



# Tasda

Transforming Tasmania with Jesus for Eternity

SEPTEMBER 2021

## SOME OBSERVATIONS FOR SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS ON ELLEN WHITE & VACCINES

God cares about each of us. It is not only our spiritual life that He cares about, but also our physical, emotional, and social life. In his last letter, recorded in the Bible, the apostle John wrote, "Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers" 3 John 2 (NKJV). Through the health message Adventists have sought to experience and practice the healing ministry of Jesus. Ellen White, one of three co-founders of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, received a call from God to be His messenger. Her prophetic ministry was not to take the place of or add to Scripture, but rather to point us to Bible principles and apply them where necessary for the development of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. But the Holy Spirit also led her to guide the church in its major ministries of publishing, health, education, and world mission. Ellen White had four major visions supporting the broad work of health ministry. These and many other subsequent revelations led to the establishment of hospitals, clinics, and a world-wide medical ministry. Her

most extensive writing on the subject of health is found in her book *The Ministry of Healing*, first published in 1905.

### NO SPECIFIC COUNSEL ON VACCINES

Ellen White had much to say about many things relating to health, but she did not provide any specific counsel on vaccinations. Therefore, this document is not intended to in any way settle the matter of whether a person should have a particular vaccine or not. This is a personal decision that needs to be guided by prayerful study, consideration of Biblical principles, and medical counsel. We only have a few stories about interactions of Ellen White, her family, and workers in regard to vaccinations. These help us to understand how she applied Biblical principles related to developing scientific advances in vaccines in the absence of direct prophetic revelation.

### STORIES RELATING TO VACCINES

#### W. C. White:

In 1924 W. C. White, Ellen White son, wrote to Dr. L. C. Kellogg in Loma Linda, California. Kellogg had asked about Ellen

White's attitude toward vaccinations. According to W. C. White "she regarded it as a perplexing question." He continued, "I do not remember of [sic] her ever saying or writing that she had special instruction regarding vaccination." Willie saw his mother as approaching the matter rationally in the absence of direct prophetic revelation:

In my earlier days she spoke of it as something dangerous and related my own experience. She said that as a child I was perfectly healthy until I was vaccinated and by that my health was much impaired. Mother listened attentively to the arguments that the methods of vaccination had been improved, and when in our travels we were brought to a large city where smallpox was raging and the matter was discussed as to whether or no [sic] that I and my associates should be vaccinated, she offered no objection, and in view of the argument of the physicians that it was not only for our own safety but for the safety of others. I and my associates were vaccinated."<sup>[1]</sup>

Because of the way nineteenth-century



smallpox vaccines were made and delivered they not only could produce smallpox symptoms; they also might contain bacterial contamination that could cause other serious diseases. As time passed improvements were made in the vaccine.

#### **D. E. Robinson:**

Ellen White's grandson-in-law and long-time office assistant, D. E. Robinson, responded to a letter addressed to Ellen White about vaccination. Robinson is the person who wrote the widely influential book *The Story of Our Health Message*.<sup>[2]</sup> He responded similarly to W. C. White that "Sister White's writings contain broad principles that should guide us in all our work. When it comes to details, however, it is necessary for us to study these and to come to our own conclusion. Owing to our finite limitations, we do not always see alike on some of these matters." Robinson then shared an interesting, though tragic story of a close relative who died of smallpox:

When I was a young man, I was vaccinated, and had quite a serious time. This led me to feel that vaccination was wrong. On the other hand, I felt differently about it when I heard of the death, in India, of my uncle, Elder D. A. Robinson, who had refused to be vaccinated. Others who had been vaccinated were very closely associated with him, and they either escaped the disease entirely or had it in a very mild form. Before he died, he stated that if

he had it to do over again, he would certainly be vaccinated."<sup>[3]</sup>

Robinson concluded that it was important to follow the "simple treatment" of natural remedies laid out in the testimonies of Ellen White and that we may also benefit from a vaccination. But he again concluded that this was his own personal statement "for which Sister White is in no way responsible."

In 1931 D. E. Robinson wrote another letter in response to a question on vaccination. He indicated that even Ellen White received a vaccination against smallpox.

You will be interested to know however, that at the time when there was an epidemic of smallpox in the vicinity, she herself was vaccinated and urged her helpers, those connected with her, to be vaccinated. In taking this step Sister White recognized the fact that it has been proven that vaccination either renders one immune from smallpox or greatly lightens its effects if one does come down with it. She also recognized the danger of their exposing others in they failed to take this precaution.<sup>[4]</sup>

Robinson, who had been a missionary in Africa, remembered that at their mission, "Smallpox was all about us and got into the school. After the students were vaccinated, we had not another case, and in no case did we see any ill results."<sup>[5]</sup>

Adventist health papers, Union papers, and occasionally general church

papers, from the twentieth century, provided educational information about vaccinations, particularly for smallpox and polio. They were generally supportive of vaccinations when it was shown that the vaccine had relatively few side effects and greatly reduced the danger of death or disability. Also, as noted by Robinson above, during the twentieth century, providing vaccinations was a part of Seventh-day Adventist mission work.<sup>[6]</sup>

#### **Arthur L. White:**

During the Polio outbreak of the mid-twentieth century, there were discussions about whether or not to take the vaccine. Arthur White, grandson of Ellen White and secretary of the White Estate, responded to a letter he received, "If someone has informed you that Sister White counselled against vaccination or inoculations, they are mistaken." A. L. White then observed:

I think of missionaries who went out in the earlier years of our work, some of whom thought was a violation of principle to be vaccinated. They were cut down with disease and filled early graves giving virtually no service to the mission field. Would it not have been much more pleasing to God for them to have taken the steps which would have prevented their succumbing to these dread diseases?

White then told a sad story:

I think of one of our physicians who today must spend much time in an iron lung [an early type of ventilator]. In the



prime of life, he was sent a few years ago to North Africa where he led out in our medical work in a good way. The Lord blessed his ministry. The vaccine was secured for polio shots, but for some reason, there was not sufficient for all. The doctor gave the shots to everyone but himself. He recognized that it would be the part of wisdom for him to have taken the shots, but due to the shortage of vaccine, he did not do so. In the epidemic which swept the country, he succumbed to the disease, in a very paralyzing form. With the cooperation of the United States government, he was flown back to the United States in an ambulance plane. What the man suffered is hard to describe. There is little hope of him ever gaining the use of his normal faculties. He is a man with a family, a young man.”<sup>[7]</sup>

#### EXAMPLE OF QUININE AND A PRINCIPLE OF HEALTH

God has provided, through Ellen White's writings, principles that can guide us in considering whether or not to receive a vaccine. In the absence of direct counsel from God, we are called upon to exercise good judgment and pay attention to medical advances. At one point she wrote, “God wants us all to have common sense, and He wants us to reason from common sense. Circumstances alter conditions. Circumstances change the relation of things” 3SM 217.

Ellen White applied this principle regarding the use of quinine, a strong and toxic drug that for many years in the mid-nineteenth century, was used by doctors without correct scientific medical basis. Later it was found that quinine could be effective in treating malaria. Some Adventists refused to use quinine to treat malaria because of what Ellen White had written against the earlier dangerous and false medical practice (such as heroic therapy). While in Australia in the 1890s, W. C. White remembered his mother responding to a tragic inquiry by a man who had lost his first-born son to malaria. Because of Ellen White's early testimony against quinine, as used by doctors without scientific basis, he refused to allow his son to be treated with this drug. “When he met with Sister White, he asked her this question, ‘Would I have sinned to give the boy quinine when I knew of no other way to check the malaria and when the prospect was that he would die without it?’ In reply she said, ‘No, we are expected to do the best we can.’”<sup>[8]</sup>

In the context of guidance from God we are encouraged to follow principles that are given. On the matter of the new COVID-19 vaccines there may be reasons why a person believes that it is wisest to not take the vaccine or make the decision to take one particular version rather than another. These are all matters of personal decision and not a matter of divine mandate either through the Bible or the writings of Ellen White.

[1] W. C. White to L. C. Kellogg, February 5, 1924, Q and A 34-E-2, Ellen G. White Estate, Inc., Silver Spring, MD (EGWE).

[2] Dores Eugene Robinson, *The Story of Our Health Message: The Origin, Character, and Development of Health Education in the Seventh-day Adventist Church* (Nashville, TN: Southern Publishing, 1955).

[3] D. E. Robinson to A. C. Anderson, Archie, MO, February 10, 1915, EGWE.

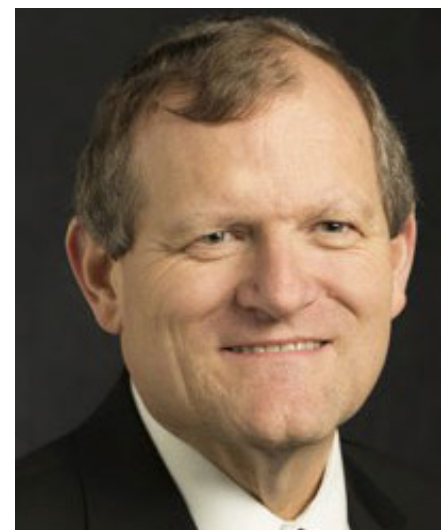
[4] D. E. Robinson to Clarence Hocker, June 12, 1931, EGWE.

[5] Ibid.

[6] Two other examples: Letter from Leatha Coulston to her family, April 16, 1934, from Zhangjakou, Hebei, China: “Elmer amputated three feet, vaccinated two hundred prisoners, had twenty one patients at the clinic. . . .” Elmer F. Coulston Collection, Loma Linda University, Archives and Special Collections; Solusi had a vaccination day during an outbreak, *South African Missionary*, September 21, 1914.

[7] Arthur L. White to L. D. King, March 13, 1961, EGWE.

[8] W. C. White to “Dear Sister,” September 10, 1935, EGWE; see also footnote in 2SM 281-282.



**Dr Merlin D. Burt, Ph.D**

*Ellen G White Estate, May 14, 2021*

# DANGEROUS TRENDS EMERGING IN THE CHURCH OVER COVID-19

## From the Editor

Tasmania is a great place to live right now, given that Covid 19 has had little impact on our day to day lives since about July last year. However it is certainly not like this in much of the world and in other parts of Australia, especially NSW and Victoria at the moment.

We are also witnessing two dangerous trends beginning to emerge in both society, and sadly even among many Adventist members, over Covid 19:

1. A growing global distrust of medical scientific data and medical personnel, including faithful Seventh-day Adventist doctors and medical scientists, many of whom work for the church and its medical institutions, while at the same time there is a an amazing amount of confidence put in websites and presenters, many of whom have little or no scientific background. To dismiss the counsel and advice of fellow Christian workers of God with disdain is a dangerous position for any of us to be in. Notice Ellen White's counsel:

*Let us cherish a spirit of confidence in the wisdom of our brethren. We must be willing to take advice and caution from our fellow labourers. Connected with the service of God, we must individually realize that we are parts of a great whole. We must seek wisdom from God, learning what it means to have a waiting, watching spirit, and to go to our Saviour when tired and depressed.*

*It is a mistake to withdraw from those who do not agree with our ideas. This will not inspire our brethren with confidence in our judgment. It is our duty to counsel with our brethren, and to heed their advice. We are to seek their counsel, and when they give it, we are not to cast it away, as if they were our enemies. Unless we humble our hearts before God, we shall not know His will.*

*Ellen G White, Testimonies to Ministers p500*

2. An increasing spirit of un-Christlike antagonism and even hostility between those Adventists who believe in vaccinations and those opposed to them. This should not be, for we are all brothers and sisters in God's family.

In view of this, we have included two articles for each of us to consider carefully and prayerfully. The first, our front cover article, comes from the Ellen G White Estate at Andrews University. The second, later in this issue of TASDA, is from Pr Terry Johnson, our newly appointed President of the Australian Union Conference of our Seventh-day Adventist Church.

*Pr Gary Webster, TASDA Editor*

***"We must seek wisdom from God, learning what it means to have a waiting, watching spirit, and to go to our Saviour when tired and depressed."***

***Testimonies to Ministers, p.500***







## YOUTH LEAD REFORMATORY MOVEMENT

He was only twenty five years old, yet filled with the love of God, Hezekiah led out boldly and courageously in one of the greatest reformations of history, at a time when the nation was in dire apostasy thanks to his father, Ahaz. Worship at the temple had ceased and pagan shrines filled Jerusalem and the land. Young Hezekiah's thrilling reformation is recorded in 2 Chronicles 29-31.

Hezekiah first called the priests and Levites, custodians of the temple and its worship services, to revival and repentance - to turn back whole-heartedly to God. Since the temple had been closed to worshippers for years, he then instructed them to cleanse the temple of accumulated rubbish, repair the temple doors and open the temple for worship. In the first worship service, the rulers of Jerusalem, the priests and Levites joined the king in seeking forgiveness of sin for the nation. As a result, a Spirit-filled revival broke out in Jerusalem.

Next, the youthful King Hezekiah called the people from all over the nation to come to the temple for the Passover feast, which had not been celebrated for years. The pagan shrines were removed from Jerusalem's streets and multitudes came to Jerusalem. The Spirit of God came so powerfully among the people during the feast from the teaching of God's word, that instead of staying for the usual Passover week, the people stayed on for another week.

On returning to their cities and villages a great reformatory movement took over

as they utterly destroyed all the pagan images, altars and places of worship in their homes, villages and cities. Young Hezekiah then called the people to return offerings and tithes so that the priests and Levites could commit themselves to serve in God's temple. The people responded with incredible enthusiasm so the work of God could go forward.

**“he did it with all his heart”**

Of this amazing youthful leader, the Bible says: “*And thus did Hezekiah throughout all Judah, and wrought that which was good and right and truth before the Lord his God. And in every work that he began in the service of the house of God, and in the law, and in the commandments, to seek his God, he did it with all his heart, and prospered*” (2 Chronicles 31:20,21).

The time has come for such a movement among our members in Tasmania. The need for it in the church is clearly spelt out by God's servant (herself a young person, when she began her reformatory work):

*It is a solemn statement that I make to the church, that not one in twenty whose names are registered upon the church books are prepared to close their earthly history, and would be as verily without God and without hope in the world as the common sinner. They are professedly serving God, but they are more earnestly serving mammon. This*

*half-and-half work is a constant denying of Christ, rather than a confessing of Christ. I lay down my pen and lift up my soul in prayer, that the Lord would breathe upon His backslidden people, who are as dry bones, that they may live. The end is near, stealing upon us so stealthily, so imperceptibly, so noiselessly, like the muffled tread of the thief in the night, to surprise the sleepers off guard and unready. Christians should be preparing for what is soon to break upon the world as an overwhelming surprise, and this preparation they should make by diligently studying the word of God, and striving to conform their lives to its precepts... (Ellen White, Christian Service p41,42).*

God calls for a revival and a reformation. A revival of true godliness among us is the greatest and most urgent of all our needs. To seek this should be our first work. **The time has come for a thorough reformation to take place.** When this reformation begins, the spirit of prayer will actuate every believer, and will banish from the church the spirit of discord and strife (Ellen White, Christian Service p41,42).

Future editions of TASDA will share specific areas of reformation, that as God's people, we need to address in our lives and churches in order that we might experience more fully the blessing of God in our lives and His mission to the lost in Tasmania.

**Pr Gary Webster**  
Tasmania Conference President

# BLINDED BY THE SIGNS

On a grey wintery Sabbath, following the Church service, a long-time member pulled me aside to let me know that Jesus was coming back in 1993, following the completion of 2300 literal days that started with the downing of an Iranian passenger jet by a missile from the US navy on July 3, 1988. Bizarre, unscriptural, but not unusual. Often over lunch, following the dissection of the sermon, the discussion would often drift onto conspiracy theories such as how the Jesuits had infiltrated the GC, Avondale College, or how the leadership at the GC had been hypnotized by the Transcendental Meditation Society, whose HQ was apparently nearby. At the time, they were gripping. Today, in the anxious world of Covid-19, it is probably worse.

A conspiracy theory, according to the Encyclopedia Britannica, is “an attempt to explain harmful or tragic events as the result of the actions of a small powerful group. Such explanations reject the accepted narrative surrounding those events.” So what is wrong with conspiracy theories? Don’t they inform and help us to make sense of the religio-political forces and events in the world? Many conspiracy theories lead to unscriptural conclusions and blindness to the signs. For such Adventists to keep their ‘faith’ alive, they need the second coming to be soon.

So how are we to live in these last days? For some, the gloss of hearing signs in Matt 24:4-14 have faded. Jesus’ answer to the disciples’ question of “when will these things be?”, is intertwined with the prophecy of the destruction of the Temple with the Second Coming. The second half (Matt 24:26-25:30) provides instructive lessons on how Jesus’ followers are to await His return – such as the parables of the Wise and Foolish Bridesmaids, the Talents, and the Sheep and Goats. In Matthew 24:45-47, Eugene Peterson in the Message translation, captures the quintessential response to how we are to wait.

*“Who here qualifies for the job of overseeing the kitchen? A person the*

*Master can depend on to feed the workers on time each day. Someone the Master can drop in on unannounced and always find him doing his job. A God-blessed man or woman, I tell you. It won’t be long before the Master will put this person in charge of the whole operation (Matthew 24:45-47).”*

It is said that when Wesley was asked: “What would he do if Jesus was coming back tonight?” he simply replied: “Carry on what I am doing now”. Our readiness as such, does not save us. We are saved by grace, and it is out of a grace relationship that lives are transformed and the fruits of the Spirit flow, which gives evidence that grace has been at work in our hearts. Godly living comes not from behavioural modification, but from knowing Jesus personally, which emanates from our devotional habits that are windows into His presence (2Tim 1:12, 2Cor 3:17-18).

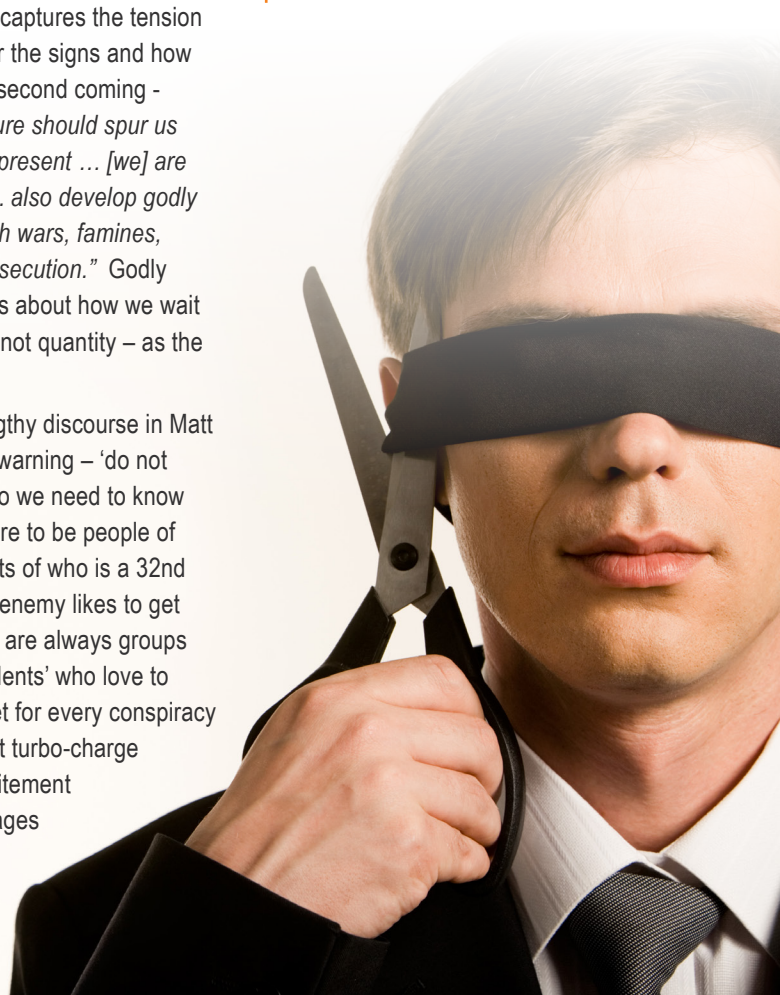
Michael Wilkens in his commentary on Matthew, insightfully captures the tension between watching for the signs and how we should await the second coming – “The study of the future should spur us to godly living in the present ... [we] are not to be deceived ... also develop godly perseverance through wars, famines, earthquakes and persecution.” Godly living in the present is about how we wait – the quality of time, not quantity – as the ‘when’ or dates.

Jesus begun His lengthy discourse in Matt 24-25 with the stern warning – ‘do not be deceived’ – and so we need to know the Word well – we are to be people of the Book, not students of who is a 32nd degree Mason. The enemy likes to get us off track, for there are always groups of ‘pseudo-Bible students’ who love to trawl over the internet for every conspiracy theory, or DVD’s, that turbo-charge people into false excitement and frenzy that presages blindness. Yet sadly, many Adventists go for this kind of

thing, actually leading them to forget about God while strangely passing as a way of remembering Him, and in the process makes them feel pious. Odd, isn’t it?

So as believers, when we see the signs (Matt 24:3-8), and as our anticipation sweetens, hopes rise – then Jesus invokes the well-known metaphor of birth pains. The baby does not come on the first prenatal pains – such pains usually come in waves, but no one knows when the baby will come, whether it is on the 100th or the 1000th contraction, but the inexorable process of birth has begun. As we know, prophetically we are living in the last period of time – so let Jesus’ reminder of wars and rumors of wars etc. inspire us to Biblical godly living today, that encapsulates the three areas of discipleship – Knowing, Being, and Doing.

**Dr Mark Falconer**  
Tasmanian Conference Secretary





# TREASURY REPORT

## JANUARY - JULY 2021

During a time described as unpredictable, challenging, unexpected and uncertain, the finances of the Tasmanian Conference are improving, allowing further employment of new pastors and teachers in the field.

## CHURCH SYSTEM

Because the tithe has steadily grown over the last couple of years, we are now confident that the Conference is able to cater for an increase in field staff, with the possible addition of two more pastors.

For the period January to July 2021, we are reporting an increase of over 9% for the same period last year as can be seen in the first graph.

Offerings have increased as well, reporting an increase of over 17% with major growth in the Sabbath School and Conference Evangelism offerings (second graph).

## EDUCATION SYSTEM

According to census data, we are reporting student increase for Hilliard Christian School of 10% and for North West Christian School of 33% (last graph).

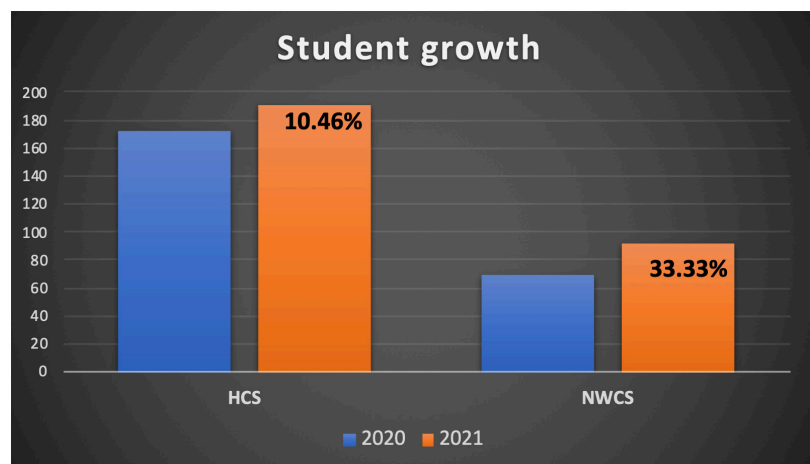
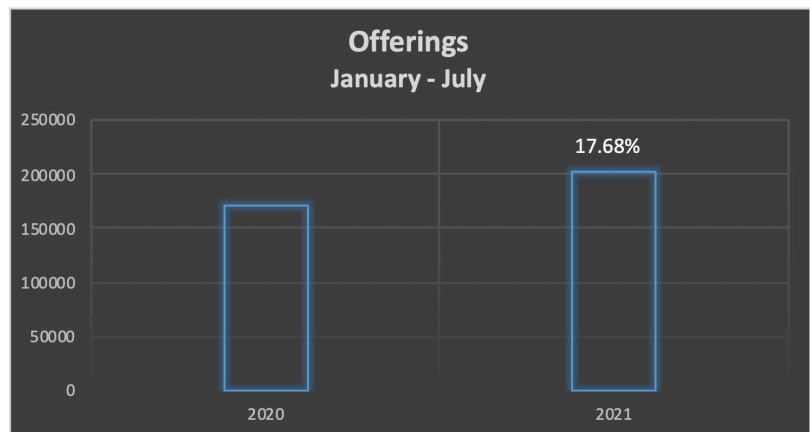
With these increases there are challenges in meeting typical needs such as employing quality teachers and providing modern facilities.

Both schools have been successful in obtaining BGA grants for a second consecutive year and this gives us confidence for the success of the building projects at both sites.

As we move into the second half of the year, we ask your prayers for God's endless guidance. Your continued financial support is going to be an integral part in allowing us to advance the work into un-entered areas.

Thank you for your generosity in offerings and in returning a faithful tithe to the Lord.

**Pr Cosmin Dan-Marica**  
Tasmanian Conference CFO



## Big Camp Cancelled for 2022

Unfortunately, due to the uncertainty caused by the Covid-19 Delta strain outbreak, the executive committee had to take the action to cancel big camp for 2022. The committee has taken the action to plan special Regional Sabbath meetings in their place.





# NEWS FROM THE TASMANIAN CONFERENCE APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

The conference appointments committee took the following actions at its most recent meeting that we felt our members would be interested to know about:

**Conference Family Ministries Directors** – Due to family health reasons, Luigi and Tekia Bocchino felt it necessary to resign from this position. In their place, Pr David & Mary Maxwell have been appointed as the Conference Family Ministries Directors. This includes Family, Women's and Men's Ministry on a 0.2 Full Time basis. Obviously, they are not superman and superwoman and will not be able to cover all of what those roles could include.

## NEWS FROM THE TASMANIAN CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The conference executive committee took the following actions at its most recent meetings that we felt our members would be interested to know about:

**Big Camp Cancelled for 2022** – As seen in this issue of TASDA, due to the uncertainty caused by the Covid-19 Delta strain, the executive committee sadly had to take the action to cancel big camp for 2022. We are planning special Regional Sabbath meetings in their place.

**Executive Committee Retreat 2021** – The Executive will be having a visioning and planning weekend retreat later this year.

**New Members Appointed for Standing Committees** – With the commencement of a new quadrennium all committee positions are vacated and new members chosen, with some past members continuing for the sake of continuity.

**Investments Committee:** Pr Gary Webster (Committee Chairman: Ex-officio); Dr Mark Falconer (Ex-officio); Pr Cosmin Dan-Marica (Committee Secretary: Ex-officio); Rodney Revell; Patrick Moan; Lawson Reid; Graeme Matthews; Greg Bott

**Pine Springs Campground Committee:** Pr Gary Webster (Committee Chairman: Ex-officio); Dr Mark Falconer (Ex-officio); Pr Cosmin Dan-Marica (Committee Secretary: Ex-officio); Pr Ray Codling; Mick Spaulding; Dean Way

**Spring Beach Youth Camp:** Pr Gary Webster (Committee Chairman: Ex-officio); Dr Mark Falconer (Ex-officio); Pr Cosmin Dan-Marica (Committee Secretary: Ex-officio); Ian & Robyn Dunlop (Camp Managers); Pr Daniel Matteo (Youth Director); Four lay members to be appointed at the next Executive Committee.

**School Board of Directors:** Pr Gary Webster (Chairman); Dr Mark Falconer (Secretary); Pr Cosmin Dan-Marica (CFO); Ashley Bailey (Tas Education Director); Brian Mercer (Permanent Invitee); Lee Menzie; Donna Shepherd; Tony O'Neil; Cheryl Walsh





# NOTICE BOARD



Conference Staff with Wendy at her send off luncheon

## WENDY SCOTT CHANGES PACE IN LIFE

Wendy Scott has decided to have a change of pace in life from what she has been used to for the last 11 years while working for the church at the conference office. She has truly been a blessing to so many people throughout our conference over the years since she joined our conference office team. Wendy has been a "Mother in Israel" in taking time to listen to members, and helping them with various needs that they have had when they have come to, or contacted our head office. Members have also been especially blessed by her kind help at our camp meetings. Above all she has been a great blessing to our office team and we will truly miss her and her wonderful and faithful contribution to God's work. Wendy, as you move in a new direction in life we pray God's continued blessing on your life as you move into a new phase of life with God.



Toa Kofeloa at the citizen ceremony

## WYNYARD CHURCH HAS NEW AUSSIE CITIZEN

On Wednesday August 18th, Wynyard Church Member, Toa Kofeloa, became an Australian Citizen at a Ceremony at the Waratah-Wynyard Council Chambers. Toa is from Tonga and met his wife to be, Keryn Walsh, when she was visiting Tonga on a Mission Trip with Auburn Adventist Church in 2008. After two years of long distance dating, Toa arrived in Australia in December 2010, and married Keryn. They have two children, are blessed to be living in Tasmania and are active members of our Wynyard Church. Congratulations Toa!



Small Group Meeting in St Helens

## FELLOWSHIP MEETING IN ST HELENS

A group of church members from Launceston and Scottsdale recently drove to St Helens Bayside Inn to enjoy a Sabbath meeting and fellowship with Adventists living on the East Coast. Pastor David Maxwell facilitated the small group meeting, with eight people attending. Music was provided by Kristen McGuire. Everyone agreed that they wanted to meet again and a future date is being planned. The group was very blessed when the owner of the venue donated the use of the room for the afternoon. Pray for this outreach and the hearts that will be touched.

Vicki Knight



Pr Peter Watts presenting at PROPHETICA in the Hobart Convention and Function Centre

## PROPHETICA 2021

PROPHETICA 2021 meetings were held at Ulverstone, Launceston, Scottsdale, Blundstone Arena and the Hobart Conference and Convention Centre. Between 90 – 130, non-members attended and thoroughly enjoyed the seven, 25-minute programs at each place. As we go to print, around 40 non-members are still attending the follow up evangelistic meetings in Scottsdale, Launceston, Rosny and the Hobart CBD. Those attending have expressed how much they are enjoying the various presentations. Decisions are being made for Christ. Please pray that the Spirit will bless those attending. We thank our members who are supporting these programs by their help, presence, interaction with and encouragement to the non-members who are attending. Such meetings are truly a team effort.



Yvonne Judd &amp; her husband Claude

## YVONNE JUDD (née Brown): 1920 – 2021

### Loss of a 'Mother in Israel'

One of the great mother's from Tasmania recently passed to rest at Avondale Retirement Village. Yvonne Judd was just a few days short of 101 at the time of her passing.

Yvonne grew up in Glen Huon, attended the SDA School there for her primary years and then won a bursary to Hobart High School, where she excelled. Following her matriculation in 1937, Yvonne decided to study nursing and graduated in 1942 from the Sydney Sanitarium and Hospital. It was there she met nurse husband-to-be Claude Judd and they married in 1943.

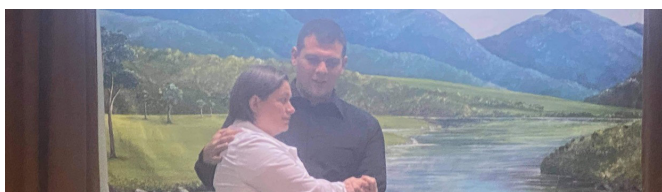
Claude decided to change from nursing to ministry and this led Yvonne to a life of support for his work, first in Central Western NSW and later to many appointments in the 'Adventist movement,' including as Pastor in Launceston, and as

a young President in Hobart in the early 1950's. Pastor Claude Judd was later a very caring and faithful President in South Australia, South NSW, Sydney and both of Trans-Australia and Trans-Tasman Union Conferences and was ably supported by Yvonne.

Yvonne and Claude had four sons: Warren (deceased); Bruce; Raymond; and Geoffrey. At the time of passing, they shared 10 grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren. Yvonne had a brilliant memory and knew her family and friends with a remarkable clarity, until following a stroke in 2018 her speech was limited. Yvonne was a loving, caring mother of faith and her sparkle remained until her passing, awaiting the call of the Master. Yvonne is survived by her husband Claude, who lives in Avondale House, Cooranbong.

## GLENORCHY BAPTISM

Glenorchy church celebrated with the heavenly hosts on the 5th of June, as Lauren Lee publically put her life in God's hands through baptism. She had looked forward to this day for a very long time. After she met her husband Nathaniel, she became interested in God's Word and began to pursue truth and a relationship with Jesus. She has become heavily involved in service at Glenorchy church also. Pastor Daniel began studying the Bible with her when she started editing the newsletter at Hilliard Christian School. She (and her beautiful kids Eleanor and Esther) have become beloved members of the Hilliard family also. After the baptism, Mr Steve Littlewood (Hilliard Principal and one of the elders at Glenorchy) oversaw her vote into membership. Lauren's family and the Hilliard staff then joined her on the podium as Pr Daniel prayed for her continued journey with Jesus.



Pr Daniel Matteo baptising Lauren Lee



Glenorchy Head Elder, Steve Littlewood, welcomes Lauren into the Glenorchy Family

## LAUNCESTON CHURCH BAPTISM

It was a high day for Launceston Church on the 14th of August, as Racquelle & Alexander Abetz were baptised and welcomed into the fellowship with Christ. The two new young members were excited and absolutely glowing as they followed Jesus through the waters, and were warmly welcomed into our Church. They have been attending with their family for some time now and excitedly look forward to Bible studies each week with their Pastor & his wife, David & Mary Maxwell. It is wonderful to see two young people demonstrating their faith and trust in Jesus and displaying the evidence of Jesus shining out through their lives. Welcome to you both, into the Family of Christ.



Alexander &amp; Racquelle Abetz baptised by Pr David



Pr David welcomes Racquelle &amp; Alexander into the Launceston Family





Hobart Church Plant meeting on Sabbath afternoon

## CHURCH PLANT MEETINGS BEGIN IN HOBERT CBD VENUE

The Hobart Church Plant led by Pr Eugene and his wife Michelle now has a meeting place in the middle of the Hobart CBD. I am currently conducting a series of evangelistic meetings with them as a follow up to their PROPHETICA seminar they conducted. I am amazed at the commitment and creative energy Eugene and Michelle bring to this church plant. They are so committed to Christ and helping people and leading them to Jesus. Meals are a key part in building relationships at the church plant and somehow Michelle, who is also a nurse and homemaker, makes time to cook for those attending the Sabbath afternoon meetings. Fortunately, they have a great team of members from around Hobart to support them in this important mission to bring people to Jesus.

This is only the first part of the project. The plan is for Pr Eugene to establish a centre of influence where they can conduct computer courses, teach English for overseas university students, conduct health programs and mental health seminars etc. This centre will also be used for Sabbath services. Unfortunately, this building is rented and is not available as a centre of influence during the week. Therefore, the executive committee at its last meeting took action to investigate purchasing a building, part of which can be rented out as an income stream, and the rest used as a centre of influence. Recently the church plant had its first baptism, when Sue Zhong followed Jesus in baptism. Please pray for this important work.

*Pr Eugene Estil*



Serving attendees at the Church Plant



Meal time at the Hobart Church Plant



Pr Eugene Estil baptising Sue into Jesus and the Hobart Church Plant family



Eugene & Michelle taking quiz time at the Hobart Church Plant PROPHETICA seminar



## PATHFINDER LEADERSHIP AWARD WEEKEND

On the third weekend of July, Pathfinder club staff from around Tassie gathered at the Conference office in Hobart to complete the third instalment of the Pathfinder Leadership award! Spending the weekend worships focussing on the teaching ministry of Jesus and how that informs kid's ministry leadership. These awesome people were willing to give up their weekend to focus on developing their skills in serving their Pathfinders, their Church and God. Amazing!



Pathfinder Leaders working (and eating) at the award training weekend

## TASSIE PATHFINDER RALLY 2021

From August 20-22, the Tassie Pathfinders met together in Dysart, just north of Hobart, for the annual Pathfinder Rally! This year the theme was "The Lord's Heritage," which focused on the history of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Pathfinders camped at the Woodfield Adventure Park where the facilities and chapel are designed to look like an 1800's era village, which helped to set the scene!

Pastor Bruce Grosse and Rebecca Koolik

designed brand new SDA history honours for Pathfinders and Adventurers so that the kids were able to cover the history of the Church, not just around the world, but also in Australia, Tasmania and in their very own churches.

Saturday night activities included games that were played by 1800's youth and Sunday morning was a hike to a local waterfall for pictures of God's awesome creation.

Our conference president, Pr Gary Webster was with us on the Sabbath morning and was impressed with the

focus on the history of our church. He commented, "This is awesome what you guys have done for our kids and youth in looking back to see how God has led our church in the past through dedicated pioneers. By doing what you have done this weekend, you are in fact helping our kid's and youth learn important principles that will help us reach people with Christ. Also great to see you sharing with the Pathfinders the Biblical significance of the 2300 day/year prophecy to the world today. I am really proud of what Daniel and our Pathfinder leaders around Tassie are doing."



Left to right: Chapel where the church history teaching took place; Pathfinder musicians at the church service; Pr Daniel teaching the church history honour; Pr Bruce sharing Adventist Pioneer stories



Nothing like Pathfinder damper



Pathfinders at the rally



## ROSNY & LAUNCESTON PATHFINDERS WORK & PLAY TOGETHER IN HOBART

On the 15th and 16th of May, Rosny and Launceston Pathfinders joined up in Hobart to complete the Rock Climbing and Ice Skating honours. After a great day at Rosny church they travelled to the ice skating rink where they opened it up also to Glenorchy church and Hobart youth. It was great to see church members and kids from north and south having a great time together. A big thankyou to Rosny Pathfinder Director Nigel Koolik for co-ordinating the event.



Rosny & Launceston Pathfinders at the Ice Skating Rink

## NORTHERN YOUTH REFINERY

Youth from Launceston Church gathered on June 26th for the Northern Refinery with Pr Daniel on the subject of Biblical Understanding and Interpretation. The group joined in with the church for a fellowship lunch and evening car rally social. A great time had by all!



Youth at the Northern Youth Refinery in Launceston

## SOUTHERN YOUTH RALLY AT HILLIARD SCHOOL

On the 28th-29th June, teens and youth from southern Tassie met up at Hilliard Christian School for an awesome youth rally with Pastor Joel Slade and Miss Olivia Ellis, both from South Australia. The theme was "Made New". The two speakers had come to address the primary and high school students at Hilliard for their annual Week of Worship, and stayed on for the Sabbath youth rally. Activities included worship, lunch, a digital puzzle adventure through "1st century Jerusalem", pizza and evening basketball. It was great to all be together!



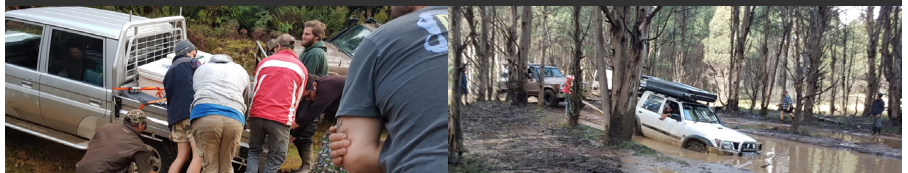
Pr Joel Slade sharing at the Youth Rally; Eating together at the Youth Rally

## 4-WHEEL DRIVING IN GOD'S OUTDOORS

From June 11-3 more than 30 Kids, Youth and Young Adults from around Tassie met up to go four-wheel driving around the north. With morning and evening worships with Pr Daniel Matteo and Natalie Moore, it was a wonderful time to admire God's creation in such an idyllic setting. From beach and dune driving, to pine forest, mud and rock hopping, Tassie's nature and weather did not disappoint. Please continue to pray for the young people around our state.



Tassie members 4-Wheel Driving in God's backyard



The inevitable always happens on a 4WD expedition

There's got to be a better way to clean your car



## DEVONPORT HELPS ADVENTIST EDUCATION WORK IN MADANG-MANUS MISSION

To further the partnership between the Tasmanian Conference and the Madang Manus Mission, Devonport church members collected items of educational value to send to the 18 Mission schools in the Madang Province in PNG. The donations were packaged and fastened to a pallet, which has now arrived in Madang. These are now being distributed to the schools, many of which do not have road access.

A big thank-you to the church members who contributed cash and goods to this program and to our God whose blessings have been very much in evidence. There are almost 4000 students in SDA Mission schools in the Madang Province, many of them having to finish their schooling at year 8, as there is no pathway in the Mission system for them to continue to year 12.

The conference-wide offering collected earlier in the year has resulted in just over \$20,000 being sent to Madang to help build new classrooms at Panim as part of the development of this site as the senior high school boarding facility, eventually catering for up to 600 students. A submission prepared by Bob Walker and presented to the Department of National Planning and Monitoring in Port Moresby by the Mission President, Pr Garry Laukei, has resulted in a further \$75,000 being allocated to this project this year. Not much, considering the development that is required, but an encouraging start.

A big thank-you to all who have contributed to this point and we will endeavour to keep you in touch with things as they unfold.

*Adrian Smith, Devonport Church*



Students at one of our Adventist Madang Manus Schools displaying gifts sent by Devonport Church



Gifts being packed in Devonport Church for Adventist Schools in Madang Manus province



Unwrapping a gift box sent by Devonport Church at one of our Adventist Schools in Madang Manus province



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## **SINGLE ADVENTIST MINISTRIES NATIONAL CONVENTION**

**(Thursday 30th DEC 2021 - Monday 3rd JAN 2022)**

**WHERE:** Adventist Alpine Village, 122 Tinworth Drive, Jindabyne NSW

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER:** PR DARREN CHEERS

**THEME:** DEVELOPING HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

**FULL ACCOMMODATION & MEALS:** \$370

**EARLY BIRD FEE:** \$340 UP TO 26TH OCT.

**APPLY ONLINE** 2nd August, 11am **CLOSE** 12th December 2021, 11pm

**Link to Registration:** <https://events.adventist.org.au/event/info/7208>

**SAVE THE DATES, START PLANNING, ORGANIZE TO CARPOOL CELEBRATE NEW YEAR'S EVE WITH FRIENDS!**

**Enquiries Email:** [snswsinglesministries@adventist.org.au](mailto:snswsinglesministries@adventist.org.au)

OR Wilma Falcke 0424 097 484 (AH or Text)







# THE ADVENTIST FAMILY IN A COVID WORLD

## A Message from our New Australian Union Conference President

I believe that we've been raised as a church to proclaim the 3 Angels messages, in particular the 3rd, since Ellen White said that the 1st and 2nd were proclaimed in 1843-44 and that from that time on the 3rd was to be shared. More prominent, and encapsulated in that message, is the everlasting Gospel, the Good News, Christ in us, the HOPE of glory! The gospel of Jesus transforms you and me, and we praise the Lord for what He has done and continues to do as the author and finisher of our faith.

Please read my reflections below within the missional movement context outlined above:

At this moment, I'm troubled, as I'm sure you are:

- There is an ugly spirit of anger, distrust, cynicism, vitriolic verbal abuse from many. An exhibition of the types of behaviour outlined in **Galatians 5:19-21**... "hatred, discord, fits of rage, dissensions, factions...I warn you that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God."
- These behaviours are of the kingdom of darkness, and are being manifested on social media, via emails, phone calls, text messages and even within our own worship gatherings. It's distressingly unpleasant for many who are quiet and wanting to be blessed instead of

accosted for their differing choices. For some reason people feel compelled to hurl accusations at one another without stopping to consider the impact on the body of Christ.

- Regardless of what side of an issue you stand on (**irrespective of the topic**), I implore us all to treat each other with respect as per the following Biblical reasons:
  - > **Romans 14:4** "Who are you to judge!" - Whether we believe in vaccines or not, who are we to judge the other for the choice they have made? We don't know why they made their choice. Let us stop lambasting each other and instead, focus on the HOPE in Jesus for a world that is dying right before our eyes.
  - > **Romans 14:1** "Accept him whose faith is weak without passing judgement on disputable matters" - We are united by one God and faith, one baptism, our doctrinal beliefs, and our HOPE in the very soon coming of Jesus. Why are we expending so much emotional time and energy on disputable matters, which are causing division and factions, instead of bringing people to Jesus?

- > **Galatians 5:16** "Live by the Spirit and do not gratify the natural sinful nature" - It's natural to argue when we live in the flesh. Let us desist and live by faith as an example to all.
- > **Galatians 5:22** God's people manifest in speech, comportment, behaviour, and manner the fruit of the spirit "... Love, patience, joy, peace, kindness, goodness, self-control...against these there is no law!" - Are we seeing this in our engagement, our interactions with each other? If not, why not? Maybe we are losing the centrality of the gospel in the 3 angels' messages, and are so focused on end time events that we are neglecting the wonderful fruit of the Spirit, heavenly citizenship behaviours? It is evident that bitterness, cynicism and distrust is marring our fellowship. We need to help restore and heal by sharing the truth that will set us free.
- > **Romans 13:10** Love does NO HARM to its neighbour because it's the fulfilment of the law - That verse is in the context of the end times.
- > **Romans 13:1-7** Honour the law of the land as long as it does not break your conscientious free will. Pray for our government and its leaders



irrespective of whether you like them or not.

- I'm distressed by the oppressive feeling that some are experiencing while in lockdown. It's the oppression of isolation and it is harming our people mentally, physically, and spiritually. It is up to us to encourage, equip, by contacting them regularly and blessing our people with words of hope and comfort. **Consider sharing the LIVE MORE project and 7 dimensions of Wellness from [www.eliawellness.com](http://www.eliawellness.com) It's a wonderful, useful resource for these times.**
- What should our attitude then be? Pr Craig Vanas recently gave an inspiring worship message, and I share his chosen passage:
  - > Colossians 4:2-6
    - » **Devote ourselves to prayer** - use this time to build our relationship with Jesus in preparation, in hope, and in love.
    - » **Be watchful and prepared** – the Lord's coming will be as a thief in the night.
    - » **Be Thankful!** - Let's be grateful throughout the day. I find myself giving thanks at every opportunity in order to ward off cynicism and a critical spirit. I find myself praying more for others and leaders in particular.
    - » **Look for the doors** that God is opening so that we can share the mystery of Christ.
    - » **Pray that we can share** the message clearly.
    - » **Be wise in the way that we act** towards outsiders and make the most of every opportunity.
    - » **Let our conversations be full of grace**, seasoned with salt and always be ready with a reason for the hope that is in us.
  - > Colossians 3:1-17 - what a powerful passage for God's people.
    - » When the time comes and we are open again, we must not have churches that will be open only for some or open only for

others on whatever other issue that has arisen, which may divide. Instead, we are to be united in love and fellowship, but not neglecting wisdom and Holy Spirit discernment.

- » God has called us to be open for all (respecting the guidelines as outlined by the laws of our land).
  - Provide online livestream or zoom for those who don't feel comfortable coming to church for whatever reason. Then we can continue to worship in spirit and truth, irrespective of disputable matters, and can provide options for all.
  - As Paul said, be all things to all, to win some for Christ. We have the creative intellect to be innovative in giving options to people so that we can worship in unity even with our distinct and at times opposing understandings.
- » Let us continue to provide care and support, irrespective of position or bias.
- » Let us be the hands and feet, the eyes, ears, and heart of the God of the Kingdom of Heaven.
- As Leaders, let us be wise in what we post on social media, on what we share in our services, and in how we nurture and encourage our people. We each have influence for good or for not so good...use it wisely.

In conclusion, I share the following from our colleague, Pr Matthew Pearce from the C4 church on the Central Coast:

*"I have been watching media and social media and I have seen some things happening that are very concerning. It is as if lines are being drawn, weapons are being loaded, and ready for a battle against each other like has never been seen before. It is to the point where even friendships may break down. I have seen friends post, "go get vaccinated" and others say, "don't." If you go through my social media posts, you will not see anything around either.*

*Some may think Pr Matt is sitting on the fence! Well, let me say this, "I am not on the fence, because there is no fence! There is no battle here for me to fight. I am simply choosing not to be distracted."*

If there is a battle, it is not ours to fight. Many are so distracted and are forgetting what we have been tasked to do and where we need to put our energies.

I read an article this week in Adventist World, in which John Bradshaw from It Is Written said, "We must decide where we will place all our energies. We can have opinions and defend issues, but we must demonstrate to the world that our focus is Jesus," he said. "If you are wasting your energy on conspiracy theories, in what you perceive to be evils in the church, you are robbing God of energy. He wants to use us to reach others," Bradshaw explained. "Let's continue to study and read, but let's not fight about it. Let's not get distracted. He told us, 'Occupy till I come.'"

I want to challenge you - Where are you putting your energy? Who are you leading to Jesus? Let us put our energy into sharing Jesus and his soon return so we can go and be with him and not have to continue in this sick old world.

As we seek to lead God's movement with the giftedness He has given to each of us, may the Lord continue to guide and give us wisdom through the Holy Spirit's indwelling presence. Maranatha!



**Pr Terry Johnson**  
President of the Australian Union Conference



# NORTH WEST CHRISTIAN SCHOOL NEWS

## PREMIERS READING CHALLENGE

Students from Prep to Year 6 are encouraged to make reading a part of their day by reading 10 books in 10 weeks. The reading challenge began on Monday April 26 and finished on Friday July 2. Students have eagerly participated in the challenge commenting that 10 books is not very many.

## WEEKLY SCHOOL VALUES

Each week we focus on a different value to encourage students in these areas. We have chosen the following seven values: Respect, Temperance, Compassion, Wisdom, Bravery, Justice and Service. These values are rotated through each Term with certificates given to those who are able to demonstrate these within the school environment. It is wonderful to see students putting these values into practice in their daily interaction with others.

## CHAPELS

One day each week our chaplain Pastor David Leo share God's message with the staff and students. He takes staff worship, and then takes three chapels throughout the day. These are split into the following: Primary (Prep to Year 4); Middle School (Years 5-8); and Senior School (Years 9-12). His focus has been on our weekly school values.

## CROSS COUNTRY

Year 11 and 12 Sport and Recreation class organised an on campus cross-country event for our Kinder to Year 10 students. Kinder ran 400m, Prep, Year 1 students ran 800m, Year 2-4 ran 2km, Year 5-7 ran 3km and Year 8-10 completed 4km. We began at 11am and finished by 2:30pm. It was great to see the majority of students enthusiastically participate in this event and hear the encouragement and cheering from students, parents and grandparents.



NWCS students in campus cross country running event

## MUSIC

The NWCS Strings ensemble and choir held a fundraising concert in June. The students presented a variety of items including solo presentations. The event was supported by staff, family and friends. The proceeds from this event will be used to support the Nova Muse Festival to be held at North West Christian School 3-8 October 2021. The festival will bring some of the best talent

in music and music tutoring from around the country, offering their skills to teach those interested in furthering their skills in the instrument of their choice.



Members of the NWCS Strings Ensemble

## MATERNITY LEAVE

We welcome Mrs Mirian Ennis to teach the Prep – Year 2 class while Mrs Cheridan Weedon is on maternity leave. Mrs Weedon welcomed a healthy boy into her life during the July School holidays.

## OLYMPIC GAMES

During Term 3, the Year 3 & 4 class was studying the Olympic Games in Tokyo. Students had a great time tracking the medals earned by their chosen country, designing medals, team mascots and uniforms. Students also wrote information reports about the athletes, events and countries involved in this year's Olympics. Much fun was had by all!



NWCS Year 3 & 4 class with the Olympic Torches they designed and made

## DITTO, THE BRAVEHEART'S LION CUB

We had a visit from Bravehearts, who presented their personal safety show to Kinder – Year 4 students. The Keep Safe Adventure Show stars Braveheart's lovable lion cub, Ditto, alongside a specially trained presenter. The fun interactive live show teaches children essential personal safety skills and knowledge using age appropriate language, song, and dance. The program empowers children with personal safety skills that they can use in everyday life.





Ditto, the Braveheart's Lion Cub

## WINGS WILDLIFE PARK VISIT

Kinder – Year 6 visited Wings Wildlife Park where they had a fun interactive guided tour. Students were able to pat an echidna, a wombat and a sugar glider. They enjoyed being able to feed the wallabies and view the huge variety of animals. At lunch break there was a lot of chatter about the different animals students interacted with and which ones they liked the best.



NWCS students at the Wings Wildlife Park

# HILLIARD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL NEWS



200 Guests from school families and churches at the Sacred Concert

What a tremendous time we had on Saturday evening of the 19th of June at our Hilliard Christian School Sacred Concert. Over 200 guests from the school families and supportive church members came together as the children performed pieces coordinated by the music teachers - Mrs Higgins and Mrs Littlewood. They also lead out in preaching and worship. The evening was themed around the plan of salvation with the students taking turns telling the whole story of Scripture in brief from Genesis to Revelation. These were punctuated by wonderful spiritual performances. After some delicious refreshments provided by the staff, we joined together in a social time of games and community. Please continue to pray for Hilliard Christian School that it will grow and prosper, and particularly that our grade 11-12 program will be successful!



Ma Littlewood leads a school choir





# Nova Muse FESTIVAL

**3-8 OCTOBER 2021 | \$300\***

**THE INAUGURAL NOVA MUSE FESTIVAL BRINGS  
TO PENGUIN, TASMANIA, RENOWNED STRING  
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PROFESSIONAL **FESTIVAL CONCERTS** | PUBLIC **MASTER CLASSES** & LUNCHTIME **CONCERTS**  
| **ENSEMBLE** PLAYING | **GRAND CONCERT** FINALE | CATERED FOOD | ACTIVITIES

## FESTIVAL ARTISTS

SUSAN COLLINS - Artistic Director/Violinist  
ALEX RANIERI - Festival Mentor/Pianist  
MICHELE WALSH - Festival Mentor/Violinist  
LUISIANA MORTON - Tutor/Violinist

SARAH SCHEERMEIJER - President/Violinist/Violist  
PATRICIA POLLETT - Festival Mentor/Violist  
GYÖRGY DÉRI - Festival Mentor/Cellist  
JAMES ANDERSON - Tutor/Cellist



**\*COST - \$300 per person**

**Applications end 20 September 2021**

Price includes master classes, workshops, vegetarian lunches,  
two festival concert tickets each night, and more.



[northwestchristianschool.com.au/nova-muse-festival/](http://northwestchristianschool.com.au/nova-muse-festival/)