mary were unable to attend as they were flooded in and Covid had been detected in their community. Our next Retreat at Warrambui will be held 17-19 March 2023. Details are available in our LWNSW & ACT Newsletter. A subscription is available through our Executive members – in it you can find out what is being organised by our Lutheran Women.

Supporting our individual congregations in various ways is probably first priority in our Fellowships but we also raise money to support others in need in our local and District, National and International regions. We do this by supporting various projects.

The Mission at Home project for 2020 was the Kids Breakfast Clubs at Dubbo and Tuggeranong \$875; for 2021 Resources for Western Sydney \$957.50. Other District projects we have supported over the last two years have been Warrambui Retreat and Conference Centre \$7132, St. Paul's College Scholarship fund \$1832.50, PNG Women's Coordination Fund \$1482.50 and PNG Birthing Kits \$762.50. We also supported the Lutheran Women of Australia Projects with \$10,062. Local projects are also supported in the region of the Fellowships. These amounts are quite a bit lower than previous years as groups have been unable to meet. Covid prohibited many fund-raising events that would have supplied

money for projects. Interestingly, the women have still found a way to donate to their fellowships to support the projects that are so meaningful to them, even though we are an aging group.

Through my 40 plus years of belonging to the LWNSW & ACT, I have found that the Lutheran Women of Australia are full of the love that was shown to us by God when he sacrificed his Son for us to have forgiveness and eternal life. This love and faith is reflected in what we do in service to our Lord and Saviour.

With love in Christ,

Tanna Mackenzie
Lutheran Women of NSW & ACT
President

Professional Standards



Carolyn Kiss

The past couple of years have certainly been 'out of the box' in many ways, yet for many of us they have a time of being looking into a 'box' or rather, at a screen. We often as parents and grandparents are trying to limit the 'screen time' our young people are engaged with, yet in the past couple of years our worship, our work and our Safe Church training has often been on a screen.

I'm grateful for all of you that have continued to engage with your training, challenging as that may have been. Whilst it was always the intention of Professional Standards to add the training to an online platform as an alternative to attending a face-to-face workshop, Covid certainly gave that the 'hurry-up'. It was new not only for you but also for us in the Professional Standards Department. It has been wonderful to engage with a few congregations once again for face-to-face workshops.

Speaking of new, how has your congregation/parish managed the initial stage of the Child Safety Standards for congregations? Completing the

self-assessment and providing the report to your church council to consider and then follow up with developing the congregations Child Safety Plan, may have provided your leadership with some surprises... looking at what is already happening well and perhaps providing you with some work areas. Remember that the self-assessment is a 'snapshot in time' and a baseline from which to develop and grow.

The Child Safety Standards for congregations is for all congregations, in all Districts of the LCA. It has been a huge task for our LCA Child Protection Project Officer, Mary-Ann Carver, and others in the Child Protection project team.

I mentioned in the June edition of Contact magazine, that whilst there is a current focus on the Child Safety Standards for congregations, we should not put other areas of congregational safety aside, including attending to completing risk assessments for all the programs that your congregation/parish runs.

The maintenance of Working with Children/Working with Vulnerable People checks remains a very important task for congregations. Each year, your congregation receives an Audit sheet from the district office.

Updating this list and returning it to the district office, so that checks can be validated, is key to maintaining accurate records, tying in also with meeting our legislative requirements, another aspect of which is the importance of our Application and Screening processes.

The Professional Standards Department (PSD) is here to support congregations, in the big, the small, perhaps the difficult. I encourage you to be in contact with me if you're not sure about how to manage something... there are no 'silly' questions!

I continue to uphold all congregations of the NSW and ACT District in my prayers. I pray also for our District church council as they lead our District.

Thank you for your service in your congregation. God's blessings be with you all.

In His service,

Carolyn Kiss
LCA Professionals Standards Officer
NSW and ACT District

LCA Bishop



Bishop Paul Smith

Sisters and brothers in Christ of the communities of witness and service of the Lutheran Church in New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory,

Grace and peace in Christ to you.

May God give you the abundant joy of salvation as you share in the work of the Gospel in your respective places of the LCA NSW-ACT District. The apostle Paul reminds us, 'But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us.' (2 Corinthians 4)

This is my first report for you as Bishop for our Church in New Zealand and Australia. It is a privilege for me, to be given the opportunity to oversee the hand of God at work in and through seemingly ordinary folk in everyday places across the communities of our Lutheran Church, caught up in the extraordinary things of the mission of God.

In this report, I highlight those things that we share together in various 'churchwide' activities in the mission of God that is the LCA NZ. Throughout this report, I have also added verses from the song 'Because we bear your name.' This popular song in our Church, from the Songbook All Together Everybody, number 272, was the inspiration for the heading of my monthly 'Bishop's articles' in our Church's 'Lutheran' magazine. (The verses are not matched to any particular topic in this report)

In my first article in 'the Lutheran', I explained why I chose that line, 'Because we bear your name': 'Firstly, the song is a prayer to our Lord Jesus, in whom we live and move and have our every being. Secondly, the song is wonderfully evangelical. Each verse is caught up in our Christian witness and service in the world as we serve each other and the world around us, in the name of the Risen Lord. Thirdly, the song is filled with the language of "us" and "we". Our Lord has gathered us through the waters of baptism to be with and for each other. Fourthly, the song is so very hopeful about the presence of the Lord at work in and through us, as we "bear the Lord's

name."

As you work through my report, I give you this song to echo our Lord's call in Acts chapter 1, 'You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.'

*Lord Jesus, we belong to you,
you live in us, we live in you;
we live and work for you —
because we bear your name.*

Loaves and Fish of Abundance

We know the Lord's miracle of the loaves and fish, with abundance left after everyone ate their fill. This is a parable for me of our Lutheran Church here in Australia and New Zealand. The Lord continues to provide for us abundantly. I am deeply aware of issues that are in conflict; of the troubles of vacancies and supply of Church workers; of demands of organisational obligations to State authorities. I know we pray 'Take Thou my hand and lead me, on life's rough way', whilst hoping that things maybe won't be so rough. But we are the people of the Risen Lord who promised that he will provide as he provided the ram for Abraham, as he provided the Spirit on the day of Pentecost. We are facing some big issues at Synod 2023, but in faith, we join our voices with the disciples who gathered after the Ascension, to address the big question of who should take the place of Judas amongst the 12. They prayed simply, 'Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us ...' This is our prayer as Church in all the matters before us, 'Show us, Lord.' The word 'us' is a very important part of that prayer.

Overseas Mission

Soon after taking up the work of Bishop for our Church, I was given a good orientation of our LCA NZ International Mission team by Pastor Matt Anker (whose proper title is Assistant to the Bishop - International Mission). We have three LCA NZ pastors working in the field in international mission partnerships: Pastor Mick and Milka Hauser and Pastor Murray and Tracy Smith in Papua New Guinea; Pastor Michael and Naomi Lockwood in the Philippines (still in transfer). We also have LCA NZ folk serving through Wycliffe Bible Translators including Hanna Schultz and Audrey.

Pastor Matt also promotes our

Church's overseas partnerships and collaborations, including with communities of the Lutheran World Federation and of the International Lutheran Council. COVID restrictions have limited Matt's capacity to travel to visit with sisters and brothers of these communities, but this is changing rapidly.

Recently, Pastor Matt and I visited the Lutheran Church in the Philippines (LCP). Our Lutheran Church does not have a long history of mission partnership with the LCP but the Lutherans in the Philippines are seeking a stronger relationship with the LCA NZ. Our two Churches are of a similar size and unlike other South-East Asian countries, the people of the Philippines commonly speak English.

Please pray for this vital work as we collaborate in the cause of the Gospel with sisters and brothers in Lutheran churches abroad.

*Help us receive each other, Lord,
for you receive the least of us
and come to us in them —
because we bear your name.*

LCA NZ Local Mission Departments

Dr Tania Nelson oversees departments of our Church with broad engagements particularly in the world of congregations and parishes gathered under the category 'Local Mission'. These departments include Care Ministries (including Aged Care), Child and Youth and Family, Lutheran Media, Cross-cultural and New and Renewing Churches. The teams in these departments are committed to collaborating with district ministry activities to help with resourcing and inspiration for the work that our Lord gives us in his mission in our local communities. A highlight in this work is the imminent results of the National Church Life Survey which provides good information for mission planning in the NSW-ACT District and across the Church. Please ask the Lord to bless this work and guide Dr Nelson and her teams.

Australian Lutheran College

The Board of Australian Lutheran College has been developing a strategic plan to address significant changes in the programme of our Church's campus at 104 Jeffcott

Street. This work summarised in the document 'Towards 2028: Our Strategic Direction' has been published, upon being endorsed by our General Church Board in February this year. It is available online.

When I entered Seminary in 1980, the theological programme of our Church included Lutheran Teachers College/Lay Training Centre on Ward Street and Luther Seminary on Jeffcott Street in North Adelaide. Any visitor to the Seminary at dinner time during term would encounter almost 200 young women and men training for ministries in the Church. The campus also included some students undertaking other tertiary studies. In 2022, there is only a fraction of the community remaining with less than a dozen full-time students on campus. The refectory and boarding house are closed.

Please pray for Principal James Winderlich and our leaders in the theological programmes of our Church.

Indigenous First Nations Lutheran Communities

I was privileged to have Pastors Simon Dixon and Roderick Kantamara from the Finke River Mission Lutheran Communities in Central Australia, formally participating in my installation as Bishop of our Church. Women of the Ntaria Choir of Hermannsburg were unable to be present on account of COVID restrictions but were able to provide video recording of their songs. Rosalind Coleman, local South Australian Christian woman of the Kaurna Peoples also attended to present the Welcome to Country.

In May, I participated in the Finke River Mission Board's Central Australian meeting cycle in Alice Springs, Areyonga and Hermannsburg. A matter of highest priority for the Church is the need for pastors and Church workers in our Central Australian communities. Please pray that the Lord of the Church would raise up workers for this harvest. Maybe you the reader of this report has a sense of call to serve in the Centre. If so, then please ask the Lord of the Church to test your call.

The Lutheran Church in Australia and New Zealand includes significant populations of members from our Indigenous First Nations peoples, particularly in South Australia, the Northern Territory and Queensland. In 2021, we formally rolled out the Church's Reconciliation Action Plan. I commend this ongoing work to each

of the parish communities and the agencies of our Lutheran Church, so that we would promote respectful and supportive relationships between our Indigenous First Nations people and those who have arrived on these shores since 1788.

Our Lutheran Church has been blessed with the participation of so many diverse Aboriginal Lutheran communities who have much to teach the rest of our nation in the matters of reconciliation and co-operation. I cherish the image given to us by Pastor George Rosendale of Hopevale in Far North Queensland. A Christian sees with the eyes of God – those eyes are 'colour blind' when it comes to skin colour. Please pray that our Lutheran witness with and for Indigenous First Nations peoples would continue to flourish.

*Bless those who give us any gift,
because they know that we are
yours; reward them with your grace
— because we bear your name.*

February General Church Board Forum

On Saturday 20 February 2022, our General Church Board and its consultants met for a day to work through strategies to help our Church to be ready for the 2023 Convention of General Synod. The sessions were led by Les Stahl, a leader in the theory and practise of church organisational development in Australia and included a session from Bishop Mark Vainikka on 'Mission, purpose and structure'.

The GCB worked through some key matters before Synod 2023: LCA NZ Constitutional Review; LCA NZ Ecclesiastical Review; the conflict amongst us on ordination – men only or both women and men. This also included planning to prepare delegates for the Convention sessions.

At the forum, the GCB members and consultants also worked through matters of engagement with our communities across the Church, including: the role of the GCB in the future; communications from GCB to the Church; collaborating with District entities.

The forum was a full day, which followed a full day of regular GCB business on the Friday. Please pray for your sisters and brothers on our General Church Board as they serve in the name of our Risen Lord. GCB members are volunteers, like most of those on the Boards, Committees

and Councils of the Church. Our GCB members understand their work for the Church as their vocation under God. The GCB continues to have joint meetings with the College of Bishops, at least twice a year.

GCB Members for 2022 are: Paul Argyle, Kim Baumeler, Charmaine Harch, Assistant Bishop Neville Otto, Bishop Paul Smith (Chairperson), Pastor Dr Tim Stringer, Tim Wiebusch, Mel Zerner and Peter Zweck. The Board's regular consultants (attending all meetings) include: Dr Nigel Long (Secretary of the Church), Brett Hausler (Executive Officer of the Church), Dr Tania Nelson (Executive Officer – Local Mission), Assoc Prof Lisa Schmidt, (Lutheran Education Australia Director), Jayne Welke (minute secretary). Please continue to pray for these leaders in their service for the Church.

*Let us acknowledge those as
friends who use your name to right
a wrong but have not joined us yet
— because we bear your name.*

Ecumenical World and Lutheran World

At the 2018 Synod, a proposal was brought from the Holy Cross congregation in Belconnen in Canberra suggesting that the LCA NZ could become a full member of both the International Lutheran Council and the Lutheran World Federation. This proposal was placed before our Commission on Theology and Inter-Church Relations (CTICR) and at the beginning of this year, the CTICR concluded its work on this matter without any recommendation. A number of Lutheran Churches are full members of both international Lutheran organisations: these include the Lutheran Church in the Philippines, the Malagasy Lutheran Church (Madagascar), the India Evangelical Lutheran Church, the Japan Lutheran Church, the Lutheran Church in Korea, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ingria in Russia and the Ceylon Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Under the guidance of the General Church Board, I am undertaking some ecclesiastical work on this matter with Dr Chad Rimmer of the Lutheran World Federation, with the Lutheran Church in the Philippines and with the International Lutheran Council Convention in Kenya.

Our Lutheran Church continues to be a respected participant in Ecumenical relationships both here in Australia and in New Zealand. As Bishop of

the LCA NZ I serve you at meetings of Heads of Churches in the National Council of Churches in Australia. Bishop Mark Whitfield represents the Church in New Zealand ecumenical forums. I am constantly in awe, with thanksgiving, that a Church organisation as small as we are, has such a vital impact on ecumenical collaborations in Australia and in New Zealand. I encourage you to constantly find ways to purposefully work alongside of our sisters and brothers of neighbouring Christian denominations, particularly in the work of 'diakonia' that is our service to those in need. Please pray for the work of inter-church relations here and overseas.

Let nothing that we do or say offend the weak so that they fall and lose their faith in you — because we bear your name.

Supply of Church Workers

At the May 2022 meeting of the College of Bishops, one of our meeting days included a workshop which was joined by Pastor James Winderlich (ALC principal), Dr Tania Nelson (Executive Officer for Local Mission) and the three District mission directors, pastors Brett Kennett (Victoria), David Schmidt (Queensland) and Stephen Schultz (SA-NT). The workshop was facilitated by Victorian District Bishop Emeritus Greg Pietsch. The focus of the meeting was the issue of the supply of Church workers for the mission and ministry of the LCA NZ, and the outcomes have been reported elsewhere. The GCB has appointed Bishop Emeritus Greg Pietsch to oversee the outcomes of the May workshop, with a view to any relevant proposals brought to the Church in Synod in 2024.

Please ask the Lord of the Harvest to raise up labourers amongst us.

COVID and the Work of Care

On Friday 7 January 2022, within a week of arriving in South Australia to live, my wife Heidi and I were both tested positive to COVID and so were required to quarantine for 10 days. At the time, I shared with our LCA NZ bishops the need to promote vigilance amongst the people of the Church regarding the Omicron variant. Heidi and I are very strict on sanitising and mask hygiene and both vaccinated, but we both were infected. Furthermore, we were both quite debilitated with extreme fatigue and each of us had a 'grab bag' of COVID symptoms. As we serve the world in

the name of our Lord, we need to watch out carefully for the neighbour or friend or colleague, who might be shut in or isolated in dire need of support with a COVID infection.

Together, let us all pray that this pandemic would come to an end.

With Youth in Ministry

I enjoy pointing out to people that missionary George Schwarz 'Muni' was only 19 years old when he arrived to serve as pastor to the people of Cape Bedford, now Hopevale. He remained there for 55 years with a lasting impact on the Christian witness and service of the Indigenous First Nations peoples around Cooktown in Far North Queensland. We have many passionate young women and men in our contemporary Lutheran communities, and we are faced with the challenge not simply to minister to them, to guide their walk in the grace of their baptism, but how to minister WITH them, so that they might actively participate, like Muni, in the wider mission of God. Please pray for our young people and as you have opportunity encourage them in their witness and service. You might also ask young people what they think about the Church and what they see the Church of the future looking like.

Lutheran Schools in the Mission of God

In the six months prior to relocating to Adelaide to begin as Bishop of our Church, I served in an interim role as Senior College Pastor at St Peters Lutheran College in Indooroopilly. I thank God for the opportunity to serve in the Church in this wonderful Lutheran School community which has been such blessing to my own life. It was a joy to serve with the College's faithful Christian Principal, Tim Kotzur.

Keep us from missing out on life; give hands that help, and single sight, and feet that walk your way — because we bear your name.

Last November, I sat with a member of the College's Parents and Friends group, reflecting on his voluntary work at the College. We were talking about regrettable cancellation of the outdoor Carols festival. (It was cancelled on account of the arrival of a seasonal Brisbane thunderstorm and the event moved indoors). Not a Lutheran himself, this College parent reflected on his choice of St Peters Lutheran College for his child's edu-

cation. He welcomed the College's witness to Christian faith and highlighted the pastoral community amidst educational disciplines based on carefully articulated principles. He cherished a Lutheran School as something good for his family. This man gives hours and hours to the community life of the College, eager to promote St Peter's as a school of the Lutheran Church.

Our Lutheran Church impacts on the lives of thousands of Australian families through our Lutheran Schools and early childhood services. We are blessed with faithful principals and school leaders, who are passionate educators influencing teaching and learning both at home and abroad. We have a wonderful challenge to continually ask what the Lord is doing in and through our Lutheran schools and early childhood services. Please pray for these communities of our Church as they serve young people and their families.

Our Many Agencies

It is well-known that Germans and Nordic nations are good with precision equipment, like Nokia, Mercedes, BMW, or Bosch. With a strong Germanic and Nordic heritage, our Lutheran communities in New Zealand and Australia maintain an extraordinary array of well-maintained ministry agencies from disability services and aged care through to Archives and Women's Fellowships. Though we are a small Church, we serve in such diverse ways. We are also aging with the median age of our Lutheran congregations in the mid-60s. We have a great challenge and ask what we do well as people of the Lutheran witness to the Gospel and then to find ways to do that even better than we already do. We also need to ask what we should hand onto someone else to take care of. This calls the Church to ask the Lord to guide us and bless the work of our agencies.

COVID and the household of faith

Both here and in New Zealand, there are people of our Lutheran Church who are concerned about the Government decisions and regulations regarding the COVID pandemic. I understand that these are Christian people who are faithfully seeking to serve according to the Lord's good and gracious will.

There are also Christian people of our Lutheran Church who have been vaccinated and welcome Government restrictions. These are also

*You are the salt that cleanses us,
so clean us out, and make us fit for
common life with you —
because we bear your name.*

faithful Christian people who seek to serve according to the Lord's good and gracious will.

As a Church organisation that is 'incorporated', we exist in a society under state legislation. We cannot open a new Lutheran school without following Government standards. Our Lutheran teaching declares that our Lord works through properly established government authority. Existing in Australia and New Zealand means we obey those set as authorities over us.

Together, as God's people, let us all continue work together for the well-being of our neighbours, as we serve in the name of our Good Shepherd, Jesus.

A Collaboration of Bishops

Since this is my first report to the districts of the Church, I want acknowledgement of my brother bishops: Mark NZ; Mike WA; David SA-NT; Lester VIC-TAS; Rob NSW-ACT; Mark QLD; and Neville Assistant Bishop for the Church. These men are passionately committed to the mission of God in which we serve. Each is deeply aware of his own frailties and 'thorns in the flesh'. Each is eager to collaborate with sisters and brothers around them. Please pray for each of them with their office of oversight in their respective places. In your praying, please include particular prayers for our bishops who are concluding their work in 2023: Bishop Mark in the LCNZ, Bishop Mike in LCA WA and Bishop David in LCA SA-NT. I assure you that our bishops pray for you and for the work of the Gospel that we are all called to.

I also wish to especially acknowledge the legacy of leadership given to me by our remaining past Churchwide leaders: Emeritus President/Bishop Mike Semmler and Emeritus Bishop John Henderson. These two men have faithfully followed where the Lord has been leading as they continue to offer their gifts in the cause of the Gospel. God bless Mike and John in these well-earned years of retirement.

A final word for the spouses of our Church workers and for **the single workers among us**.

Many of our Church workers are in a 'team' with a husband or a wife or fiancé alongside of them in their min-

istry. Sometimes these folk are very involved in Church work, and some are not as involved but no less involved in the lives of their beloved wife or husband or fiancé. On behalf of the Church, I express thanksgiving to these people who are sometimes not acknowledged but are ever faithfully participating in the life of the Church to the glory of God.

At the same time, I acknowledge those who for whatever journey of life, continue in ministry as a single person. May the people of the Church have ears to hear the words of one of leading lay workers, Emma Graetz, herself a single person. Emma wrote, 'see singleness as my vocation, not my failure'. Please pray for these folk at work amongst us in the cause of the Gospel.

Getting to Know You Better

The people of the Church know that I am a Queenslander but may not know that I am a Far North Queenslander, which is a particular breed of Australian who live in the humid tropics. The Lord ushered me into the Lutheran Church through the community life of St Peter's Lutheran College in Brisbane in 1978.

After nine years in Adelaide undertaking Seminary studies and studies at Adelaide University, I was assigned to serve at Trinity Lutheran College on the Gold Coast, as a College-Pastor. I then returned to South Australia to serve in the Tailem Bend/Karoonda Parish then at North Adelaide. In the year 2002, I began service in Toowoomba then spent over a decade in college ministries before being elected Bishop of the Lutheran Church in Queensland.

*Lord Jesus, we belong to you,
you live in us, we live in you; we
live and work for you —
because we bear your name.*

So, this tells you that I have experienced service in the SA-NT District and the QLD District. As the LCA NZ Church Wide Bishop, I have much to learn about the NSW-ACT District, though many of you will know that I married a Riverina girl. Heidi 'nee-Muller' from 'Dosyvale, Henty' married me on the day after Valentines Day in 1986. My partnership in the Gospel with Heidi has continually deepened my understanding of the mission heart of the people of God in the communities of the NSW-ACT District. Many of my early experiences of God's people serving together were in the NSW-ACT District. My

first Christian Life Week experience was in Tumut. The first parish call meeting I ever attended was at St Paul's Lutheran Church, Henty. My first attendance at a World Day of Prayer was with my mother-in-law Neva Muller in Henty.

Because We Bear Your Name

In this first report, I want to finally express my thanksgiving to the many people of our Church who worked to enable me to take up office in Adelaide at the beginning of the year. These are sisters and brothers who serve in commonly unnoticed places, but their work constantly bears abundant fruit. I especially thank my dear wife Heidi who has taken up a new calling in the Lord's name in the SA-NT District as the Chaplaincy Ministries Co-ordinator. In her relocation to South Australia, she left behind, in Queensland, her extraordinary ten-year vocation in Lutheran Aged Care chaplaincy. She also had to say farewell to the regular dinner gatherings with two of our three adult children who have settled in Brisbane.

And over all these things, thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 15)

Pastor Paul Smith
Bishop of the Lutheran Church of
Australia and New Zealand



ALWS



Leah Odongo

OVERVIEW

Australian Lutheran World Service (ALWS) is the aid and development agency of the LCA. Together, we brought love to life for more than 800,000 people in need around the world in 2020 and

2021! And here's how:

CORE PROGRAMS

PNG – Church Partnership

This unique initiative is a collaboration of ALWS, six other church agencies, and the Australian Government to strengthen the capacity of partner churches in PNG to better serve their people. Funded by the Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), we work very closely with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of PNG (ELCPNG) to strengthen education, health, community services and disaster relief responses for many communities lacking essential services. This commitment to serve the community did not waver even with the recent turmoil, the ELCPNG leadership activated its Church Disaster Relief Management process and developed a Relief Response Plan to accompany the Government of PNG in responding to COVID-19. Over the two-year period 7,748 people were reached.

Indonesia- Centre for Disaster Risk Management & Community Development Studies (CDRM & CDS)

Together with CDRM&CDS and the diaconal agencies of its partner Lutheran churches, you supported vulnerable people in 39 villages in North and West Sumatra, provinces that are very exposed to the physical, economic, and social impacts of disasters. Your support was in the areas of livelihoods, disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, disability inclusion, gender justice, and access to basic services and social protection. 29,734 people were reached in 2020 and 2021.

Cambodia – Holistic Rural Development

Together with Life With Dignity (LWD). Australian Lutherans support rural communities in six provinces in Cambodia to access sustainable livelihoods, become resilient to the im-

pact of natural disasters and climate change. Nhem Ra a newly trained farmer had this to say "For 11 years I used to make charcoal, but I still didn't make enough to look after my family. My children didn't go to school. Then I was shown how to grow climate change resilient vegetables like pumpkin, eggplant and cucumbers, using drip irrigation. With the new income I can support my children to go to school. I hope my children will become teachers'. In partnership with other agencies a total of 182,559 people were reached in 2020 and 2021.

Burundi – Community Integrated Development

Burundi is one of the poorest countries in the world, with more than 70 percent of the population living in poverty. The community Integrated Development Project supports increased food production and access to alternative income generating opportunities for vulnerable households, enhanced protection and safety for children and women at risk, and increased local capacity to respond to disaster and risk. 27,720 people have been reached in the past two years.

Kenya – Kakuma & Dadaab Refugee Camps

In Kenya, ALWS provides care at the refugee camps. In Kakuma Refugee Camp 17,194 newly arrived refugees were welcomed and provided with accommodation and day to day support including food and psychosocial support, and about 49,000 children were supported through education and psychosocial wellbeing and livelihoods. In Dadaab Refugee camp, 44,464 were reached including 697 people with disabilities were reached in the reporting period.

South Sudan – Community Empowerment for Resilience and Peaceful Co-existence

Years of war and ongoing insecurity, coupled with natural disasters like floods and locusts, and COVID-19, continue to hurt people in South Sudan. You supported communities in two states – Jonglei which is the least developed part of South Sudan and indeed of Africa, and Eastern Equatoria (Magwi County) where the more than 2.25 million South Sudanese refugees in refugee camps in neighbouring countries are beginning to return home to. In partnership with other agencies, 33,660 vulnerable

people were reached in the reporting period.

Somalia – Supporting the Government of Jubaland to Rebuild State's Education

This project targets children aged 10 – 18 years who have never been to school because of conflict, displacement, discrimination, and poverty. In collaboration with the government and other stakeholders, ALWS supported an accelerated learning program to fast-track 1,500 children who have missed out on education to be at the same academic level as their peers. The support included provision of school meals and hygiene kits for female learners.

Myanmar - Safe and Inclusive Education for Children in Rakhine State

Conflict, COVID and a military coup has disrupted education for children in Rakhine state, including from Rohingya communities. Leveraging on the Australian Government support and a matching grant from the European Union, 23,154 have been supported to access education through construction of temporary learning spaces and support for teachers' training and incentive salaries. Additionally, 9,975 people living in vulnerable communities in rural areas of Myanmar have been supported to access basic human rights including their right to claim and access land, and their right to a legal identity.

Nepal - Local Initiatives for Community Empowerment, Development & Promotion of Empowerment and Rights for Rural Women

The families you work with are from communities with heightened levels of vulnerability due to poverty and marginalisation. These include Dalit communities, ethnic minority groups, Bhutanese refugee communities, people with disability and women at risk of gender-based violence. In partnership with other agencies 36,567 people were reached in the reporting period.

EMERGENCIES

In 2020 and 2021, ALWS responded to 11 emergencies through partners in places where help was needed the most, including:

Worldwide LWF COVID-19 response (18 Country Programs) - LWF frontline workers required PPE

to protect them from COVID-19 so they could continue life-transforming work and ensure no spread of COVID-19 to those we serve. 5,600 frontline LWF staff received PPE, protection kits and psychological support consequently, 454,000 people were supported with direct action.

Nepal Floods (2020) – Your contributions enabled 2,380 people to be supported to re-establish their farms, start up small businesses, reconstruct water and sanitation facilities and repair village water infrastructures.

Indonesia Volcanic Eruptions (2020) – Through your support 2,065 people received face masks and basic food items such as rice.

Bangladesh Cox's Bazaar Refugee Camp and Host Community – Through a matching grant with Diaconia Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren and a grant from the Australian government 70,970 Rohingya women, girls, boys and men forced to flee their homes in Myanmar from systematic discrimination, statelessness and targeted violence were supported with cash grants, food and non-food items, livelihoods and income support.

South Sudan Locusts (2020) – Through your help, ACT Alliance partners provided food assistance through cash vouchers, farmers adversely affected by locusts supported with tools and seeds, and the local authorities' response efforts supported. A total of 28,085 people were reached

Afghanistan Conflict – Together we helped ACT Alliance and other churches to support 40,142 displaced people with food and fuel, food for cash, cash for work healthcare support, and winterisation kits.

South Sudan Floods (2021) – Together we helped ACT Alliance partners to support 28,085 families with cash for food, emergency shelters and repair of water and sanitation facilities.

Kenya Drought (2021) – Together we helped ACT Alliance partners to support 61,824 people with food packages, water treatment and storage tanks and goats for restocking.

Haiti Earthquake and Tropical Storm (2021) – In partnership with other agencies we supported LWF to rehabilitate water networks, and provide clean drinking water and cash grants to 30,213 people.

Ethiopia Conflict and Food insecurity (2021) – Together we enabled LWF Ethiopia and Ethiopia Evangelical Church of Mekane Yesus to support 46,789 people with food and non-food items, cash grants, children and community psychosocial support, and water and sanitation items.

Myanmar Conflict 2021 – Your support reached 3,107 people with a month's supply of rice, oil, and salt.

For more on what you have accomplished with ALWS, please visit www.alws.org.au.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Whether it was leading Chapel, teaching classroom lessons about injustice and poverty, or supporting a school to hold a Walk My Way, the ALWS Community Action team was out and about in person and online when COVID cancelled travel plans.

In 2020 ALWS Community Action team delivered 50 Zoom sessions, presented 87 classes face-to-face reaching 3,700 students in 33 schools, presented Chapel to 5,200 students, and supported changed supported Walk your Way that saw 2,838 people find different ways to walk and support 6,390 refugee children to go to school!

In 2021 More than 20,000 students were impacted including through 184 face-to-face and 33 Zoom presentations, 13 chapel presentations, 11 staff professional development presentations, 'Walk my Way' and 'What's my Business'.

To learn more:

<https://walkmyway.org.au/>

SUPPORT FROM AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITIES

We are most grateful to those members of our Lutheran community in NSW District who donate so generously to help others through ALWS. We recognise that this support extends beyond donations, including the way NSW and ACT churches and schools pray for those in need and endorse our work publicly.

In 2020, ALWS was blessed and humbled to be entrusted with more than \$8.1 million to bring love to life – with more money going to projects than ever before! \$3.2 million came from the Australian Government through DFAT. This record was further surpassed in 2021 with a total donation of over \$9.0 million, of which \$2.8 million came from DFAT.

NSW and ACT graciously gave

\$773,542 in 2020 and \$1,307,373 in 2021 (including bequests).

STEWARDSHIP OF RESOURCES

ALWS ensures the management of funds is transparent and accountable. ALWS is a signatory to the Australian Council for International Development's Code of Conduct, which requires ALWS to meet minimum standards in governance, management and accountability. ALWS has full accreditation with DFAT, is subject to rigorous accreditation review every five years, and has received the charity tick from the Australian Charities and Not for profit Commission.

THANK YOU

In 2020, we celebrated together 70 years of your service to people in need through ALWS. ALWS had its beginnings at the Bonegilla Migrant Centre, near Wodonga in Victoria, when Lutheran Pastor Bruno Muetzelfeldt began ministering to newly arrived migrants from war-ravaged Europe. Today you continue to 'welcome the stranger' in refugee camps and walk side by side with people in need through ALWS despite the challenges that our Australian community has faced recently. Thank you!

We are most humbled by the generosity shown by the people, schools and congregations of NSW and ACT to serve the least among us. We also give thanks for a supportive and encouraging church leadership through the ALWS Board, committed institutions such as the LLL. We couldn't have done it without you!

There is still so much poverty and injustice in our world! In 2022 ALWS ALWS will continue to amplify the voices of those we serve with supporters and Government.

We will be innovative and flexible in our communication of those needs and seek opportunities such as matching grants to grow the power of our supporters' kindness. As always, we seek to work in productive partnerships that leverage our networks and international partners.

Finally, we thank God for working through our church in such a transformational way.

Leah Odongo
Acting Executive Director



LLL

**Ross Smith**

The missional partnership between LLL Australia (LLL) and its depositors is a demonstration of the incredible power of people, united in faith, working together towards a common purpose – to transform money into a force for good.

Praise God for His continued blessing of the work of the NSW and ACT District!

Like the Apostle Paul, we pray with joy because of our partnership in the gospel with you.

LLL would like to share the following information about that missional partnership with NSW and ACT District over the financial year FY20/21.

LLL Financial Statement

See tables

*FY20/21. New loans are included in the total number of loans and value.

Highlights of the last year include:

- LLL celebrated its 100 year anniversary of supporting the Lutheran Church in Australia
- LLL borrowers are offered a 6-month repayment pause during the onset of Covid 19 restrictions
- LLL 6 month Term Deposit introduced
- LLL account numbers grew to over 40,000 – despite the reducing interest rate environment
- Depositor balances exceeded \$1.28 billion
- Legacies and Donations of over \$1.9 million

	LCA	NSW and ACT District
Number of deposit accounts	40,039	2,177
\$ value held	\$1,237,622,816	\$76,106,270
Total number of loans	234	11
\$ value lent	\$260,794,892	\$3,673,138
New loans approved	30	-
New \$ value lent	\$53,764,290	

Missional Loans in LCANSW

LLL works collaboratively to meet the organisational needs and objectives of Lutheran entities. An LLL loan allows borrowers to fulfil their missional goals, building strong Christian communities and becoming sound financial stewards for the future. We are for purpose, not profit, and invite a conversation about your funding needs.

LLL School Bursaries

In 2020, the LLL Board resolved to provide Lutheran Education Victoria, NSW and Tasmania (LEVNT) with an annual grant of \$35,000 each year until 2027, together with a one-off extra grant in 2021 of \$15,000 to fund bursaries in LEVNT schools. The bursaries aim to provide Lutheran education to children of families who would otherwise be unable to afford a Lutheran education due to financial hardship.

LLL is committed to providing Lutheran educators with ongoing financial support through the provision of development loans, business services and philanthropic grants. It is heartening to see families and students supported by their school communities, thanks to the provision of an LLL School Bursary.

LLL Camping Ministry Grants

Christian Life Week (CLW) camps and camping ministry have been a crucial part of youth ministry for decades. Since the LLL Camping Ministry Grants commenced in 2020, LLL has awarded \$150,000 nationally, including \$16,000 to New South Wales CLWs and similar district camping ministries, with another \$8,000 to be paid in 2022.

Since its inception, the LLL Camping Ministry Grant has been impacted by the ongoing shadow of the Covid-19 pandemic. It is a true testament to the youth leaders who have innovated and persevered in finding new ways for Lutheran camp-goers to connect with peers during periods of lockdown and restrictions – for example, through digital means. These camps have built long-lasting relationships, memories, and connections. Lutheran camps offer

fellowship, fun, independence, and a time for 'kids to be kids' with like-minded peers. LLL Camping Ministry Grants are designed to assist students who may not be able to afford to attend a CLW camp and/or subsidise the ticket cost for first-time attendees.

Sponsorship

In a new initiative, LLL entered a new sponsorship agreement with LEVNT to assist with the digital rollout of School TV on district school websites.

The support from LLL looks to enhance students, parents, and staff's well-being in a school setting. School TV is a website pool of resources that provides the school with content to develop students' confidence; it includes support for schools while educating parents through videos, blogs, and articles from wellbeing industry specialists. Topics include screen time use, blended families, loss, diet and nutrition, managing depression and anxiety, and more.

While the program is in the implementation phase, it is anticipated that over 8,000 students will have access to these important resources in the LEVNT district. LLL has provided \$4,000 towards this initiative that will last through to the end of 2022.

LLL Mission Outreach Grant

\$25,000 is allocated each year for district-approved mission outreach programs. While no applications were received in 2020/21 from New South Wales, these are examples of two projects around Australia. We look forward to receiving grants from New South Wales in the future as well.

Ipswich Lutheran Parish, Queensland, was awarded an LLL Mission Outreach Grant of \$12,500 for their digital and online outreach project, which builds on the current digital footprint of Ipswich Lutheran Parish. By extending the role of the Digital and Online Ministry Leader, the digital footprint will purposefully become outward in focus and provide an opportunity to disciple those involved in a church and online locations. The project will provide valuable missional information about digital engagement in a sacramental church.

St Peter's Lutheran Church, Loxton, South Australia, was awarded \$13,000 for their dazzling community event that 1,000 people attended on

the opening night. The congregation told the Nativity Story with hues of Riverland life thrown into the mix through a light show that was projected onto the façade of the church building and ran for over two weeks.

Non-interest-bearing Account Grants

Many NSW and ACT District depositors are choosing to nominate their LLL accounts as non-interest-bearing, which in turn supports the mission of many NSW and ACT District projects. Over the last financial year, LLL distributed over \$66,700 to important NSW and ACT District projects, including Lutheran schools, congregations, and aged care facilities.

It is a blessing to witness love for mission coming to life in this way. God be praised.

Legacies and donations

A total of \$1.9 million was left to the LLL as legacies and donations in FY2020/21. Legacies and donations are all added to LLL Permanent Funds, which enable the LLL to provide annual grants to a wide range of Lutheran Church of Australia (LCA) ministries.

We thank God for those who have been moved to support the LLL in this way. These gifts not only benefit the Church but also form part of the capital base of the LLL, which provides further protection to depositors who invest their funds with the LLL.

Regular Electronic Giving (REG)

LLL continues to administer the LCA REG program, enabling congregation members to maintain their financial support to their local church.

LLL Australia's mission is for the love of our Lord and Saviour to be heard and felt in the hearts and minds of all people around Australia. We are honoured by the support we receive, and we thank God for every one of our supporters.

Yours in Christ

Ross Smith
CEO, LLL Australia



Finance
with a
mission

District Property Trust

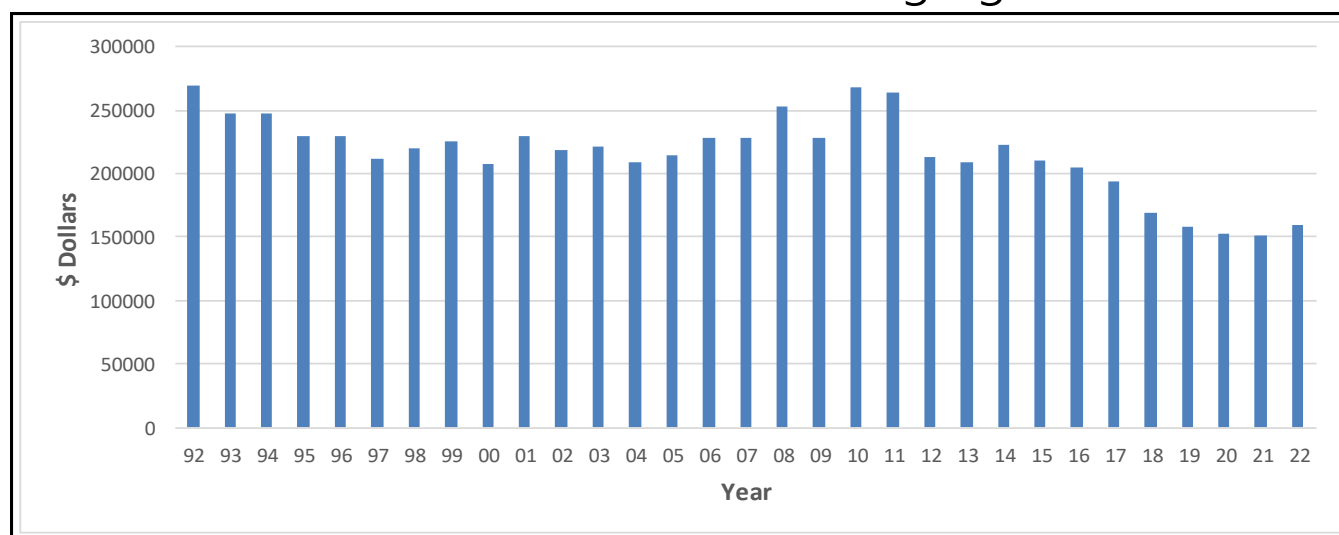
- | | |
|---|---|
| 389 22/01/2020 NSW District – Discharge of Breglec Mortgage | 399 04/09/2020 Warrambui Retreat and Conference Centre - 322 Greenwood Road Murrumbateman, Development application for Dome Redevelopment |
| 390 02/02/2020 Southern Cross Bass Hill Finnish – Church/Manse, 23 Sevenoaks Cr, Contract for Sale of 1% of Property to NSW District | 400 29/09/2020 Albury Aged Care – Hostel Dellacourt and Arrunga, 42 Nicholson Pl, Easement for Electrical Installation |
| 390 02/02/2019 NSW District – Church/Manse, 23 Sevenoaks Cr Bass Hill, Contract for Purchase of 1% of Property from Bass Hill Lutheran Church | 401 21/10/2020 Lifeway Epping – Manse, 140 David Road Castle Hill, Guarantee for ACR with St George |
| 391 13/02/2020 Trinity Gunnedah – Church and Manse block, 79 – 85 Stock Rd Gunnedah, Contract for Sale via Call Option to Australian Childcare Solutions Pty Ltd | 402 02/11/2020 NSW and ACT District – Investment account LLL, Purchase Australian Ethical Investment Australian Shares Fund |
| 392 25/03/2020 Trinity Gunnedah – Church and Manse block, 79 – 85 Stock Rd Gunnedah, Variation to Call Option agreement with Australian Childcare Solutions Pty Ltd | 403 19/11/2020 NSW and ACT District – Investment account LLL, Purchase Vanguard Australian Shares Index Fund |
| 393 28/04/2020 Trinity Gunnedah – Church and Manse block, 79 – 85 Stock Rd Gunnedah, Variation to Call Option agreement with Australian Childcare Solutions Pty Ltd | 404 19/11/2020 NSW and ACT District – Investment account LLL, Purchase Vanguard International Shares select Exclusions Index Fund |
| 394 06/07/2020 NSW and ACT District – Investment account LLL, Purchase Australian Ethical Investment Australian Shares Fund | 405 19/11/2020 NSW and ACT District – Investment account LLL, Transfer of funds to LLL Capital account for Warrambui Development, St Pauls College Loans and 2021 Grants |
| 395 10/07/2020 NSW and ACT District – Investment account LLL, Purchase Vanguard Australian Shares Index Fund | 406 10/12/2020 Trinity Gunnedah – Church and Manse block, 79 – 85 Stock Rd Gunnedah, Development Application for Australian Childcare Solutions Pty Ltd with Gunnedah Council |
| 396 11/07/2020 NSW and ACT District – Investment account LLL, Purchase Vanguard International Shares select Exclusions Index Fund | 407 21/12/2020 NSW and ACT District – Mission House, 12 Cascade Avenue Glenmore Park, Contract for Purchase from Dennis and Donna Hall |
| 397 11/07/2020 Redeemer Narrabeena – Church, 48 -50 Parr Pde Narrabeena, 5 year lease to Northern Beaches Montessori Association | 408 31/12/2020 St Lukes Albury – House, 440 Guinea Street Albury, Lease to Kate Stewart 2 + 2 |
| 398 27/07/2020 Trinity Gunnedah – Church and Manse block, 79 – 85 Stock Rd Gunnedah, Variation to Call Option agreement with Australian Childcare Solutions Pty Ltd | 409 29/01/2021 NSW and ACT District – Investment account LLL, Purchase Glenmore Park Mission House |

continued next page

District Property Trust (cont.)

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|--|---|
| <p>410 03/02/2021 NSW and ACT District – Mission House, 12 Cascade Avenue Glenmore Park, Transfer of title from Dennis and Donna Hall</p> <p>411 18/02/2021 NSW and ACT District – Investment account LLL, Purchase Australian Ethical Investment Australian Shares Fund</p> <p>412 18/02/2021 NSW and ACT District – Investment account LLL, Purchase Vanguard Australian Shares Index Fund</p> <p>413 04/03/2021 St Pauls College – School, 3 Klemke Avenue Walla Walla, NSW and ACT District signed Certificate of Endorsement as Guarantor to the LLL</p> <p>414 29/04/2021 St Pauls College – School, 3 Klemke Avenue Walla Walla, Mortgage to the LLL</p> <p>415 29/04/2021 St Johns Lutheran School Jindera – School, 154 Adams St Jindera, NSW and ACT District signed Certificate of Endorsement as Guarantor to the LLL</p> <p>416 29/04/2021 St Johns Primary Jindera – School, 154 Adams St Jindera, Mortgage to the LLL</p> <p>417 03/06/2021 NSW and ACT District – Investment account LLL, Purchase Vanguard Global Value Equity Fund</p> <p>418 04/08/2021 Lutheran School Wagga Wagga – School, Tamar Drive Wagga Wagga, NSW and ACT District signed Certificate of Endorsement as Guarantor to the LLL</p> <p>419 16/08/2021 Trinity Gunnedah – Church and Manse block, 79 – 85 Stock Rd Gunnedah, Contract for Sale to Australian Childcare Solutions Pty Ltd</p> <p>420 20/08/2021 Albury Aged Care – Hostel Dellacourt and Arrunga, 42 Nicholson Pl, Easement for Electrical Installation</p> <p>421 01/09/2021 Lifeway Wollongong – House, 16 Stewart St Wollongong, Lease to Suzie Marie Locke 3 + 1</p> <p>422 01/09/2021 NSW and ACT District – Investment account LLL, Transfer of funds for Warrambui Cash-flow Support (Contribution to capital)</p> | <p>423 15/09/2021 Trinity Gunnedah – Church and Manse block, 79 – 85 Stock Rd Gunnedah, Transfer of title to Australian Childcare Solutions Pty Ltd</p> <p>424 20/09/2021 Lutheran School Wagga Wagga – School, Tamar Drive Wagga Wagga, Mortgage to the LLL</p> <p>425 23/09/2021 NSW and ACT District – Investment account LLL, Transfer of funds for Warrambui Loan Drawdown</p> <p>426 4/11/2021 NSW and ACT District – Investment account LLL, Transfer of funds for Warrambui Loan Drawdown</p> <p>427 06/12/2021 NSW and ACT District – Investment account LLL, Transfer of funds for Warrambui Loan Drawdown</p> <p>428 17/12/2021 NSW and ACT District – Investment account LLL, Transfer of funds for Warrambui Loan Drawdown</p> <p>429 03/02/2022 NSW and ACT District – Investment account LLL, Transfer of funds for Warrambui Cash-flow Support (Contribution to Capital)</p> <p>430 22/02/2022 Immanuel West Wyalong – Vacant block, 15 Park St West Wyalong, Contract for sale and Transfer of title to Micson Construction Pty Ltd</p> <p>431 01/03/2022 NSW and ACT District – Investment account LLL, Transfer of funds for to LLL Capital account for 2022 Grants, Warrambui cashflow support, District operating cashflow and LCA contribution</p> <p>432 16/05/2022 NSW and ACT District – Investment account LLL, Transfer of funds for Warrambui Cash-flow Support(Contribution to Capital)</p> <p>433 09/06/2022 NSW and ACT District – Investment account LLL, Transfer of funds for to LLL Capital account for 2022 Grants, District operating Cash-flow, LCA contribution and Warrambui Loan Drawdown and Cashflow Support (Contribution to Capital)</p> |
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Total Contributions from Congregations



Contributions from Congregations

Budget

Place	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Albury	24,000	24,360	16,480	200	8,335	10,000	10,000	10,000
Alma Park	13,800	9,000	8,000	7,000	3,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
Bass Hill Finnish	1,500	1,525	1,545	1,500	1,200	1,000	1,000	1,000
Belconnen	18,000	18,500	18,550	17,000	17,000	17,000	17,000	17,000
Bethel	400	400	400	300	250	150	150	150
Burrumbuttock	0	500	500	500	400	400	400	400
Campbelltown	3000	3500	3000	2000	2000	2000	2,000	2,000
Canberra	0	1,090	560	500	500	500	500	500
Canberra Estonian	160	160	150	150	0	150	150	Closed
Canberra Finnish	0	1,280	1,300	1,000	1,000	1,000	0	1,000
Central Coast/ Gosford	600	610	610	600	600	600	600	600
Coffs Harbour	540	556	500	500	500	Closed		
Cooma	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Corowa	200	0	0	0	0	0	Closed	
Culcairn	3,350	4,700	6,000	4,500	4,500	5,000	5,000	4,000
Dubbo	550	0	1,050	500	500	500	500	500
Epping Chinese	0	445	0	430	200	In recess		
Forbes	520	530	540	500	500	500	500	500
Gerogery	4,700	4,770	4,840	4,000	4,000	0	0	4,000
Gilgandra	1,140	1,150	1,150	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Griffith	1,100	1,100	1,120	1,000	1,000	1,000	2,000	1,000
Henty	7,300	7,500	7,600	6,500	6,500	3,250	2,500	6,500
Jindera	15,350	15,580	15,820	13,000	13,000	13,000	13,000	13,000
Lavington	0	4,230	500	500	500	1,000	500	500
Leeton	610	620	630	500	500	500	500	500
Lifeway Epping	8,250	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	8,200
Lifeway Illawarra	1,850	3,000	2,575	2,000	2,000	1,000	1,200	
Lifeway Newcastle	-	-	-					
Liverpool	1,600	1,650	1,650	1,500	0	0	0	1,500
Milbrulong	0	3,175	1,600	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200
Narraweena	2,100	2,130	2,160	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Orange	540	550	556	500	500	500	500	500
Parkes	2,036	1,525	1,600	1,600	1,600	1,500	1,500	1,500
Pleasant Hills	1,750	1,775	1,800	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Port Macquarie	3,000	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
Queanbeyan	610	620	630	500	500	500	500	500
Springwood	1,140	1,160	1,175	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
St Marys	1,040	1,050	1,070	0	1,000	500	500	500
Sutherland	2,000	0	4,050	0	4,000	4,000	2,000	2,000
Sydney Estonian	0	170	325	150	0	150	150	150
Sydney Indonesian	2,100	2,145	2,165	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,500	2,000
Sydney St Paul's	5,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	7,000	6,000	6,000
Tamworth	1,600	1,600	1,625	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
Temora	12,000	0	0	27,800	0	7,500	8,000	8,000
Tuggeranong	10,200	10,200	10,500	0	15,000	7,000	7,000	7,000
Wagga Wagga	8,500	7,600	7,750	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500
Walla Walla	10,200	10,350	10,500	8,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
West Wyalong	5,000	5,000	2,500	2,500	1,500	0	2,000	1,500
Woden Valley	32,500	33,000	33,500	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
Yagoona	0	1600	250	200	200	In Recess	Closed	
Totals	209,836	204,906	193,326	169,130	157,985	152,900	151,850	159,200

Anniversaries and Pastor Changes

Anniversaries

26 April 2020	30 years	Good Shepherd Tuggeranong
9 Oct 2022	150 years	Holy Cross Burrumbuttock
3 July 2022	60 years	Living Waters Liverpool congregation
	30 years	Living Waters Liverpool church building
31 July 2022	40 years	Good Shepherd Campbelltown

Installations

1 Nov 2020	Pr Tim Muller	Woden
22 Aug 2021	Pr David Schuppan	LifeWay Illawarra
23 Jan 2022	Pr David Cherry	Wagga Wagga
6 Feb 2022	Pr Lassi Pappinen	Bass Hill Finnish
17 July 2022	Pr Mark Worthing	Port Macquarie

Accepted calls out of District

19 April 2020	Pr Simon Mackenzie	Illawarra to Goombungee Qld
June 2020	Pr Stuart Kleinig	Wagga Wagga to LCA Interim Ministry
5 Sept 2021	Pr Kees Sturm	Henty to Townsville Qld
25 Dec 2021	Pr Dan Mueller	Walla Walla to Buderim Qld
June 2022	Pr Daryl Mattner	Chaplain Albury Aged Care to SA District on LoA
14 Aug 2022	Pr Joseph Graham	Dubbo Gilgandra to Biloela Qld

Retirement

15 Nov 2021	Pr David Grulke	Albury
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Resignation

7 July 2022	Pr Erik Braunack-Mayer	
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Closures

5 Dec 2020	Estonian Canberra
7 Nov 2021	St Andrew, Corowa
22 May 2022	Concordia, Yagoona

Parish Realignment

31 Jan 2021	Illawarra joined LifeWay (Epping and Newcastle)
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Roll of District Pastors

LCA Parish Pastors	<i>Parish location</i>	<i>Pastor</i>	<i>Installation Date</i>
	Belconnen	Pr Ian Rentsch	10 Dec 2017
	Burrumbuttock/Jindera	Pr Christian Fandrich	30 Nov 2014
	Canberra Finnish	Pr Janne Pekkari	4 Sept 2011
	Canberra/Queanbeyan	Pr Gabor Szabo	17 Jan 2010
	Central Coast	Pr Allan Taruste	21 Nov 2017
	Central West	Pr James Leach	10 Feb 2019
	Cooma	Pr Melvin Salzke	13 Feb 2010
	LifeWay Epping	Pr Mark Schultz	5 Nov 2006
		Pr Mark Simpfendorfer	2 Dec 2007
	Newcastle	Pr Mathew von Stanke	3 Feb 2019
	Illawarra	Pr David Schuppan	22 Aug 2021
	Lavington	Pr Peter Fuhlbohm	18 Aug 2019
	Liverpool	Pr Hans Peethala	2 Feb 2020
	Port Macquarie	Pr Mark Worthing	17 July 2022
	Sutherland	Pr Mathew Eckermann	12 Oct 2014
	Sydney Finnish	Pr Lassi Pappinen	6 Feb 2022
	Sydney/Narrabeena	Pr Richard Schwedes	24 July 2016
	Temora/West Wyalong	Pr Darren Kupke	8 Feb 2015
	Tuggeranong	Pr Paul Hannola	11 Sept 2016
	Wagga Wagga	Pr David Cherry	23 Jan 2022
	Woden Valley	Pr Tim Muller	1 Nov 2020

Vacant Parishes	Albury
	Gilgandra/Dubbo
	Henty
	Springwood
	St Marys
	Walla Walla

Vacant Parishes not in the Call Process	Campbelltown
	Gunnedah/Tamworth
	Leeton/Griffith
	Albury Aged Care

Non LCA Pastors	Sydney Indonesian	Pr Sahat Simanullang	3 Feb 2008
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District Pastors	District Bishop	Pr Robert Bartholomaeus	23 Mar 2019
	St Paul's College Chaplain	Pr John Borchert	29 Apr 2003

Seconded District Pastor	Army Chaplain	Pr Darren Jaensch
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Leave of Absence	Pr Will Frost
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Emeriti

Pr Haydn Blaess	Pr Dennis Obst
Pr Arpad Breglec	Pr John Simboras
Pr John Grosse	Pr Sam Simpfendorfer
Pr Robert Hamann	Pr David Thompson
Pr Marinus Hofman	Pr Ren Tschirp
Pr Bruce Hohnberg	Pr Terry Unger
Pr James Janetzki	Pr Fred Veerhuis
Pr Gary Kenney	Pr Gordon Watson
Pr Ian Kotzur	Pr Clem Zanker
Pr Rex Mickan	Pr Tim Zanker

Summary

Parish pastors	21
District pastors	2
Emeriti	20
Seconded pastors	1
Total District pastors	44
Non LCA pastors	1
Parishes vacant	6

NSW and ACT District Statistics

Congregation/ Parish location	Baptised members					Communing members					Attendance per week					Total Income				
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Albury	163	168	180		110	138	153	160		109	87	107	89		95	128,829	120,504	124,588		125,500
Belconnen	160	150	130	120	109	110	65	85	95	99	87	80	72	36	44	226,359	244,937	237,034	223,400	256,416
Bethel	23	23	23	23	19	15	15	14	14	13	16	16	16	8	10	15,287	13,717	18,043	10,997	15,995
Burrumbuttock	32	41	38	24	25	22	22	16	14	19	13	15	13	6	9	24,374	27,034	23,923	24,809	32,944
Gerogery	38	39	35	31	31	30	30	31	24	22	29	21	24	11	18	29,420	26,740	31,941	25,868	24,475
Jindera: Bethlehem	47	46	43	30	38	38	40	38	29	22	25	27	25	12	19	75,920	72,057	60,502	54,029	63,035
Jindera: Chapel	92	84	41			46	38				44	30	9							
Burrumbuttock	232	233	180	108	113	151	145	99	81	76	127	109	87	37	56	145,001	139,548	134,409	115,703	136,449
Campbelltown	51	51		45	45	47	47		40	40	26	25	25	12	15	74,168	71,974	78,374	72,430	90,454
Canberra Finnish																				
Queanbeyan	12	9	8	8	8	12	9	8	8	8	7	6	5	3	2	20,027	14,058	14,772	21,789	14,885
Reid	42	42	43	39	34	40	40	41	34	33	48	36	32	24	25	102,772	111,524	126,075	137,125	117,883
Canberra / Queanbeyan	54	51	51	47	42	52	49	49	42	41	55	42	37	27	27	122,799	125,582	140,847	158,914	132,768
Central Coast	41	59	53	54		41	38	32	28		29	28	26	12		177,958	66,115	68,091	63,341	
Orange	18	22				15	17				12	11			7	19,216	19,480			
Forbes	15	9				15	8				6	6			8	10,000	10,156			
Parkes															24					
Central West															39	29,216	29,636			
Cooma																				
<i>Coonabarabran</i>																				
Dubbo	36				33	30				27	22				22	62,447				65,439
Gilgandra	11				23	11				18	5					30,350				
<i>Nyngan</i>																				
Dubbo/Gilgandra																92,797				
LifeWay (Epping/ Chinese/Illawarra/ Newcastle/ Westside)		291	299		375		170	176		241		144	153		352		477,372	453,731		521,616
Culcairn	70	70	65		57	27	26	21		22	29	22			12	51,355	44,928	35,143		31,855
Henty	237				205	116				114	83				54	106,882				102,302
Pleasant Hills																				
Henty						143					112					158,237				134,157
Lavington		76					76					39					92,358			
Griffith																				
Leeton																				
Leeton/Griffith																				
Liverpool	52	58				35	41				26	24				40,847	24,861			
Port Macquarie	37	45			58	33	35			51	32	35			35	38,531	54,645			74,477
Springwood	60	63	58	53	51	55	54	56	46	44	29	31	27	20	16	47,905	54,125	53,252	114,860	48,693
St Marys	41				30	33				25	21				8	47,997				29,031

For Statistics tables please note:

- Empty spaces shows no Statistical Return received or no detail filled in Statistical Return.
- For some totals (eg parish or District) missing figures need to be taken into account.
- Average attendance is for per week where 52 or more services were held during the year, or per service for those who had less than 52.
- A 'communing member' is a member who communes at least twice a year

NSW and ACT District Statistics

Congregation/ Parish location	Baptised members					Communing members					Attendance per week					Total Income				
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Sutherland	85	82	81	77	81	51	49	48	44	48	29	27	25	16	16	107,365	92,533	88,457	68,827	71,743
Narraweena					37					19					14					91,892
St Paul's Sydney	160	160	161		132	84	72	65		60	60	57	55		96	156,700	172,712			175,335
Sydney Finnish		200	200		200		100	100		100		21	21		9		61,925			9,292
Sydney Indone- sian	188					115				139	75				78	101,800				
Gunnedah																				
Tamworth	26	22	25	25	25	17	18	18	15	15	14	13	13	6	6	11,839	10,424	11,047	13,435	11,509
Tamworth / Gunnedah																				
Temora	206	206	206	206	190	103	103	99	91	87	70	74	74	63	61	132,242	78,184	149,911	68,447	79,290
Tuggeranong	78	95	110	73	92	68	93	80	55	77	57	56	59	14	46	123,771	123,324	134,887	136,518	171,628
Milbrulong	30	27	28		38	14	15	16		30	11	8	6		2	7,099	9,576	6,794		6,508
Wagga Wagga	134	121	120		124	94	87	87		86	82	77	71		51	98,994	163,793	186,041		197,400
Alma Park	80	80	81	81		53	53	55	55		46	40	40	21		59,197	52,558	51,850	49,112	
Walla Walla	145	142	136	142	140	114	110	105	110	100	85	70	73	50	53	78,493	88,321	87,684	89,002	95,708
Walla Walla	225	222	217	223	140	167	163	160	165		131	110	113	71		137,690	140,879	139,534	138,114	
West Wyalong		27	27	26	25		27	27	26	25		8	6	2	3		10,426	7,201	4,475	5,885
Woden Valley	200	206	178	169	194	120	136	134	129	143	107	106	102	42	74	270,746	324,350	281,139	319,018	343,708
DISTRICT TOTALS	2196	2672	2369	1226	2529	1636	1806	1512	857	1836	1241	1266	1061	358	1252	2,381,021	2,740,889	2,330,480	1,497,482	2,874,898

2021 LCA Statistics Summary (from LAMP)

	LCA	NSW/ACT	NZ	QLD	SA/NT	VIC/TAS	WA
Congregations	451	53	13	113	182	74	16
Worship Centres	82	11	1	29	19	20	2
Statistical Returns Submitted	323	27	3	88	161	37	7
Baptised Members	33439	2468	243	8946	17086	3627	1069
Confirmed Members	26689	2043	199	7326	13561	2853	707
Communing Members 18 or over	22175	1657	188	6057	11313	2326	634
Average Weekly Attendance at Worship	14207	1142	124	3872	7761	936	372
Children in Children's Groups	1379	109	15	324	730	175	26
Youth in Youth Groups	446	7	0	115	226	87	11
Income - Local and Parish Offerings	\$22,472,635	\$1,796,770	\$263,930	\$6,251,056	\$11,404,332	\$2,219,343	\$537,203
Income - Total	\$30,405,531	\$2,811,863	\$354,716	\$8,860,313	\$14,741,022	\$3,002,256	\$635,361
Expenditure - Synod	\$1,997,228	\$86,440	\$54,375	\$489,473	\$1,072,584	\$263,027	\$31,329
Expenditure - Other	\$6,198,876	\$319,359	\$6,605	\$3,309,160	\$2,141,123	\$378,594	\$44035.77

District Roll of Parishes, Pastors, Congregations, Preaching Places and Delegates

Parish	Pastor	Installed	Congregation	Members	Delegates
Albury	vacant		St Luke	109	2
Albury Aged Care	vacant				
Belconnen	Pr Ian Rentsch	10 Dec 2017	Holy Cross	99	1
Burrumbuttock	Pr Christian Fandrich	30 Nov 2014	Trinity, Bethel	13	1
			Holy Cross, Burrumbuttock	19	1
			St Peter, Gerogery	22	1
			Bethlehem, Jindera	22	1
			<i>Chapel, Jindera</i>		
Campbelltown	vacant		Good Shepherd	40	1
Canberra Finnish	Pr Janne Pekkarinnen	4 Sept 2011	Trinity, Watson		1
Canberra/Queanbeyan	Pr Gabor Szabo	17 Jan 2010	St John the Baptist, Queanbeyan	8	1
			St Peter, Reid	33	1
Central Coast	Pr Allan Taruste	21 Nov 2017	St Matthew	28	1
Central West	Pr James Leach	10 Feb 2019	St Peter, Orange	17	1
			St John, Forbes	8	1
			St Paul, Parkes	24	1
Cooma	Pr Melvin Salzke	13 Feb 2010	Trinity	15	1
Dubbo/Gilgandra	vacant		St Mark, Dubbo	27	1
			St John, Gilgandra	18	1
			<i>Nyngan</i>	5	
LifeWay (Epping/ Newcastle/Illawarra)	Pr Mark Schultz	5 Nov 2006	LifeWay Epping, Newcastle,		
	Pr Mark Simpfendorfer	2 Dec 2007	Illawarra, <i>Westside, Chinese</i>	241	3
	Pr Mat von Stanke	3 Feb 2019			
	Pr David Schuppan	22 Aug 2021			
Gunnedah/Tamworth	vacant		Trinity, Gunnedah	6	1
			St Paul, Tamworth	15	1
Henty	vacant		St Stephen, Culcairn	22	1
			St Paul, Henty	114	2
			St John, Pleasant Hills	17	1
Lavington	Pr Peter Fuhlbohm	18 Aug 2019	St Peter, Lavington	76	1
Leeton/Griffith	vacant		St Paul, Griffith	22	1
			St John, Leeton	17	1
			<i>Nerrandera</i>		
Liverpool	Pr Hans Peethalal	2 Feb 2020	Living Waters, Liverpool	41	1
Port Macquarie	Pr Mark Worthing	17 July 2022	St Peter's	51	1
Springwood	vacant		Our Saviour	44	1
St Marys	vacant		St Paul	25	1
Sutherland	Pr Mat Eckermann	12 Oct 2014	Good Shepherd	48	1
Sydney Chinese	In recess		Sydney Chinese		1
Sydney/Narraweena	Pr Richard Schwedes	24 July 2016	Redeemer, Narraweena	19	1
			St Paul, Sydney	60	1
Sydney Estonian	Pr Allan Taruste	1 Feb 2016	Sydney Estonian		1
Sydney Finnish	Pr Lassi Pappinen	6 Feb 2022	Southern Cross, Bass Hill	100	1
Sydney Indonesian	Pr Sahat Simanullang	3 Feb 2008	GKIA, Yagoona	139	2
Temora	Pr Darren Kupke	8 Feb 2015	Trinity	87	1
Tuggeranong	Pr Paul Hannola	11 Sept 2016	Good Shepherd	77	1
Wagga Wagga	Pr David Cherry	23 Jan 2022	Bethlehem, Wagga Wagga	86	1
			Milbrulong	16	1
Walla Walla	vacant		Salem, Alma Park	55	1
			Zion, Walla Walla	100	2
Walla Walla St Paul's College	Pr John Borchert	29 Apr 2003	<i>St Paul's College</i>		
West Wyalong	Pr Darren Kupke		Immanuel, West Wyalong	25	1
Woden Valley	Pr Tim Muller	1 Nov 2020	Immanuel	143	2

District Roll of Parishes, Pastors, Congregations, Preaching Places and Delegates

Delegates: 1 delegate per 100 communicant members or part thereof with maximum of 3 from any one congregation. Figures based on the last congregation Statistical Return received.

Parishes	31
Congregations	44
Preaching places	3
Lay Delegates	52

Year and location of Synodical Convention and Pastors' Conference

Year	No.	Convention / Pastors' Conference location
1966	Const.	Temora
1968	1st Regular	Strathfield / St Paul's & Trinity Sydney
1969	2nd	Henty
1970	3rd	Parkes
1971	4th	Wollongong
1972	5th	Jindera / Burrumbuttock
1973	6th	Canberra
1974	7th	Epping
1975	8th	Wagga Wagga / Temora
1976	9th	Homebush / St Marys
1977	10th	Temora / West Wyalong
1978	11th	Walla Walla / Henty
1979	12th	Newcastle / Gosford
1980	13th	Albury / Jindera
1981	14th	Wollongong / Oak Flats
1982	15th	Woden Valley / Warrambui
1983	16th	Henty / Warrambui
1984	17th	Gosford / Maitland
1985	18th	Gilgandra / Dubbo
1986	19th	Belconnen / Warrambui
1987	20th	Jindera / Wagga Wagga
1988	21st	Epping / Caritas Christi Centre Wahroonga
1989	22nd	Parkes
1990	23rd	Lavington / Bach Creek Christian Centre Yackandandah
1991	24th	Tuggeranong / Warrambui
1992	25th	Warrambui
1994	26th	St Paul's Sydney / Randwick
1996	27th	Dubbo
1998	28th	Wagga Wagga
2001	29th	Belconnen / Warrambui
2003	30th	Dubbo
2005	31st	Newcastle / Maitland
2007	32nd	Warrambui
2009	33rd	Warrambui
2011	34th	Henty
2013	35th	Warrambui
2014	Special Synod	Belconnen
2015	36th Regular	Warrambui
2017	37th	Warrambui / Woden
2019	Special Synod	Warrambui
2020	38th Regular	Walla Walla / Albury
2022	39th	Warrambui / Belconnen

Formal Declaration of Close of Convention

- Bishop:* *The word of God will not fail to do what he plans for it;*
- Assembly:** **it will do everything he sends it to do.**
- Bishop:* *We are Christ's witnesses*
- Assembly:** **to the ends of the earth.**
- Bishop:* *He has chosen and appointed us to go and bear fruit —*
- Assembly:** **fruit that will last.**
- Bishop:* *He is with us always,*
- Assembly:** **to the very end of the age.**
- Bishop:* *The Lord be with you*
- Assembly:** **And also with you**
- Bishop:* *Lord God, heavenly Father, we thank you for the help and guidance of your Holy Spirit during this convention. Grant to your church your Spirit and the wisdom that comes down from heaven, so that your word may not be restricted but may spread widely and bring joy by building up your holy people. Keep us firm in faith and active in love, as we carry out what we have decided; through Jesus Christ our Lord.*
- Assembly:** **Amen.**
- Bishop:* *Lord God, our Father, as you kept Abraham and Sarah in safety throughout the days of their pilgrimage, as you led the children of Israel through the midst of the sea, and as you led the wise men to the infant Jesus by a star: Protect and guide us as we now set out to travel, keep us safe in your care, give us grace to serve you faithfully, and bring us at last to our heavenly home, where you live and reign with your Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*
- Assembly:** **Amen.**
- Bishop:* *I now declare this convention closed,*
in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.
- Assembly:** **Amen.**
- Bishop:* *Go in peace. Serve the Lord.*
- Assembly:** **Thanks be to God.**

