

“
*In my distress
I called to the
LORD, and he
answered me.*

”

Jonah 2:2

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Jonah in the Depths

Jonah 2

Sometimes we find ourselves in deep water. Things in life seem to be going wrong everywhere.

Your health fails. Your family is fighting over trivial things. Your children's marriage looks shaky. Members at your congregation suddenly leave. Other church members are squabbling. You wonder what is going on, where is God?

Jonah the prodigal missionary is in such a place. He is sailing in the wrong direction. There is a storm tossing the boat up and down. Next, he's thrown overboard. Now, he finds himself in the belly of a big fish. Whether literally or figuratively it makes no difference, Jonah is in trouble, really big trouble. However, it is not till he is in this predicament that he begins to call out and pray to God.

Isn't that how it is for us too? Life is going along swimmingly, not a care in the world, but then crash. It's then, when we are in trouble, that we find the energy and the urgency to pray. Not when we were running from God, not when we should have been asking God's will, but when we are in trouble. Suddenly the agnostic becomes a believer.



From the Bishop
Robert Bartholomaeus

There at the bottom we get on our knees and call out to God. It would have been simpler had we done so when things were going normally. Easier when we had air in our lungs. But no, the name of God has only come to our lips when our stubborn hearts are brought low.

Now we call "O Lord my God". It's now that we remember the creator. It's now here where we are barred from the light that we confess our faith in the Lord. It's when we are running from grace that we discover grace was near us all along. It's in the excruciating pain of

Continued next page

“
*When my life
was ebbing away,
I remembered you,
LORD, and my prayer
rose to you*”

Jonah 2:7

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



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

DISTRICT NEWS

For your prayer and care

Calls

- Pastor Joseph Graham (Gilgandra-Dubbo) accepted the call to Biloela Qld. His final service was on 14 August.
- Pastor Darren Kupke (Temora) has declined the call to Bendigo Vic.
- Pastor Rodney Witmitz (Hallett Cove SA) has declined the call to St Luke's Albury.
- Pastor Michael Rudolph (Duncraig WA) has been called to St Luke's Albury.
- Pastor Darryl Shoesmith (Christchurch NZ) has been called to Henty Parish.

Installation

- Dr Mark Worthing was installed as pastor at St Peters Port Macquarie and as Academic Dean of Frontier School of Mission on 17 July 2022.

Strategic Plan Facilitator

- Pastor Ian Rentsch has taken up his new role as part time Strategic Plan facilitator, working in several congregations.

Anniversaries

- Living Waters Liverpool celebrated the 60th Anniversary of their congregation and 30th Anniversary of their church building on 3 July 2022.
- Good Shepherd Campbelltown celebrated their 40th Anniversary on 31 July 2022.
- Holy Cross Burrumbuttock will celebrate their 150th Anniversary on 9 October 2022.

Resignation

- Pastor Erik Braunack-Mayer has resigned from the Roll of LCA Pastors on 7 July 2022.

Death

- Pastor Noel Schmocker died on 30 May 2022. Pastor Noel served Forbes in 1989-1994.

From previous page

these circumstances that we perceive God's mercies most clearly.

If you have not noticed before, in the story of Jonah, it was God who appointed the great fish, it was the catastrophe sent by God that preserves Jonah and lets him see the situation for what it is. Stripped of his own self-sufficiency, he perceives things as they really are.

It is my rebellion which has brought on this trouble. It is not God's anger, but his grace which has allowed this monster to take over me, so that I might self-reflect and gain a new revelation of the truth.

Think of Joseph. Sold into slavery at the hands of his brothers. Falsely accused by his new master. Now in the dungeon. There he learns to know God. The usual place to learn the grace of God is at the bottom. Jesus himself said, you must lose your life in order to find it (Matt 10:39).

However, it is not just being at the bottom that brings about this discovery, but when we find ourselves turning to God in prayer. It's when you look into the heart of God here at the bottom, that you find God's mercy, God's grace (Jonah 2:9).

When you discover that grace, then you are on the way to being released

“ I experience God's grace most clearly - not at the high points of life - but in the valleys and the depths. ”

back into life and your purpose in life.

Then you can make the conclusion which every saint has discovered before you. I experience God's grace most clearly - not at the high points of life - but in the valleys and the depths.

So where are you at the moment? Surfing away on the wave of unbelief, or in the depths of the ocean learning how to pray and discovering the breadth of God's grace? The depths are a scary place to be, but in the end it is a most blessed place, because there in the depths we discover that the God of grace and mercy is there with us.

Pastor Robert Bartholomaeus
Bishop, LCA NSW and ACT District

Installation of Rev Dr Mark Worthing at Port Macquarie

Rev Dr Mark Worthing was installed as Pastor of St Peter's Lutheran Church, Port Macquarie, on 17 July 2022 in a service officiated by District Bishop Robert Bartholomaeus.

Dr Worthing comes to us from South Australia where he served as Pastor

of Immanuel Lutheran Church, North Adelaide, and brings with him an extensive background in academia and as an author. He is joined by his wife, Kathy.

Dr Worthing was also installed as the Academic Dean of

Frontier School of Mission. The St Peter's congregation are looking forward to the new directions and outreach opportunities that the arrival of Dr Worthing and Frontier will bring.

Pr David Thompson



From left: Sherry and Pr David Thompson, Kathy and Dr Mark Worthing, Jenny and Bishop Robert Bartholomaeus

Double Celebrations at Living Waters Liverpool

Living Waters Lutheran Church Liverpool celebrated the 60th Anniversary of their congregation as well as the 30th Anniversary of their building on 3 July 2022.

Pastor Hans Peethala led the service and invited different members to participate in the candle lighting liturgy, giving thanks and praise to God for many years of faithfulness.

Bishop Robert Bartholomaeus, along with his wife Jenny graced the occasion. Bishop Robert exhorted the congregation with an uplifting message of God's faithfulness. He shared the gospel of God's love that en-



Pr Tim and Denise Zanker, Pr Hans and Cynderella Peethala and family, Bishop Robert and Jenny Bartholomaeus

dures forever reminding the congregation that each one of us is a part of God's blessed kingdom.

The journey of the 60 years of the church ministry was shared in three parts:

Looking Back - to 1962, the humble beginnings, shared by Annette

Looking Around - at God's providence and grace, shared by Pastor Tim Zanker

Looking Ahead - at the new life of hope from July 2019 shared by the chairperson Ann Butler

The choir from the Victory Outreach Church which is a part of Living Waters Lutheran Church outreach ministry uplifted the congregation by singing beautiful songs of worship. The German congregation that worships at the Living Waters Church rejoiced in the celebration by participating in the service and sharing the meal.

The service ended joyfully with a delicious potluck lunch and cake cutting by Bishop Robert and Jenny.



Cynderella Peethala



With the arrival of Dr Mark Worthing at Port Macquarie, NSW and ACT District is pleased to announce Frontier School of Mission is set for a re-start. Accredited subjects, offered in conjunction with Melbourne School of Theology, will be available online and as intensives from Semester 1, 2023.

Founded in Albury in 2016 by Dr David Grulke, Frontier School of Mission (FSM) aims to serve the church by equipping church planters, church workers, lay preachers and others with basic theological, biblical and ministry training that is mission-focused.

FSM's current programmes are one year - but can also be completed over two or more years - and are open both to those with and without previous tertiary qualifications. Australian Government study assistance FEE-HELP loans are available for most students.

Subjects scheduled for next year include:

- Theology of Mission
- Foundations of Christian Belief
- Jesus and the Gospels
- Church and Mission in the Australian context.

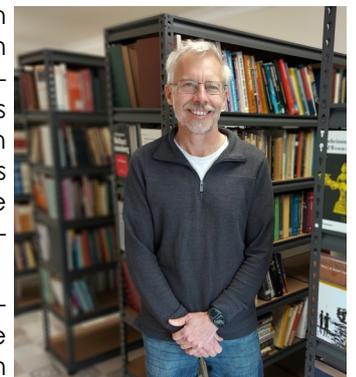
frontier.lca.org.au

FSM will also be working in partnership with Australian Christian Resources to provide print based resources for the wider church community, with three books planned for release by the end of the year. These include:

- a guide for congregations dealing with the new realities of church life as we come out of Covid, by Pastor Nathan Hedt, pastor of New and Renewing Churches for the LCA,
- a mission-focused series of reflections by foundational FSM sessional lecturer, Pastor Steen Olsen, and
- an introduction to Luther's Small Catechism suitable for adult study groups or classes for new members, by Dr Mark Worthing.

All enquiries to LCA NSW and ACT District Office phone 02 8660 1200, email office.nsw@lca.org.au

Rev Dr Mark Worthing



Dr Mark Worthing in the FSM library



District Church Council news

Supporting Congregations and Ministries in Mission and ministry:

Child Safety Standards Implementation

Carolyn Kiss and Mary-Ann Carver spoke to the DCC about the implementation of the Child Safety Standards across the District. Congregations are working to have the Self-assessment completed by the end of July so that they can complete the assessment for this year by October. Carolyn and the new LCA Child Safety Standard Implementation Officer will be a resource for congregations if they need assistance.

Wagga Wagga Lutheran Church Constitution

The Bethlehem Wagga Wagga Lutheran Church updated Constitution was approved for use by the DCC.

Planting and Renewing Congregations: New and Renewing Churches

Pastor Nathan Hedt shared on his work amongst our various church planters. He noted the need to have good teams around all of our church planting/renewing leaders. Pastor Nathan shared with the DCC some alternative funding options for church planting.

District Leadership through the Bishop leading leadership teams:

Frontier School of Mission

Frontier School of Mission is continuing to grow momentum as Dr Mark Worthing takes on the role of part time Dean. Courses and programs of study are being arranged, and the DCC is working towards putting together an advisory team to support the Dean of the School. The

current Frontier team has visited and met with Melbourne School of Theology and everything is coming together for classes to begin in Semester 1, 2023 .

Strategic Directions Facilitator

We are happy to announce that Ian Rentsch has begun work as the Strategic Direction Facilitators. Ian is working part time in this role, helping congregations who are facing changes, to think through and work on their future.

Governance of Specific Ministries:

Warrambui Retreat and Conference Centre

The Warrambui Board noted that while bookings are starting to increase, staffing levels are affecting Warrambui's ability to host groups. This seems to be a common problem, there is a shortage of available staff in hospitality fields. This then flows through to Warrambui's ability to operate at full capacity, and thus generate positive revenue. On the invitation of the Warrambui Board, Pastor Dennis Obst has been working with the staff team on building and nurturing a healthy working team culture. The Board also noted that decisions will need to be made by about October on the future use of the quarry land.

LLL Board Nominations

The LLL Chair Graeme Huf has advised that the DCC nominations of Deepa Justus (Sydney) and David Kallisch (Belconnen) were appointed to the LLL Board at

continued next page



WDP 2023 Taiwan: *I Have Heard About Your Faith*

Recently I attended the AGM of the NSW World Day of Prayer committee here in Sydney. The committee is an ecumenical group with current members from the Anglican, Catholic, Presbyterian, Uniting, Baptist, Salvation Army and Seventh Day Adventist churches. I was invited by the committee to join as a representative from the Lutheran Church. It was a joy to see these women working together under a joint statement of faith to '...confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the Scriptures.'

Planning for World Day of Prayer 2023 is well underway internationally. Next year this special celebration will take place on March 3rd; we will focus on Taiwan and its story of Christian faith. World Day of Prayer highlights stories and lived experiences of people who live in each country chosen, so that Christians around the world may find common strengths and avenues for prayer.

In addition, each year the Bible Society collects donations from WDP celebrations to support a project in that country. Next year they are seeking to support migrant women who travel to Tai-

wan to build marriages and families with Taiwanese men, and who often struggle with language and cultural barriers in their new situations. Having moved far from their own family these women often lack support and access to social systems which makes their adjustment to Taiwanese life difficult. The Bible Society is seeking to support these women to be faithful followers of Jesus as they become wives and mothers; offering them encouragement to build fruitful relationships of familial love in their new home country.

The World Day of Prayer Committee NSW is keen to have more voices join their small group. They meet quarterly in central Sydney. Each denomination is able to have two committee representatives. I encourage you to consider whether you might be able to serve our ecumenical Christian community along with me! Our next gathering is on Monday the 7th of November at 10am. For more information on World Day of Prayer 2023, any suggestions, or to put your name forward as a Lutheran representative, please contact me.



**World Day of Prayer
AUSTRALIA**

Bridgitte Willshire 0482 175 830
St Pauls Sydney

their June meeting. We pray for them God's hand of wisdom and discernment as they serve in this capacity.

District and TPM Relationship

The District together with members of the Turning Point Ministries Board have been drafting an MOU to more formally recognise and document the relationship between the District and TPM. This has been reviewed by the DCC and will now be presented to the TPM Board.

St Paul's College Principal

Anita Morton, new principal of St Paul's College, linked into the meeting and met with the DCC. Anita shared some of the opportunities and challenges facing the College, including upcoming NESA registration, future plans and challenges of growth, and especially classroom needs. They will most likely need to go to 3 streams in year 7 next year. St Paul's College is also looking towards their 75 year celebration in 2023.

St Paul's College Constitution

The District has been working together with St Paul's College to update their constitution, this is now in the final stages of review, and will hopefully be adopted in the near future. The updated constitution includes all the additions required by the ACNC for registered charities.

Lutheran Education in Victoria, NSW and Tasmania LEVNT

Julian Denholm, Director of LEVNT, and Shane Paterson, Director of Leadership and School Improvement shared an update on Lutheran schools in NSW. It was noted that the partnership between the Riverina schools is going really well, and that the NSW schools are doing very well which is exciting.

Russell Veerhuis, on behalf of DCC



LUTHERAN
CHURCH
OF AUSTRALIA

NSW and ACT DISTRICT

Walking with the Light

1 John 1:7



LCA NSW ACT DISTRICT 39TH CONVENTION OF SYNOD

28-30 OCTOBER 2022 | WARRAMBUI

Online registration is now open for pastors, delegates and visitors to attend Synod.

Reports, Proposals, and Nominations due to office.nsw@lca.org.au by 22 August 2022.

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

NSW and ACT District Pastors' Conference

26-28 October 2022 - Belconnen

www.nswact.lca.org.au

Campbelltown celebrates 40th Anniversary

45 years ago, in 1977 someone had a vision to plant a church in the Campbelltown area. 5 years later, on the 1st August 1982, Minto Lutheran Fellowship, as it was known *then*, held its first service in the library of Minto Public School with a handful of people.

On the 31st July 2022 Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Campbelltown as it is *now* known, celebrated

40 years of ministry, acknowledging the faithfulness and goodness of our wonderful God!

Over 50 people, past members, current members and visitors gathered to reminisce and to thank our Lord who made it all possible. The people of Good Shepherd, though now small in numbers, give all glory to God and continue to rely of His strength and direction for our future, which is firmly in His hands!

Merrion Hoffmann



Over 50 people celebrated Good Shepherd's 40th Anniversary

Lutheran Women of NSW & ACT Convention at Epping

The 55th Annual Convention of the LWNSW and ACT was held at LifeWay Epping, on Saturday 30 April 2022



Pastor Mark Schultz led the opening devotion on the theme 'Carried in our Shepherd's Arms', Isaiah 40:11. He said we use bubble wrap to protect things, even our churches. We stay where we are comfortable instead of reaching out to others. Our shepherd carries us in His arms. He will help us to step out into places where there are vulnerable people.

Pastor Richard Fox, Director of Lutheran Media, told us many people ask the question 'Where is God now for me in my suffering?' They need

hope! Doors are opening in wonderful ways to spread God's love. Pastor Richard feels he is 'hanging on for the ride that God is taking him on!'

LifeWay, led by Pastor Schultz, is a 'Sending Church' operating in a number of areas and looking to expand. Their logo is 'To love is to care is to ACT' and prayer 'Dear 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.'

Leah Odonga, acting Executive Director of ALWS, saw an image of Jesus the shepherd with a sheep over his shoulder in her Kenyan village - a special image for her. Leah said that all those who support ALWS are involved in caring for His sheep in many ways!

ALWS began in the migrant camp at Bonegilla 74 years ago and now helps people in 11 countries including Australia, and in crisis areas like Ukraine. Leah sees it as a Ministry doing the work of Jesus.

Grow Ministries spoke to us via an amazing video presentation. Their mission is to support children, young people and families, including church families. One program 'Grow Coaching' develops meaningful interactions at church across all age groups. Their *Faith Trail Resources* program helps parents to share faith at home, to bring God into every moment of our lives, especially family milestones.

LWA President Grace Kroehn is delighted to be able to attend State Conventions after all the Covid lockdowns. Grace is supported in her role by a talented group of women and Spiritual Advisors, Pastors Fielke and Gerhardy. She is looking forward to meeting Lutheran women from all around Australia during her term in office.

Nevin Nitschke from LCA International Mission referred everyone to their expanding website for ongoing updated information.

Australia has sent over 800 missionaries overseas since it began with Missionary Flierl in the 1880s. LCA Mission is privileged to serve in International Mission. Pastor Matt



LWNSW/ACT executive: (l-r) Charmain Lieschke, Heather Habermann, Anne McVay, Sabine Sloan, Tanna Mackenzie and Helen Gabriel

Anker, Nevin and Erin can be invited to speak to congregations. There are many ways to be involved!

St Paul's College new principal, Anita Morton, has taught in schools in Brisbane, the Sunshine Coast and in Victoria. Her focus is on student learning techniques and measures to develop the whole child. Donations from LWNSW/ACT are used for students in need and facilities for boarders.

Dean Salzke, Director of Warrambui, said that Covid has severely disrupted their business. Camp bookings dropped from 153 in 2019 to only 18 from January 2020 to April 2022.

Warrambui has been able to focus on necessary upgrades to water supply and the waste water system, a complete refurbishment of the Dome and an amazing new kitchen. Their current challenge is recruitment of suitable staff as schools resume their camping programs.

A highlight for Bishop Robert Bartholomaeus is following our strategic plan: *Walking Together in Mission*. Bishop Robert leads a District-wide online Bible study, people from all parts of the district join in via zoom.

Bishop Robert installed the LWNSW and ACT Executive for another year. President Tanna Mackenzie announced that Burrumbuttock will host our next Convention in 2023.

Vice President Helen Gabriel thanked Epping Fellowship and the LifeWay Church family for their hard work and fabulous hospitality.

Bishop Robert delivered the closing devotion, 'Jesus as our Shepherd'. As a four year old he was fascinated by a picture of the Good Shepherd set into the front of the altar at his church. During the sermon he would wonder which sheep he was – maybe the one right next to Jesus, or maybe right up the back? Which one might we be?

Bishop Robert said that each of us is the sheep in Jesus' arms – He loves us so much. He wants to take us in His arms where true love, true peace and true ease is. We live in the world until He takes us in His arms in eternity. Amen.

We sang some beautiful hymns throughout and finished as we began with a version of 'The Lord is My Shepherd'. A fitting end to a great day.



Attendees at Lutheran Women's Convention, Epping

Meryl Packer



ST PAUL'S
COLLEGE

Walla Walla NSW

The College of St. Paul's

We believe in
CommUnity

COMMUNITY : YEAR 9'S WINTER CAMP

After two years of no school camps, finally our Year 9 cohort ventured to the snowfields experiencing a wonderful blanket of snow! Arriving at Bungurra Alpine Centre students experienced amazing activities such as the great crate climbing challenge, a hike to the top of Mt Kosciuszko, mountain biking including an amazing pump track. Other activities included visiting Lake Jindabyne, campfires, fabulous food and amazing company.

BOARDING : NEVER BORING

Boarding is never dull with a full program of after school activities. During Term 3 our boarders have enjoyed gym training sessions, table tennis competition, a big breakfast with College staff, Christmas in July dinner, cooking, and special birthday celebrations!



CURRICULUM : BIOLOGY FIELD STUDY

Two biology Year 11 classes braved the wintery conditions to conduct a field study at the Walla Walla Gum Swamp Reserve. The students carried out several experiments to determine the abiotic conditions at various locations within the reserve and measured the abundance and distribution of species present.

SERVICE : WALK MY WAY

Our Year 12's have launched a Service-Learning Project—Walk My Way! It is an event that is part of the Australian Lutheran World Service (ALWS) GRACE project which helps children in refugee camps attend school. If you would like to support go to the link below, following the prompts using the "Donate" button. All donations over \$2 can be tax deductible with a receipt. Your support is welcome!



Terms 2 & 3 2022

- Walk 26kms with your Care Group
- Year 12 Service-Learning project
"Service is faith active in love"
- Get family & friends to sponsor you
- Every \$26 raised helps a refugee child go to school for a WHOLE year!



Register now!

stpaulswallawalla.walkmyway.org.au





WARRAMBUI NEWS

September 2022

Prayer Points

- For Christian venues around Australia in their mission
- For Christian camping internationally particularly in the Ukraine, Russia, Albania & Romania
- For Warrambui to experience a season of growth (in many different ways)
- For Intern applicants for 2023

Praise Points

- For returning groups after many years of them being unable to come
- For the way in which God changes lives through camping ministry
- For the Spirit of sharing amongst the Christian Venues Association (CVA)

Centre Director's Update

Successful Camps – Returning & New

In June and July, we were immensely pleased to be able to host a number of camps, including Turning Point Ministry's (TPM's) Better Blokes, Back 2 Base and Junior Youth Camp (JYC).

Many of these camps have not been held since 2019, and we were incredibly happy to see their long-awaited return.

We thank God that, despite COVID associated challenges, we were able to host them successfully and once again see the way God changes lives through them.

We also hosted a first-time camp in June called "Transitions Small Schools Creative Arts Camp" which was attended by year 6 students from small schools around the region. The largest of the schools these students attend has 40 students in total, the smallest just 4.

The camp was aimed at helping students transition to high school by engaging them in a range of creative arts activities and giving them the opportunity to get to know other students they will be attending high school with.

One of the activities the students participated in was a circus class that

included trapeze lessons using a frame set-up in the Dome centrum area.

It was a privilege to host such an amazing camp and to help achieve its valuable outcomes.



The trapeze frame from the circus class at the Transitions Small Schools Creative Arts Camp

Christian Venues Association Conference

Warrambui is a member of the Christian Venues Association (CVA), the peak body for Christian camping ministry in Australia. The CVA's slogan is "the Spirit of sharing" and it exists to maximise the impact of Christian Venues in their unique mission.

In the last week of July, we were

May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

privileged to attend the CVA's biennial "Connect" Conference which was last held in 2018.

This conference saw staff from over 40 campsites from across Australia gather to worship together, share our learnings and challenges, and to seek to further God's work through camping ministries.

Each time the conference is hosted by one of the CVA's larger campsites, and this time it was held at Christian Youth Camps (CYC) Phillip Island Adventure Resort.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been an incredibly difficult time in camping ministry, and while it wasn't a focus of the conference, it was discussed during a session and, of course, experiences shared between attendees out of session. Many people feel that 2022 has been the most difficult year of the pandemic with continuing COVID challenges and operational requirements, staff fatigue, and staffing shortages common across the industry.

It was also discussed at the conference that the positive coming from the pandemic is the increased value that many schools, churches and groups are placing on camping and their desire to return as soon as they are able. It was expressed that we in camping ministry have long known the value in what we do, but now others

are seeing that value more than ever. The opportunity camping provides for people to come together, and grow as individuals and as a community is extremely beneficial following the restrictions and isolation experienced due to COVID-19.

The CVA is also a member of Christian Camping International (CCI) along with the Christian camping associations from 23 other nations/ international regions. Two of these associations are in Russia and the Ukraine. Another two are in Albania and Romania where their campsites are currently full hosting Ukrainian refugees.

Please join us in praying for Christian camping ministry throughout Australia and the world, particularly in eastern Europe.

Farewell Sam and Tara

In August we were sad to farewell Sam Marshman from our catering team, and Tara Collier who worked in guest services and programming. Both Sam and Tara have a long history of involvement with Warrambui and a passion for Christian camping ministry. We thank them for their hard work and pray for God's guidance and blessing on their next steps.

2023 Interns Applications Open

Applications are open for the 2023 Arise Volunteer Internship Program.

Interns are an integral part of Warrambui's ministry as they serve our guests, lead children's activities, participate in camps, and join us in a Christian community environment where they are encouraged to grow in their faith.

The Program in 2023 will include, for the first time, the opportunity for interns from Australia to serve alongside interns from Papua New Guinea.

Please see the advertisement on the following page or contact Warrambui for more information.

Prayers for Growth

As we continue to emerge from the pandemic, we are coming into a new season at Warrambui.

We pray that in this season God will grow us:

- in number by calling the right people to serve alongside us as staff and Interns;
- as individuals to fulfil the roles he has called us to;
- as a community that is united with a shared understanding of God's vision for our ministry; and, most importantly,
- in our relationship with and faith in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Yours in Christ,

Dean Salzke – Centre Director



Call for nominations for the...

Warrambui Awards

To recognise individuals for their outstanding contribution.



Warrambui seeks to recognise the significant contribution by individuals to Warrambui's mission. This could include initial site development, attendance at work camps & special projects, service as a member of the Management Committee/Board, service over and above normal duties as an employee, or financial support.

Nominations are being accepted for:

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

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

Nominations close 30 September

Financial Information

Warrambui Income & Expenditure Statement 1 January - 30 June 2022			
	Budget	Pro-rata Budget	Actual to 30 June
Total bookings	75	38	18
Total occupied bed nights	8,315	4158	1879
Operating income	\$ 749,399	\$ 194,543	\$ 127,483
Operating expenses	\$ 1,183,117	\$ 556,765	\$ 495,772
Operating surplus/loss	\$ -433,717	\$ -362,221	\$ -368,289
NSW District assistance			\$ 323,920

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

Bookings were low in the first half of the year, and are growing in the 2nd half - though still impacted.

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

Given these reductions income is down considerably. However expenses have also been lower, bringing the actual loss close to the pro-rata budget loss. We continue to monitor and respond to the current financial situation and operational challenges including staffing. We are focussed on growing capacity to host groups as interest in camping grows.

We are encouraged by the interest from returning and new groups towards the end of the year and into 2023 due to the value they see in camping.

WARRAMBUI VOLUNTEER INTERNSHIP 2023



ARISE

Let your roots grow down into him...
then your faith will grow strong in the truth. (Col 2:7)

ARISE is a program designed for young adults to experience practical ministry, and undertake ministry and theology studies as they learn to serve Jesus and each other while helping us host school, youth, church and community groups at our Lutheran Retreat and Conference Centre.

Arise focuses on building a faith foundation that is grown by living and serving in Christian Community. Whilst volunteering interns will build their character, further discover their identity in Christ, and explore questions of faith in a supportive Christian environment that will give them a solid foundation for whatever lies ahead.



APPLY NOW!



SO, if you are (or know) someone who is interested and want to know more about this exciting opportunity please contact Warrambui for an information pack:

Phone: (02) 6220 1000
Email: ministry@warrambui.com.au



WARRAMBUI
A Project of the LCA NSW & ACT District

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

Colossians 2:6-7



BETTER BLOKES 2022 RECAP

The coming back together of 85 men from 5 states and territories in Australia for Better Blokes conference at Warrambui in June, was a long awaited occasion. Men had been reaching out and encouraging us that even though they may have been connecting over web-based methods during the lockdowns of the COVID-19 pandemic, it did not come close to meeting together. It is significant to put a hand on a mates shoulder, to sit beside each other and talk, to be encouraged face to face, and to pray for a mate from across the country. We used this common longing to go forward with our theme, "Reconnect, Realign, Reignite." Dale MacArthur, mentor, coach, business man and passionate follower of Jesus, together with Jason Elsmore, Pastor, communicator and author, took the men on a rediscovery of Jesus and His mission for us as men. They helped us see the imperative of being connected with Jesus and each other. They helped us to realign our thinking, our relationships and our faith. And they helped us to reignite our passion for our friends, family and our faith in Jesus. We were reminded that our mission is to be passionate Jesus followers, disciples and leaders in our churches and communities.

While we may have been fewer in number than previous conferences, we were certainly not any less fervent, worshipful and hungry for fellowship and brotherhood. The men gathered, shared stories, heartaches and burdens, they prayed and grew together, they walked together and encouraged each other. This is really what Better Blokes is all about. Lock in dates for 2023, Fri 9 – Mon 12 June (Queen's Birthday Long weekend). Keep an eye on our website and socials.



www.betterblokes.com
facebook.com/betterblokes
Twitter: @betterblokes

BACK2BASE: MOUNTAINS

Back2Base is back! It was awesome to run the first of these camps since 2019, now being held in the winter holidays. 25 high-schoolers came together from across the region to explore the theme of 'Mountains.' We looked at several of the mountaintop moments in the Bible, and thought about how these related to the highs and lows in our own lives.

When we weren't studying, we had an awesome time playing games and hanging out together. Teams competed to pull off a daring mountaintop heist in our four wide games, and skit night saw groups creating and performing some hilarious short plays.

We're super proud of all the effort put in by our leaders to make it such an awesome week, and can't wait to do it all again next year.



JUNIOR YOUTH CAMP: ARMOUR OF GOD

In July, it was super exciting to be able to hold the first Junior Youth Camp since 2019! We had a great turnout of campers, which for most, was their first ever camp. The weekend was jam packed with activities, studies and music. Some favorites included a campfire on Friday night, archery and frisbee golf, indoor 'hungry hippos' and a Just Dance night. Throughout the weekend, we dived into Ephesians 6, looking at the Armour of God. Small group time was a great opportunity to learn more about God in the Bible and pray together.

Some highlights and funny moments from the weekend included:- funny bedtime stories on the first night, and some amazing praying by campers in popcorn prayers, lots of hugs and "good night"s. One of the children also told us that we needed to make sure his mum knows he stayed up past his bedtime, haha! The next morning we had a great time getting to know each other better at breakfast with some funny stories about dreams. These children were just such a blessing and so, so sweet to welcome onto camp. The kids had a great day especially at the outdoor activities with some healthy competition for the leaders who definitely got put in their place by some of the talented campers. We also danced our hearts out at the Just Dance night, and there was some pretty groovy moves and some very enthusiastic limbo players. We were then onto our last day where the campers said they were sad to go but missed their beds at home. We loved having each and every one of them on camp and cannot wait to see what the future brings for them.

A huge thank you goes out to Pastor Tim Muller for his engaging talks and being super involved in all aspects of camps, our amazing leaders, and all the campers who spent the weekend with us. A big thank you to the parents as well - we know it can be a big thing to send your child away from home. Lastly, we would like to thank our awesome God for making the weekend so much fun and being the reason we run these camps.

We hope to see you in January for JYC '23!
Eva Reichstein and Hillary Thompson (JYC Directors)



**Save
the
Dates**

NEW EVENT: Young Adults Camping Getaway
Long weekend 30 Sep - 3 Oct, Mountain Trails
Ages 16+ Details and registrations online now!

Leadership Camp
2-4 December, Ages 16+
A compulsory training weekend
for all of our leaders

History Makers
17-20 January, Grades 7 to 12

Junior Youth Camp
20-22 January, Grades 3 to 6



0435 314 384

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

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

Professional Standards

As 2022 marches on, at what appears to be a rapid pace, congregations will have been participating in the LCA Child Safety Standards for congregations' Self-assessment process. Perhaps you have been asked for your input in your congregation's survey questions. How was that? Sometimes, it is difficult for us to look at how we're going, perhaps we afraid to see on paper how it really is.

The self-assessment process will likely have highlighted lots of good things that are already happening in many congregations/parishes. It will also have revealed the areas that we have to put some more thought/effort into.

The work that goes in at your congregation/parish level helps 'to build' the overall picture of how we are going as a District and as a National church body in our approach to Child Safety Standards.

As your congregation/parish council / leadership team now reviews the data collected from the self-assessment, and works ahead for preparing the Child Safety Plan, it will be good for them to prioritise what are the key things that have been identified. It may not be possible for your congregation/parish to implement all areas of 'work' that have been identified.

As congregation/parish members, please pray for your church council / leadership team as they do this work on your behalf.

Thank you to everyone who has either attended face-to-face training or completed their training online. If you are unsure whether your training is current, please contact your local coordinator (if your congregation has one) or contact me. With the disruptions of these past couple of years, some peoples training has lapsed.

During the pandemic, there have been some extensions made to either WWCC or WWVP checks, however, it is very important to make sure that you keep your check current. Your congregation needs to keep a secure register of these details and to make sure that the District WWCC/MWVP Audit is completed and returned to Kaye in the District office.

May you know God's continued blessings in your congregations/parish's ministries.

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

Walking together IN MISSION

Bible Study with the Bishop *In the Depths - Jonah 2*

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



**Wednesday
21 September,
7.30pm on Zoom**

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



FIND YOUR PURPOSE

St Paul's is a day and boarding school offering a personalised experience where you are well known and well cared for.

"If you want to excel the teachers are here to help you, they really care. We get the one-on-one support in the classroom to focus on our studies and pursue our passion for learning."

Michael and Moey, Year 12 full-time boarders.



**ST PAUL'S
COLLEGE**
WALLA WALLA, NSW

Please visit our website
www.stpaulscollege.nsw.edu.au
and register your interest
or call (02) 6029 2200

**ACER Academic Scholarship Years 9, 10 & 11
entry in 2023, closing 15 August**
www.stpaulscollege.nsw.edu.au/enrolment/scholarships
Limited spaces in Years 7 - 12 for 2023

Revitalising Congregations: Live with a spirit of hope

Throughout the epistles, the Christians who were part of the early church were constantly encouraged to keep their eyes and hearts on Jesus (see Colossians 3:1-4, Hebrews 12:1-3). Remember they were God's community of faith in often difficult and challenging times. This focus on Jesus gave them, and gives us hope, and reminds us there is always a future.

In contrast, the recent earthly perspective has not been too encouraging for some Christians. I have spoken to people who are concerned about the declining percentage of Australians who identify as Christians, declining congregations, or congregations who are looking at closing. Often, they feel there is no hope. Now it is true, if we keep our eyes on these things as our main focus, it is easy to lose hope but what if our focus was different, and we focussed on Jesus and the calling He gives us to be His light in the world?

This is why the early reformers clarified what it meant to be the church. They said the church is the believers of Jesus who gather together to receive the teaching of the Gospel and the administration of the sacraments, which is in harmony with the Gospel of Jesus, so we can be the living body of Christ. (See Augsburg Confession VII and Apology to Augsburg Confession VII and VIII). In other words, being the church involves 2 key relationships, God and people. And Jesus said something similar, *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."* Matthew 22:37-40

So, this leads us as communities of faith to be always asking two key questions....

- What is God saying to us as individuals and as a congregation?
- and who are the people (this includes the wider com-

munity, not just those who are members of our church) has God placed us amongst to be His light and bearers of His message of grace?

Revitalising congregations allow these two questions to shape them. This has led revitalising congregations:



- to engage frequently with God in prayer and through His word, with a view of understanding of what it means for them to be part of His body of Christ in their local communities.
- to being focussed on relationship by caring and respecting each other, rather than trying to control people or the congregation.
- to listen to people about what messages they are hearing from the congregation, and whether this is consistent with the Gospel, and welcoming to all, or, are they perceiving that the church is about something else?
- to being thankful for that they do have in their church communities, and less disappointed with what they don't have.
- taking action to engage more intentionally with people in the broader community, especially thinking how they can use their buildings and people to build bridges with other groups.
- making changes in their buildings so they are welcoming, accessible, cleaner and even thinking about do their buildings and layout help or hinder the communication of the Gospel, encourage relationships and who God is.
- letting go of their expectations and instead seeing what God places before them including the people and opportunities.
- revising most of their communication so it speaks to and is understood by both people connected to their congregation and people who are not part of their congregation.

So, what about you and your congregation

What are the signs of hope, whether large or small?

Who is God calling you to be and what is God calling you to do in your current situation?

Who is God calling you to love?

How might any of the 8 points above relate to you and your congregation?

A prayer for you and your congregation (based on Romans 15:13)

Dear God fill us your hope, joy and peace as we trust in You, so that we live lives overflowing with hope, that comes from Your Holy Spirit. Amen

Pastor Richard Schwedes

LWNSW & ACT RETREAT

17 -19 March 2023

Theme: 'Hope – Faith – Pray'

Warrambui

Murrumbateman NSW

Cost: \$200 (Early bird \$190)

Retreat Pastor: Pr Paul Hannola

Join like-minded women for a weekend of Bible study, fellowship, relaxation and entertainment

Details in the August LWNSW & ACT Newsletter and online

Calling all intercessors and prayers

Have you ever noticed how often Jesus prayed before he acted in His ministry? Prayer is an important activity for us as Christians, and as Lutheran churches in NSW and ACT. When we pray, we are recognising not just the power of God, we are communicating with our loving heavenly Father whose mission we are part of.

Some time ago our District kept an intercessors email list, however due to some unforeseen IT changes this list disappeared. We are reconvening this list so that together we can be praying about the concerns, blessings, issues, opportunities and challenges in our district.

People on this list will be invited to pray for the mission and ministry of the Lutheran Church of NSW and ACT, which includes our congregations, schools, aged care, camps, committees, leaders and agencies of the church.

We would love you to join our Intercessors list. If you are interested, please send an email to Kaye at office.nsw@lca.org.au with Intercessors list in the subject line.

If you would like more information, please contact Assistant Bishop Pastor Richard Schwedes 0418 303 406 richard.schwedes@lca.org.au or Pastor Darren Kupke 0458 774 757 darren.kupke@lca.org.au



LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF AUSTRALIA

NSW and ACT DISTRICT

District Prayer Calendar

www.nswact.lca.org.au



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

1 Timothy 2:1-6

	Location	Pastor & family	Congregation/s
September	4 Albury	<i>vacant</i>	St Luke's Albury
	11 Albury Aged Care	David Jarman (<i>Nicole</i>)	
	18 Burrumbuttock	Pr Christian Fandrich (<i>Sarah Joy, Enoch, Abigail, Andreas, Thomas, Sophia, Noah, Bethany</i>)	Trinity Bethel Holy Cross Burrumbuttock St Peter's Gerogery Jindera - Bethlehem - St John's Chapel
October	25 Henty	Pr Will Frost , <i>Interim</i>	St Stephen's Culcairn St Paul's Henty St John's Pleasant Hills
	2 Henty Lutheran School	Brad Moss Principal	St Paul's Lutheran School
	9 Jindera Lutheran School	Brad Moss Principal	St John's Lutheran School
	16 Lavington	Pr Peter Fuhlbohm	St Peter's Lavington
	23 Wagga Wagga	Pr David Cherry (<i>Kayla, Esther, Eloise</i>)	Bethlehem Wagga Wagga Bethlehem Milbrulong
November	30 Wagga Wagga Lutheran School	Janet Moeller Principal	Lutheran Primary School
	6 Walla Walla	<i>vacant</i>	Salem Alma Park Zion Walla Walla
	13 St Paul's Lutheran College, Walla Walla	Pr John Borchert chaplain —(<i>Charmaine, Natasha, Joanna</i>) Anita Morton Principal	St Paul's College
	20 Retired Pastors	<i>Contact District Office for details on retired pastors helping out in vacant parishes at this time</i>	
December	27 Military Chaplain	Pr Darren Jaensch (<i>Julie, Isaac, Lachlan</i>)	
	4 District Committees	District Church Council, Lutheran Women NSW, all other district committees	
	11 NSW and ACT District Office	Bishop Robert Bartholomaeus (<i>Jenny</i>) Tanya Cunningham Communications Kaye Simpfendorfer Receptionist Russell Veerhuis Administrator	

Walking together IN MISSION

Bible Study with the Bishop

In the Depths - Jonah 2

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

Bishop Robert Bartholomaeus

**Wednesday 21 September,
7.30pm on Zoom**

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



Walking with the Light

1 John 1:7



**LCA NSW ACT DISTRICT
39TH CONVENTION OF SYNOD**

28-30 OCTOBER 2022 | WARRAMBU

Contact Newsletter

Published 4 times each year
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www.nswact.lca.org.au

Assisting regional people coming to Sydney for hospital treatment

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

Upcoming Events

Aug 19 - 21 TPM Sisterhood Camp
Women of all ages Warrambui

Sept 16 DCC
Bella Vista

Sept 21 Bible Study with the Bishop
Zoom, all welcome

Sept 30 - Oct 3 Young Adults Camping Getaway
Mountain Trails

Oct 11 - 13 LCA General Pastors' Conference
Tanunda SA

Oct 26 - 28 District Pastors' Conference
Belconnen

Oct 28 - 30 NSW and ACT District Synod
Warrambui

Dec 2 - 4 Leadership Camp
Warrambui, Ages 16+

2023

Jan 17 - 20 History Makers
Warrambui, Years 7-12

Jan 20 - 22 Summer Junior Youth
Warrambui, Years 3-6

Feb 9 - 12 LCA General Synod (in person)
Melbourne



Like and Follow the District Facebook Page to keep up to date
with news and events. Search Facebook for LCANSWACT,
or go to www.facebook.com/LCANSWACT



LCA COMPLAINTS

Many complaints can be resolved before lasting hurt is caused, by addressing them quickly in a non-threatening manner and by raising the issue directly with the relevant person or organization in a thoughtful and courteous manner.

If this is not applicable or possible in your situation, you may lodge a complaint with the Professional Standards Department in any of the following ways:

**Phone the freecall number
1800 644 628**

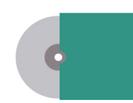
**Email complaints@lca.org.au
or write to**

**Confidential, PO Box 519,
Marden SA 5070**

LCA IT Online Shop

LCA agencies and congregations can now order computers and other IT equipment via the LCA IT Online Shop. The products in the online shop have been sourced from reputable suppliers and are recommended by our IT team.

Go to <http://itshop.lca.org.au> to see the range and place your order. All prices are ex GST. Please allow for delivery costs.



Hardware · Software · Hosting Services

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