



Tascla

Transforming Tasmania with Jesus for Eternity

DECEMBER 2021

REAFFIRMING THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19

Seventh-day Adventist world leaders have shared a new document on the current position of the Church on COVID-19 and vaccination.

The document has been produced by the General Conference administration, Biblical Research Institute, General Conference Health Ministries, Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Department, General Conference Office of General Counsel, and Loma Linda University Health.

It builds on the immunisation statement voted in April 2015 and affirms both this statement and the information on COVID-19 vaccines shared on December 22, 2020. Here is the full document:

The COVID-19 pandemic is the greatest public health crisis in a hundred years. It has devastated populations around the world and severely affected physical, spiritual, mental, emotional and relational health. In its wake, isolation, recurrent surges, economic disruption and death are all ongoing. We are confronted with mitigation measures such as masking, social (physical) distancing, handwashing, early detection, testing and contact tracing that have become part of our daily lives.

In the midst of this time of crisis and disruption, the Seventh-day Adventist Church is committed to the mission of lifting up Christ, His Word, His righteousness and the proclamation of His three angels' messages to the world in preparing people, through the Holy Spirit's power, for Jesus' soon coming. The health message is the right arm of the gospel, and therefore a healthy lifestyle has been an important part of the beliefs of the Adventist Church since its early years and remains so. We are still committed to live, share and promote healthy living as expressed by the wholistic

Adventist health message entrusted to the Church. The Adventist health studies have confirmed the unequivocal benefits of increased longevity and quality of life through implementing such health practices. These include a balanced vegetarian diet, exercise, drinking adequate volumes of water, regular exercise, careful exposure to sunshine, fresh air, abstaining from alcohol, tobacco and other harmful substances, adequate rest and sleep, and importantly, trust in God. These practices enhance and maintain healthy immunity. Beyond those

"The health message is the right arm of the gospel..."

benefits of healthy lifestyle principles and preventive public health practices, the Church affirms and recommends the responsible use of vaccines as an important public health measure, especially during a pandemic. At the same time, the Church respects the rights of individuals' freedom of choice for those who choose not to be vaccinated.

The current position of the Church on immunisation and vaccines, including COVID-19, builds on the insights of the comprehensive health message Seventh-day Adventists have endorsed early on, with ample support in Scripture and the writings of Ellen G White that refer to the importance of disease prevention. As a denomination, we have advocated the synergy of a healthy lifestyle and responsible immunisation for more than one hundred years. In the light of the global magnitude of the pandemic, the deaths, disability and long-term COVID-19 effects that are emerging in all age groups, we encourage our members to consider responsible immunisation and the promotion and facilitation of the development of what is commonly termed herd immunity (pre-existing community immunity of approximately 80 per cent of the population or more as a result

of previous infection and/or vaccination). We are aware that vaccines may have side effects, and these can be severe in a small percentage of cases, including death in rare situations. No vaccine is 100 per cent effective. Therefore, our decisions need to carefully take into consideration the risk of taking the vaccine compared to the risks of being infected with COVID-19. The immunity conferred by both the natural infection and the vaccine are time limited and the administration of “booster” doses may be needed. Acquiring a booster shot, upon recommendation from one’s health-care provider, may further promote personal and public health. The need for such a booster shot does not indicate the “failure” of a vaccine but reflects the nature of antibody levels that may drop over time.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church respects each individual’s freedom of choice to make responsible decisions regarding their own health. Since our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit and we are Christ’s both by creation and redemption, we should personally seek God’s will about COVID-19 vaccinations. The decision whether to take the vaccine or not is not a matter of salvation, nor is it related, as some may suggest, to the mark of the beast. It is a matter of personal choice. (We

would do well to remember that God gave Adam and Eve the freedom of choice in the Garden of Eden, although that choice resulted in significant consequences.) We firmly believe that in matters of personal conviction we must be guided by the Word of God, our conscience and informed judgement. In weighing the various options, we should also take into consideration that the benefits of vaccination extend beyond oneself and help to protect the local and global community at large. After personally researching all sides of the question, considering one’s own unique health situation, seeking medical counsel and praying, individuals should then, in consultation with their medical advisor/doctor, make the best choice possible (see 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20; Psalm 32:8; Proverbs 11:14; James 1:5; Isaiah 58:11). As the General

Conference of Seventh-day Adventists’ information on COVID-19 vaccines released on December 18, 2020, and predicated on the 2015 Immunisation statement, confirms:

“The decision to be immunised or not is the choice of each individual, and should be taken in consultation with one’s health-care provider. personal research on the subject is important. We ultimately rely on following biblical health practices and the spirit of prophecy, and following God’s leading in our lives, which will bring us peace and assurance in our decision-making.”

Countries and societies around the world have previously faced public health mandates in various forms. These have been put in place as a protection, recognising that the health of the community is a major determinant of individual health and disease susceptibility. Public health practices have been mandated from the time of Moses, and probably earlier. More recent examples of mandated public health practices include the banning of smoking on aircraft and the use of safety belts as a general requirement for all motor vehicles. Over the past 120 years, mandated smallpox vaccination has been implemented in the United States general population and in countries around the world, resulting in a smallpox-free world

“The Seventh-day Adventist Church respects each individual’s freedom of choice to make responsible decisions regarding their own health. Since our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit and we are Christ’s both by creation and redemption, we should personally seek God’s will about COVID-19 vaccinations.”





at present. Numerous other infectious diseases have been brought under control by vaccinations and have also been subject to mandates (e.g., polio, measles, diphtheria). Seventh-day Adventist missionaries in the 1930s were instructed by the Church, as their employer, to receive the smallpox and typhoid immunisations. These requirements have been shared widely over the years in the Church's official publications, and acceptance of this requirement by church members has been positive overall. The requirements for missionaries to be appropriately and responsibly vaccinated continue today. Ellen White did not comment on the issue of religious liberty in connection with vaccination mandates in her lifetime. She clearly understood the wholistic health message entrusted to the Church better than most.


The Seventh-day Adventist Church is not opposed to public safety and government health mandates. Submission to government authorities is a biblical principle unless it conflicts with obedience to God (Matthew 22:21; Romans 13:1-7). In many cases the Seventh-day Adventist Church has supported government mandates in support of health and safety issues. When it comes to COVID-19 vaccinations, we believe individuals have the right to state and defend their conviction whether to be vaccinated or not. Mandates usually allow exemptions for individual religious convictions or health conditions. With widespread personal testing available, individuals may choose instead to submit to regular testing if required.

The Public Affairs and Religious Liberty (PARL) department of the General Conference regards COVID-19 as a public health crisis and views connection with vaccines accordingly. PARL provides support and assistance for members who are standing for the religious teachings and doctrines of the Church, as expressed in its system of beliefs and policy statement (and also for other faith groups). We recognise that at times our members will have personal concerns and even conscientious convictions that go beyond the teachings and positions

of the Church. In these cases, the Church's religious liberty leaders will do what they can to provide support and counsel on a personal basis, not as a Church position, even at times assisting members in writing their own personal accommodation requests to employers and others. To avoid confusion about the Church's own positions, however, it will often be the case that in such circumstances the Church will not wish its support or advocacy for the member to be reflected in public correspondence or communications. It is important that the Church preserve its ability to speak to issues that are central to its system of beliefs and identity, and that its influence not be diluted by pursuing personal convictions and agendas that are not central to its gospel and prophetic concerns.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church, in consultation with the Health Ministries and Public Affairs and Religious Liberty departments of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, is convinced that the vaccination programs that are generally being carried out are important for the safety and health of our members and the larger community. Therefore, claims of religious liberty are not used appropriately in objecting to government mandates or employer programs designed to protect the health and safety of their communities.

This has generally been the position of the Church for the last century since the modern vaccine program was developed. If we use our religious liberty resources in such personal decision advocacy efforts, we believe that we will weaken our religious liberty stance in the eyes of the government and the public. Such efforts would make it less likely that these arguments will be heard and appreciated when they are used for matters of worship and religious practice. We understand that some of our members view things differently, and we respect those convictions. They may at times have rights that can be pursued under the law, and we will point them towards materials and resources for doing so but cannot directly undertake this personal effort for them.



“Instead of focusing on our individual convictions, we should draw more closely together in relationship with Christ and with each other.”

How has Loma Linda University Health (LLUH), one of our fine denominational health universities, and its school of medicine responded during the pandemic? Currently, 90 per cent of our LLUH students are vaccinated, as are 97 per cent of our doctors. Religious declinations are offered at hospitals for those who feel strongly about not getting the vaccine but must be accompanied by weekly testing. As a result, COVID-19 reports among students and staff have significantly declined since December 2020.

What will really count during this pandemic and beyond is how we treat each other, particularly within the Church but also within our wider communities. Anger, stigmatisation or vilification should not reside within the body of Christ. We need to relate to each other with respect, love and compassion.

Instead of focusing on our individual convictions, we should draw more closely together in relationship with Christ and with each other. We should practice encouraging one another and bringing hope to the people of the world as we share God's important three angels' messages and the anticipation of Christ's soon return. We should work on becoming more active in our churches and not create divisions within the wider church body. As Adventists we are to be an example to others, keeping in mind that the universe is watching.

It is important to care for one another, taking others into account in our practices. This includes the prevention of the spread of deadly disease and, in considering the vaccine or not, having love for one another and loving our neighbours as ourselves. Then, together, we may move forward in faith, “bearing with one another in love” and heeding heaven's counsel: “Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace” (Ephesians 4:2, 3). Christ calls us to not be afraid and to place our assurance in Him as nothing can separate us from His love (Romans 8:31-39). “The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged” (Deuteronomy 31:8; also John 16:33). Let us put our hope in Jesus and be

encouraged in Him, for He has overcome the world!

As a global organisation, the Seventh-day Adventist Church does not and cannot address the unique legal circumstances and vaccination mandates that may be required in the more than 200 nations in which the Church operates. Each nation's law must be consulted about the possibility and availability of religious exemption for those who have strongly-held opinions about being vaccinated against COVID-19. The Seventh-day Adventist Church does not advocate for religious exemptions to vaccination on either a global or national basis, based on its understanding of both the Bible and the writings of Ellen G White, and as expressed in this statement.

Reprinted from Adventist Review, November 4, 2021

References and Sources:

“Immunization”, guidelines voted by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Administrative Committee in Silver Spring, Maryland, United States, April 15, 2015. <https://www.adventist.org/guidelines/immunization/>

“COVID-19 Vaccines: Addressing Concerns, Offering Counsel,” Adventist Health Ministries, December 22, 2020, <https://www.healthministries.com/covid-19-vaccines-addressing-concerns-offering-counsel/>

“COVID-19 Advice for the Public: Getting Vaccinated,” World Health Organization statement, last updated July 14, 2021, <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/covid-19-vaccines/advice>

“COVID-19 Science and Research,” U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/science-and-research.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fmore%2Fscience-and-research.html

“Science Brief: COVID-19 Vaccines and Vaccination,” U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/science-briefs/fully-vaccinated-people.html>

“Frequently Asked Questions: COVID-19 Vaccines,” Pan American Health Organization, <https://www.paho.org/en/covid-19-vaccines/frequently-asked-questions-covid-19-vaccines>

Vaccine effectiveness against hospitalization in Israel. *Lancet* 2021.

Vaccine effectiveness against infections, severe infections, and deaths in Italy. *Vaccines* 2021.

Vaccine effectiveness in U.S. health-care personnel. *New England Journal of Medicine* 2021.

Pfizer vaccine safety. *New England Journal of Medicine* 2021.

PREPARING FOR COVID-19 WHEN TASSIE BORDERS OPEN

When Tasmania opens its borders to all mainland states and territories on December 15, Covid-19 will begin to emerge in the community. God is concerned about our health and wellbeing, as expressed by John, “Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health...” (3 John 2).

Data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics and the Centre of Disease Control (CDC) in the US reveal that the risk of severe COVID-19 and death increases as the number of underlying pre-existing medical conditions (co-morbidities) increases for an individual. Those co-morbidities include obesity, anxiety, diabetes, dementia, hypertension (high blood pressure), high cholesterol & high triglyceride, atherosclerosis (hardening of the arteries), depression and sleep disorders.

All of which means that the better health we are in, the more likely we are to survive serious illness and death when Covid-19 enters our bodies. This is why we all need to take seriously and put into practice on a daily basis, the eight, well-established laws of health found in the well-known acrostic – **NEWSTART**:

Nutrition – a balanced plant-based diet is the best for optimal health.

Exercise – 30 minutes of exercise at least 3 times per week (brisk walking is one of the best forms).

Water – 6 to 8 good size glasses a day.

Sunshine – let the sun shine on our bodies and into our homes daily. We also need a Vitamin D supplement in Tassie.

Temperance – self-control over what, when and how much we eat & drink. Eliminate caffeinated drinks.

Air – be often outside, and let fresh air circulate in our homes day & night.

Rest – most of us need 7-9 hours of sleep per night, with the hours of before midnight being crucial.

Trust in God – having a strong abiding trust relationship with God in which we commune with Him daily in prayer & Bible Study is critical to health.

I thank God for revealing these things to me when I was a youth. They have helped me immeasurably. However, while this is the best preparation for combating disease, history has clearly shown us that in a pandemic, including this one, these measures are not enough. Healthy individuals, including Adventists who follow the NEWSTART principles have had Covid-19 with serious health issues and even death. Which is why the Adventist Church, while recognizing the individual freedom of conscience, “recommends the responsible use of vaccines” and “encourages our members to consider responsible immunisation” during this pandemic (see front cover story of this issue of TASDA).



*Be anxious for nothing,
but in everything
by **PRAYER** and
SUPPLICATION, with
THANKSGIVING, let
your requests be made
known to God. And
**THE PEACE OF
GOD**, which surpasses
all understanding, **WILL
GUARD** your hearts
and minds **THROUGH
CHRIST JESUS.**"*

Philippians 4:6-7

For many of us the decision to be vaccinated or not has been a very difficult one. While I truly respect, value and pray for those who have decided not to be vaccinated and have thus lost their employment, personally, after months of resisting the vaccine, the following combination of reasons persuaded me to go ahead and get vaccinated:

1. Covid-19 is a serious and deadly global problem, which is far more likely to cause serious sickness and death than the annual viruses.
2. Vaccines protect from Covid 19, with the unvaccinated being far more often hospitalized and dying than the vaccinated.
3. Ellen White's example of being vaccinated for smallpox, though there were risks in doing so.
4. The Adventist church recommends and encourages members to consider responsible immunisation, and I believe that it is important to consider collective church opinion.
5. Mission – we are all called to share Jesus with everyone, everywhere. If I do not take the "risk" to be vaccinated, government mandates will affect my ability to mingle with people and share Christ's love. Jesus, Paul, missionaries to Africa and the South Pacific "cannibal isles" and doctors and nurses today (e.g. those working among people with Ebola virus in Africa), have all taken risks to their health and lives in order to minister to people. Given the data that the risk of being vaccinated is not high (statistics reveal that it is actually more risky to be injured or die from a road accident in Australia than being hospitalized or dying from Covid-19).
6. The Bible commands us to follow government laws where they do not conflict with God's laws.
7. Asking God in prayer for guidance – articles and Youtube links were

brought to my attention or sent to me at critical times of prayer over the issue.

8. While the long-term effects of the vaccine are unknown, with a BSc in Biochemistry & Pathology, I could not see from my personal knowledge of how the vaccines actually work that there is a long-term risk to health.
9. The Distrust Factor – the global distrust of information from governments, our own church, the medical scientific world and the media when it disagrees with personal belief, suggested to me that Satan, the master of distrust, is at work to sow distrust and discord in society and the church.

However, we must all seek God's will for our own lives in this matter. He alone sees the future, and knows whether or not the vaccine will seriously harm your health and life. He also knows whether the Covid-19 virus will seriously affect you, and thus may impress you to have the vaccine. Seek Him in prayer and act according to your conscience.

Finally, it is vital that we all respect the conscientious convictions of those who disagree with our personal position on this matter. To go against conscience is sin (1 Corinthians 8; James 4:17). While it is perfectly legitimate to share our opinion and even to seek to persuade others to accept our personal view, it is wrong to force our opinions on others.

Pr Gary Webster
Tasmania Conference President

<https://www.abs.gov.au/articles/covid-19-mortality-0>

https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/covid_weekly/index.htm

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html>

TASMANIA CONFERENCE WOMEN'S RETREAT – “WHO AM I?”

Lindy Sperring, SA Women's Ministries Director

On October 15th to 17th, there was a planned Women's Retreat for Tasmania's women, entitled “Who Am I?”, with visiting speaker Lindy Sperring (SA Women's Ministries Director). Unfortunately, due to the snap lockdown in Tasmania's south, the retreat had to be cancelled at the very last minute on the Friday afternoon.

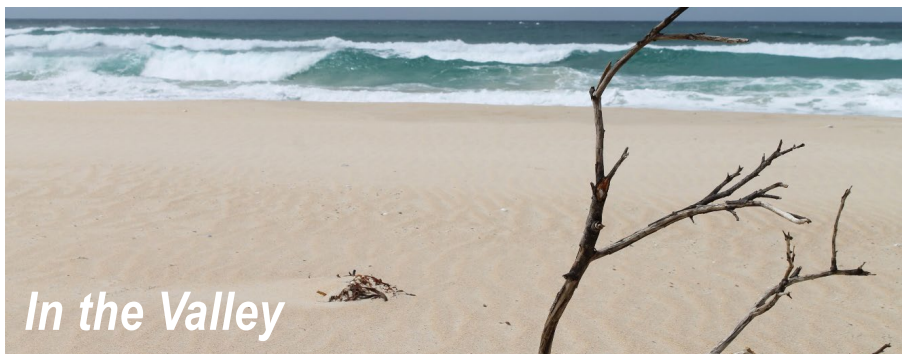
To take advantage of Lindy's time here, it was decided to record some short talks from different on-site locations around the state's north, and broadcast them for our women to enjoy. We took the journey of life from the “valley” (Diana's Basin, Scamander) to the “mountain” (Cradle Mountain), as Lindy shared what it means to be a woman today in both the challenges and triumphs of life in Christ.

We are hopeful that Lindy will be able to visit again at another time, as many have requested that she return.

If you would like to view her presentations, please follow the links below each image:

We look forward to hosting something in the New Year as a substitute for our ladies.

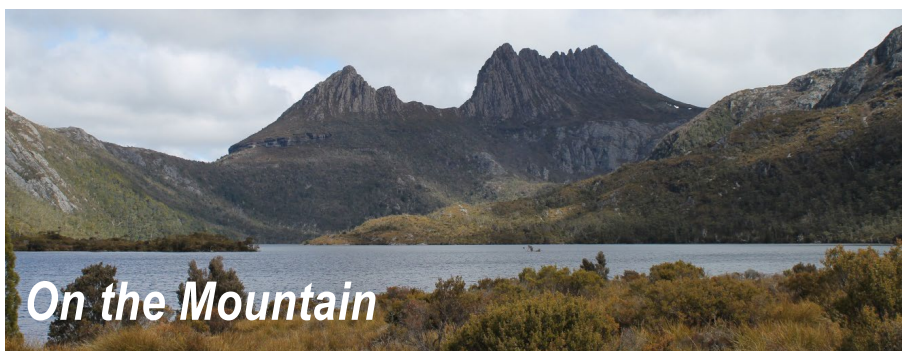
Pr David & Mary Maxwell
Tasmania Family Ministries Directors



In the Valley: <https://www.facebook.com/1641415837/videos/1385035838565435/>



In the Rush Of Life: <https://www.facebook.com/1641415837/videos/1220253195138908/>



On The Mountain: <https://www.facebook.com/1641415837/videos/3726754820883030/>

NOTICE BOARD

ROCK-CLIMBING WALL FOR SPRING BEACH YOUTH CAMP

Spring Beach Youth Camp continues to be a Centre of Influence to thousands of Tassie kids each year. With the increasing number of camps, the Centre is experiencing a high level of occupancy, with bookings starting at the beginning of August, a month earlier than usual.

In between bookings, we have been looking at ways to continue to improve our Youth camp and this year we were blessed by the addition of an indoor rock-climbing wall that was purchased from C3 church in Devonport for a very reasonable price. On the 17th May, a group of young people assembled in Devonport and set about removing the rock wall from its original location. It was then transported down to Spring Beach the next day. The removal and installation of the rock wall was a challenge the proved successful, thanks to our two great teams of volunteers.

With a great amount of prayer, we found an Adventist engineer in far North Queensland who was willing to engineer the wall to current building codes. This was done free of charge. We then had a man fly from Brisbane to check the wall compliance and give it the tick of approval for use.

Our church Tween camp was one of the first groups to utilise the rock wall and they had a ball.

God answered our prayers and we saw a number of miracles happen, which enabled the addition of the rock-climbing wall:

The purchase price - we paid less than a tenth of the true value of the wall:

1. We were able to remove and reinstall the wall with volunteers.
2. The police waived a fine for the truck driver, who was oversize with the wall, because it was going to a youth camp.
3. The Engineering work was done free of charge.
4. Getting the wall compliance happening through a small opening, and then closing of Queensland and Tasmanian borders due to Covid-19.

We thank God in his leading in this project and we are already seeing the benefits of the wall especially in wet weather. The kids love it.

Please remember our camp in your prayers as we 'Create memories' for all that come and stay here, touching lives for eternity.



TWEEN CAMP 2021

Tween Camp this year was an absolute blast as 54 kids from all over Tassie came together to have fun and learn about Jesus through the theme: "YOU are an Artist: God's Masterpiece (Isaiah 64:8)"

Activities through the week included a chalk fight, tie-dying, rock painting, crate stack, ball games, water-biscuiting, zip-lining, team challenges, noodle-ball, kayaking, paint-twister, cake decoration, and not to mention an amazing time on Spring Beach youth camp's amazing new indoor rock climbing wall!

To-die-for food was provided by Katy Matteo, Hannah Rabe and Rochelle Gordon. All of the volunteer staff put in 110% in connecting with, and lifting up the kids to point them to Christ.

Worships each night were truly touching, with Miss Kaitlin Gordon leading out, her team producing inspiring music, all culminating in a wonderful church service on the beautiful Stapleton Beach on Sabbath morning.

We were so happy that Mrs Jeanine Sandy, chaplain at Darling Downs Christian School in South Queensland, was able to join in for the week to share the gospel, inviting the kids to choose to follow Jesus for themselves. In a time of invitation, it was so wonderful to see every single child in attendance come forward in an altar call to write their names on a canvas, indicating they wanted Jesus as their Artist!

"Yet you, Lord, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand." (Isaiah 64:8 NIV)



YOUTH REFINERY ADDRESSES ADVENTIST IDENTITY

The 177th anniversary of the Great Disappointment of October 22-23, 1844, was chosen to hold the Youth Refinery at Burnie SDA church on the theme of Seventh-day Adventist church identity. Young people from around the state met Friday night for dinner and worship on the subject of the remnant in Revelation 12. On Sabbath morning Pastors Afii, Rajko, Peter McCrostie and Daniel gave their perspectives on Adventist Identity including the Great Disappointment predicted in Revelation 10, the Spirit of Prophecy in Revelation 19, the Three Angels' Messages in Revelation 14 and William Miller's spiritual and theological legacy for the Church today. After a hearty lunch, the youth had a discussion about some practical issues around properly understanding the Spirit of Prophecy, followed by games, singing, a worship on the subject of staying grounded in the Church despite discouragement, and more singing followed by a delicious dinner of Indian Food.

Please continue to pray for our young people to be grounded in our distinct message of hope for the world in these last days!



HOBART CHURCH PLANT

In August and September Pastor Gary Webster conducted an Ancient Mysteries Reveal the Future evangelistic series in the Hobart CBD where the Hobart Church Plant meets. There were around 20-25 people who came regularly. The Secrets of Prophecy Seminar in the conference office conducted by Pastor Cosmin Dan Marica followed this. There was also a follow-up Health and Gospel Programs in the church plant where Michelle Estil presented the Eight Secrets of Health (NEWSTART) and Eugene Estil presented an A Man for All Time series. With God's blessing, people will be baptised soon.

PR GARY & MERILYN WEBSTER CALLED TO SYDNEY

Merilyn and I have accepted a call to Sydney to head up the evangelistic work for the Wahroonga Church and to conduct evangelistic meetings in the Greater Sydney Conference. My role as South Pacific Division Evangelist will continue.

We came from Sydney to Tasmania in 2016 after six years at Adventist Media. During our time here, "We have seen God doing amazing things in Tassie as He has been working through dedicated and gifted people. God led the executive and appointments committees to bring the right people at the right time to the right places. I have personally witnessed first-hand His miraculous hand in bringing Dr Mark Falconer and Pr Cosmin Dan-Marica into our administrative team. God has blessed the conference with: committed departmental directors, office staff and radio ministry team; Spirit-filled pastors and evangelists; dedicated principals and teachers; and gifted camp managers at both campsites.

Through our members working with these dedicated people we have seen: annual tithe increases of 5-15%; the conference finances placed on a strong footing; student enrolments double at both schools; a new conference office, that is representative of God's cause; an increase in the number of evangelistic campaigns and prophecy seminars being conducted; a regular radio program coming out of Tassie for Faith FM across Australia; strong youth, Pathfinder, health, ADRA and women's ministries; emerging literature and family ministries programs; the commencement of camp meetings in various places for the sake of mission; the beginning of a church plant in the Hobart CBD; Spring Beach become Tasmania's premier camp site for schools. All of which is bringing an increasing number of people coming to Christ and His



church. As I look back on the last five years I can truly say, 'look what God has done!'"

We are disappointed to be leaving Tasmania and our church family, and are thankful to God for the privilege to work with His people here. Just as the call five years ago to come and work in Tassie was a shock, so also was the call to leave and go back to Sydney. After discussion and prayer, we felt God was asking us to accept this call. Since we arrived here in 2016, the work has become more involved and complex, and I sensed that Tassie needs a President who can dedicate all of his time to Tasmania. We can see God is on the move down here. Let's all keep focused on God's purpose for His church in Tassie: To Transform Tasmania with Jesus for eternity."

PR RAJKO & ELIZE CELIC CALLED TO QUEENSLAND

Pr Rajko and his wife, Elize have accepted a call to the South Queensland Conference where he will care for Logan Reserve and Beaudesert churches.

Pr Rajko and Elize came to Tasmania from the South New South Wales Conference in 2018 to care for the Burnie, Wynyard and Smithton Churches and to be the chaplain at the North West Christian School. In 2020, he was asked to pastor the Ulverstone and Burnie churches. In 2021, he was requested to also care for the King Island church. Elize has been the graphic designer for TASDA and North West Christian School since 2018, where she has also been a casual relief teacher.

Pr Rajko and Elize's team ministry has been a tremendous help to our North West Churches. Pr Rajko's theological insights, his emphasis on mission and his presentations on Faith FM have been a great blessing. Their ministry to our youth in their home at Burnie has been greatly appreciated and enjoyed. Elize's work in laying out TASDA has been outstanding. Rajko and Elize, you will be sadly missed. We wish you God's richest blessings.



TASSIE EXECUTIVE RETREATS FOR MISSION

The Tasmanian Conference Executive Committee had a weekend retreat in Launceston from Oct 29-31 to plan for mission for the next four years. The presence of spouses of committee members was a great blessing. The theme for the weekend was Mission Driven. Prayer and breakout groups brought forward creative ideas that will help implement aspects of the Conference Strategic Plan that was adopted at the Conference Constituency meeting earlier this year.



EVANGELISTIC MEETINGS TASMANIA

Around 250 people attended a half-day of TED-type talks and a meal, held at Scottsdale, Launceston, Ulverstone, Rosny and Hobart CBD during August and September. These were followed by 4 weeks of evangelistic programs and prophecy seminars. Some 20 people made decisions for baptism with some to take place before Christmas. It was a great team effort by church members working with their pastors - Peter Watts, David Maxwell, Rajko Celic, Eugene Estil and Conference President, Gary Webster. The conference again provided strong financial assistance.



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

MARGATE BAPTISMS INCREASE

The early Christian Church devoted themselves to the apostles teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. They committed themselves to God's Word. It is a blessing to follow the model of the early Christian Church. In Margate Church, we continue to have fellowship in a small group, sharing meals and in prayers.

We have seen how the Lord has blessed the church. Last year, there were no kids, no children's division but now we have started the children's division. New families came, children were born and dedicated to the Lord. We are also challenged and encouraged from the Seventh-day Adventist Minister's Handbook: "Churches should plan for a baptism at least once a quarter..." As people continue to study the Word of God, by His grace people are being baptised once a quarter.



LAUNCESTON'S GREAT SHAVE

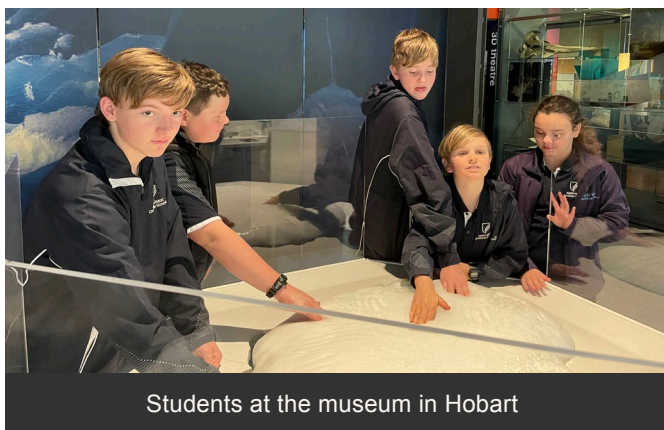
To support a church member who has been diagnosed with cancer, a number of Launceston Church members decided to shave in support and to help raise awareness and funds for cancer research. The target was to raise \$10,000, which took place in the lead up to the shave. However their Pastor, David Maxwell also agreed that if they were able to raise \$15,000, he would also shave. Then his wonderful wife Mary also agreed that if they raised \$20,000, she too would shave. The total raised to date is over \$21,000, so the team, the Pastor and his wife all shaved! Now that is a real commitment to support their church member. Well done to all involved. The team was Natalie & Marcus Moore, Chris Moore, Russell & Xavier Hendra, James & Beecher Espie, David & Mary Maxwell, Elyse Tierney and a couple of others.



NORTH WEST CHRISTIAN SCHOOL NEWS

MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMP

Lots of preparation by staff and excitement from students preceded this camp. Monday August 9, saw us pack up and leave NWCS for our trip to Spring Beach Youth Camp. A stop at Wineglass Bay for a walk to the lookout was followed by dinner at Swansea before our arrival. As usual, who wants to sleep while on camp. Though already tired, Tuesday saw us off to Parliament House, the Museum, lunch in the Botanical Gardens and a trip up Mount Wellington with an unexpected event when the turbo hose blew three quarters of the way up.



Students at the museum in Hobart

We turned around and went to Webster Trucks at Glenorchy, who were unable to repair. Prayer was offered by our chaplain, Pastor David Leo. Mr Watson and Mr Pepper did a temporary fix (praise God for our different talents).

We ate lots of delicious food, visited Port Arthur, went swimming at the Aquatic Centre, had lunch at Pizza Hut, did some shopping and held a talent night. Friday was homeward bound with our temporary hose deciding to burst just outside of Swansea. Again, the talents of Mr Watson and Mr Pepper were put to good use. We arrived back at school safely. "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (1 Thess. 5:18).



Mr Watson fixing the bus to save the camp

BOOK WEEK

Primary students and staff dressed up in a variety of costumes to celebrate book week. The theme being Old Worlds, New Worlds and Other Worlds. Kinder to Year 6 students shared with parents and their peers what book character they were dressed as in a Book Parade. What a wonderful array of characters we had, some of these were Queen Esther, Joseph in his Coat of Many colours, Heidi as an astronaut and many more. Even the primary staff joined in.



NWCS staff dressed up for book week

WORLD'S GREATEST SHAVE

Bravery or madness or is it the love for others that was the deciding factor for NWCS Outdoor Education Assistant, Alexandria Bobongie's brave choice to shave her beautiful red locks. Alex set out to raise \$1000 towards this cause. NWCS held a crazy hair day and raised \$510.90, which added to Alex's total of \$1721.80. Funds raised will go towards helping families facing blood cancer with the special care they need to make it through every scary, uncertain moment that follows a diagnosis.



Alexandria Bobongie about to give her beautiful hair for a great cause

CAREERS EXPO

The Central Coast Council in conjunction with the Central Coast Youth Leadership Council organised a Careers Expo for Years 9 – 12 students across the municipality. It started with a Design and Thinking Workshop run by Clayton Hawkins from UTAS earlier in the year. Ideas were pulled from the workshop to create a Career Expo. The event began with a panel of professionals sharing the pathway they travelled to get to where they are now. On offer for the students were a variety of industries (28 in total) with

career advisers interacting with students in either group or one-on-one sessions. The Youth Leader's goal was to host an event that inspired curiosity about careers, providing ways to expand networks and have 'real' life learning conversations about what careers and opportunities exist, beyond the regular!

REMEMBRANCE DAY

Five students and two staff represented North West Christian School at the Penguin Remembrance Day Service. Alex Davidson and Zannah Ackland presented a wreath on behalf of the staff and students. The rest of the staff and students held a remembrance service at school.



Zannah Ackland and Alex Davidson presented the wreath on Remembrance Day

ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

Friday November 5, we held our annual carnival with lots of activity. Cheering, running, jumping, throwing, ribbons, trophies and medals were all a part of the fun at our annual Athletics Carnival. A large group of home schoolers joined us for the day taking part in all activities.

NEW BUS

An addition to our bus fleet arrived today (November 12) and caused some excitement among students.



NWCS new bus for its growing fleet

HILLIARD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL NEWS

SEWING FUN

Year 5 & 7 students have been working on developing their sewing skills during term 3. For our year 5 students this is their first experience using the sewing machines. As part of their "Protect It" unit students followed the design process to design, plan and produce aprons. Year 7 students made denim pencil cases as their major project. It has been a wonderfully busy term, which has been even better with the additional help of our volunteers. Students have benefited immensely from the wealth of experience from two of our volunteers this term. Mrs Vicki Knight travelled down from the north of the state each fortnight to help in our classes and Mrs Jenni Matteo, a grandma of two of our students who was visiting helped for a few weeks with these classes. We would like to thank them for their efforts this term. It was fantastic to have members of our church community in our school enhancing the learning experiences for our students. We would like to encourage you if you have a special skill to share or would like to get involved in the wonderful learning that is happening in our school please get in contact with us.



Year 5 Students & Their Final Apron Designs with Classroom Teacher Mrs Matteo & Volunteer Mrs Vicki Knight



Mrs Jenni Matteo Helping Ephraim, One of Our Year 5 Students

Mrs Vicki Knight helping Ruby, One of Our Year 7 Students



Mr Redman and Mrs Matteo at the R U OK

R U OK DAY AT HILLIARD

On the 9th of September, Hilliard Christian School took part in R U OK Day alongside many

other Australians around the country. With a staggering 45 percent of people in Australia having at some point struggled with mental health, Hilliard students and staff thought this was a brilliant idea to help spread awareness about this often taboo subject. Students and staff came dressed in yellow, which is the designated colour for this event.

The high school joined together for a BBQ lunch where Mrs Matteo shared some information with us on signs that someone might be struggling and how we can be a good mate to them. She also stressed the importance of ensuring we are okay first before we try to help another.

Each student received a bookmark with contact details of where to go for help which was a great resource. We played card games and R U OK bingo, which set the tone to have conversations about mental health together. Mr Redman and grade 10 students cooked a BBQ which was thoroughly enjoyed by all students and we were given special R U OK day cookies.

We would like to say a special thankyou to the following businesses who supported our special event: Woolworths Moonah, Banjos Bakery Moonah & Ally's Sweet Treats. The atmosphere was very relaxed and gave students the option if needed to talk about some of our struggles. It was a fantastic event and we hope to continue this at Hilliard each year to create awareness and as a reminder to check in on one another as a conversation could change a life.

Grace Matteo, Year 8 Student, Hilliard Christian School



Highschool Students Enjoying the BBQ



Year 7 Students Mia & Ruby Taking Pics in the Photo Booth

Special R U Ok Biscuits & Bookmarks



Mr Redman & Year 10 student Olie on the BBQ