



MARCH 2024

BIG CAMP 2024

It has been a while since we have had a full-length Big Camp in Tasmania, so the 2024 Big Camp came with high expectations, and it did not disappoint. Not only did we have great camping weather, but the fellowship and food all added to the spiritual high that was experienced by all.

The keynote speaker Pastor Lee Venden delivered his message with clarity and conviction following the theme of "It's who you know." Many people who were not on the campground were also able to enjoy the messages via the livestream and this was another way for people who could not make it to camp to receive a blessing from the messages that Pastor Venden delivered. All messages are now available on the Tasmanian Conference website.

Both Sabbaths there were approximately 450 people on the grounds enjoying a time of fellowship.

We would also like to recognise Pastor Nicu Dumbrava for the morning devotionals and all the other visitors who were engaged as speakers in the other divisions and at the expo tables. Other highlights included a baptism, a pastoral ordination, a concert, a mission offering and two communal meals, a family barbecue, and the Sanitarium breakfast.

A big thanks goes out to all the staff and volunteers who helped run the camp. From those who were division leaders, to those cleaning the amenities and those who helped set up and pack down, everyone worked together to make Big Camp 2024 a spiritual high and a great start to the year. Thank you also to those who gave feedback.

We are planning Big Camp in 2025 from January 17 to 25. We look forward to seeing you there.



SCAN THE CODE
TO WATCH THE
BIG CAMP 2024
RECORDINGS ON
YOUTUBE.



@tasmanianadventists

COME AND SEE

Pr Rick Hergenhan

In John chapter 1 we find Jesus, after being baptised, interacting with two of John's disciples. It happened like this; Jesus is walking past John the Baptist and his disciples. John says, "Look, the Lamb of God!"

When the disciples heard this two of them followed Jesus. Jesus sees them and says to them, "What do you want?"

They answer, "Where are you staying?"

Jesus replies, "Come and you will see."

So, they went and saw where Jesus was staying and spent the day with Him. The Bible does not record exactly what they saw or discussed that day. However, we do know that from that day on Andrew was counted as one of Jesus' disciples.

This interaction is fascinating to me. To be counted as a disciple of Jesus was quite simple. At its simplest level it was following Jesus and doing what he was doing. I recently heard a presenter give a basic definition of discipleship as, "monkey see, monkey do." In other words what you see Jesus doing you copy and repeat it. Like an apprentice learning from a tradesman.

What is interesting is what Andrew does the next day. The very next day Andrew finds his brother Simon, tells him that

Jesus is the Messiah and takes him and introduces him to Jesus. From this invitation to meet a friend, Simon also becomes a disciple of Jesus. Clearly introducing people to Jesus is something that is core to being a disciple.

Notice Andrew did not need certain qualifications or a fancy title to tell people about Jesus. Andrew had one day's experience with Jesus and then went and introduced Andrew to Him.

You might feel like you do not have enough experience or training to introduce people to Jesus, but this interaction tells us that if you are a disciple of Jesus, you have all the qualifications and titles necessary to invite people to meet Him. Andrew had only one more day experience with Jesus than Simon but that was enough for Him to make the recommendation and introduction.

This is a challenge for each of us. Is there someone that the Holy Spirit is impressing you to introduce to Jesus, your Friend and Savior? You do not need a fancy pitch or all the answers to begin. You just need to follow the example of the Master and invite people to come and see for themselves.

CONFERENCE STAFFING 2024



The greatest single investment we have as a conference is in people. The right people in the right jobs is a key way to further the mission of the church. We can thank the Lord for the team of pastors, teachers, principals, camp managers, administrators, and volunteers we have in Tasmania this year.

Joining our team this year as a Bible worker is Henry Higgins. Up until the end of 2023 Henry has been teaching at Hilliard Christian School but has felt the Lord calling him back to Bible working. This year Henry, along with his wife Chanel and children are serving at the New Norfolk church. Welcome Henry and family.

Serving the Collinsvale church this year is Ben Ashby. Up until the end of 2023 Ben has been serving as a full-time chaplain at Hilliard Christian school. While the majority of his time will still be spent as the chaplain at Hilliard, Ben will add Collinsvale to his duties as well.

The rest of the pastoral appointments stay unchanged and are listed below.

- Wynyard, Smithton and King Island- Pastor Darryl Groves
- Ulverstone and Burnie- Pastor Afi Tuaoi
- Devonport and Chaplaincy at North-West Christian School- Jacob Ellis
- Deloraine, Launceston, Georgetown and St Mary's- Pastor David Maxwell
- Scottsdale- Pastor Rick Hergenhan
- Rosny- Pastor Mark Falconer
- Glenorchy and Margate- Pastor David Cherry

As each of these pastors fulfil their duties in the various roles they have been appointed, I request your continued prayer and support.



NEW CFO APPOINTED

The Tasmanian Conference has appointed a new CFO, Kelvin Wood, who is currently serving as business manager for Adventist schools on the mid-North coast of NSW.

We are pleased to have Kelvin join the team and look forward to working with him to carry forward the church's mission of making disciples who make disciples.

With a diverse professional background, Mr Wood's experience in finance began with positions such as accountant, payroll supervisor, and office manager. His journey in the education sector started in 2009 at a Christian school in Victoria, where he initially worked as a senior finance officer and office manager before taking on the role of business manager from 2014 to 2020.

Serving in Adventist education since 2020, Mr Wood commented on the new challenge of serving the Church Company for the first time. "The position

is not one I thought I would ever be asked to do, [but] I have always let God lead and [I] go where He thinks I can help. As I say when I am asked how long I will be at a place: I am here for a season, and where I go is up to God."

Mr Wood is married to Pam, and they have five children and seven grandchildren. One of their sons, Josh, is currently serving as the Conference Trust Services director.

"My wife is very supportive of my work and as we discussed the call, we thought it would be a new challenge and experience. There was lot of prayer that went into it and fleeces laid out. We have never explored Tasmania, it is a place we have talked about visiting. All my children have been supportive of where I go, and Tasmania is another place they can visit," he said.

Mr Wood commenced in the role on March 18.

BIG CAMP NEWS

Darryl Groves Ordination

As members of the body of Christ each of us has been given a gift for the benefit of the body as a whole. While at camp we recognised Pastor Darryl Groves' call to ministry through his ordination as a minister of the Gospel. Thank you for using your ministry gift here in Tasmania Pastor Darryl. And thank you from all the kids, big and little, for your stories during camp.



Youth

The Youth theme at Big Camp was "Re:Think Faith". Pr Jacob Ugljesa from South Queensland lead our talks in the evenings by challenging and affirming our understanding of the fundamentals of our faith such as the Bible, Jesus and the resurrection, how does our faith in Christ matter to our everyday life? The evening meetings were followed by a time of socialising in the youth café, where there were hot chips, drinks, table tennis, 8-ball and just sitting around chatting.

In the mornings we challenged the ideas of some of our most important doctrines like the Sabbath, State of the Dead and the Millennium. In the afternoons we had fun activities and community service. This is a time of our young people's lives where they begin to choose whether they are Cultural Seventh-day Adventist or Christian Seventh-day Adventist.

Tasmania is blessed to have a strong unit of youth who are intelligent, practical and are ready to be leaders in our conference. A big thanks to Pastor Jacob for his challenging talks, Russel Harder and his team for looking after our sound and visuals, Natasha Bakker and the band for the uplifting music, and all our youth and young people that made our week a fun week of worship.

Baptism

Levi Ashton was baptised during Big Camp. Congratulations Levi for making a public commitment to being a disciple of Jesus. The Smithton church is excited to have you as a member and looking forward to encouraging you and helping you grow to be a disciple who makes disciples.

JETS

The JETS shed had 35-40 excited young people who throughout Big Camp, enjoyed interacting, worshipping, and doing activities together. Lyndelle Peterson spoke on how God can use them as young people for his purpose.

Though many of our leaders became ill during the week, it was encouraging to hear of parents and school teachers jumping in to help run the division. All the leaders want to extend a massive thank you and appreciation to all who gave up their camp plans to serve our young people. We are all looking forward to ministering to as many of our young people as possible next year.

Dive In Deep - Primary

What a week of splash-splashy fun the Primary children had a Big Camp this year. With the help of many wonderful, enthusiastic volunteers, the children dived into God's Word and explored the treasures hidden inside.

BIG CAMP NEWS

Every day the children sang songs, listened to Bible stories, and learnt new and fascinating animal facts from Professor Octopush. There was also a daily craft and excursions where new friendships were made, and memories created.



Kindy

Our smallest folks, under 5 years old, and their families, had an awesome and engaging time each day of Big Camp in the Kindy shed. Following the Bible story of creation, morning playful worship sessions explored a part of God's world with music and movement. The trial afternoon Playgroup was an enormous success with inspiring sensory play and invitations to explore nature.



Big Tent

"It's Who You Know" was the theme for Big Camp this year, and in the Big Tent the spiritual programs in worship, singing, and prayer didn't disappoint. Through the morning ministry of Pastor Nicu Dumbrava and the evening meetings with Pastor Lee Venden, we were encouraged to seek to

know Jesus in a deeper walk with Him. By knowing Him, we were privileged to show Christ's love, forgive others in harmony with His will, and to share the gospel. Many campers shared their joy of Camp, and through God's Spirit, look forward to the experience of Big Camp in 2025.



TWO ADRA 20+ YEAR CELEBRATIONS IN TASMANIA

ADRA OP SHOP ULVERSTONE

In November 2023 the Ulverstone ADRA Op Shop celebrated their 20 years of operation. The manager Carol O'Neil celebrated and thanked past and current volunteers for all their generous contributions to a successful op shop. She arranged the celebration at the Ulverstone church hall, incorporating an evening meal and gifts, as well as time to meet ADRA's CEO Denison Grellmann and National Op shop coordinator Gordon Coutts.

Denison, Gordon and Carol thanked the volunteers, presenting them with certificates and a bouquet of flowers. Carol, Denison and Gordon acknowledged the Ulverstone volunteers as vital for enabling funds to be raised and utilized to support the local community needs and both local and international disasters.



This celebration was both joyous and solemn as Carol and her team remembered all they had achieved together over the years with each other and with vital volunteer Truss, who now is resting in Christ.

Carol said she has been blessed with an amazing team of volunteers who go above and beyond to assist, support and care for others within their local community, throughout Australia and

internationally. Carol and her team shine their hearts of light and ADRA's purpose of serving humanity so all may live as God intended with justice, compassion, and love.

Justice, Compassion and Love

Micah 6:8 – "What does the Lord require of you? To act justly, love mercy and to walk humbly with your God".

ADRA OP SHOP GLENORCHY

In December 2023 the Glenorchy ADRA Op Shop celebrated their 20 years of operation at the Glenorchy Church hall. The manager Sandra Fehre and her team decided to celebrate with an afternoon high tea for the past and current ADRA op shop volunteers. Sandra and her team decided to support the local Hope in a Suitcase project through engaging local church member Leah Revell and her team to cater for the high tea.

In harmony Sandra, Angela and Robyn lovingly decorated the tables with fresh flowers, table centrepieces, teacups and plates. The past and present ADRA volunteers were welcomed by Sandra to enjoy a wonderful range of fresh and baked high tea delicacies in celebration of their 20 years of supporting their local communities as well as Australian and international disasters.

The special guests were Jeff and Robyn Parker who began the Glenorchy ADRA

Op Shop and the Chance on Main program for Glenorchy youth. Robyn was the first manager of the Glenorchy ADRA Op Shop, followed by Irene Sutcliffe, Kevin Rosevears and Sandra Fehre. Jeff highlighted God's blessings and opportunities to connect and support the Glenorchy community through a combination of revenue raised from the ADRA op shop sales and state sourced community grant funding.

Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think." Ephesians 3:20

Together Sandra, Jeff and Heather presented certificates and a self-care jar of bath salts to 50 volunteers to acknowledge and thank them all for their generous support, assistance, and work to enable the Glenorchy ADRA Op Shop to be a wonderful success. Volunteers that had given 5, 10 or 20 years of

service were acknowledged with badges for their contribution and service. The volunteers who have given generous of their time for 20 years included Judy Beadle, Irene Sutcliffe, Irene Woolley, Doreen Dunlop and Sandra Fehre. As Sandra highlighted, our ADRA volunteers shine their light and love for others and serve humanity as God intended with compassion and love above all things.

Please take the time to thank our ADRA managers and volunteers as they work in love to embrace, empower, and witness to our communities here in Tasmania, around Australia and across the world.

Thank you

Psalms 9:1

I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart;

I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.

NEWS

ADRA CONNECTIONS OP SHOP LAUNCESTON

Hello to all from the team in Launceston. The ADRA Connections Op Shop in Launceston recently celebrated our first-year birthday with ADRA and what an exciting year it has been!

My name is Denise Delphin and I came in as the new manager back in January 2023. I have a background in community service over many years in the northern suburbs and to be back (after retiring) working alongside a wonderful team is such a joy.

We have worked hard as a team to continue the wonderful work of this little shop that has been a part of the community for over 15 years. Of course, with a new team comes innovative ideas, and we have implemented lots of those ideas into the daily running and layout of the shop. We think it looks great, and our community tells us it is too. Thank you everyone for your ongoing support!



One of the things I was particularly passionate about getting underway is our twice-weekly Community Pantry to assist people in times of need with free dry food, bread and best of all some fresh garden produce. We work towards the notion of "Take What you Need, Give What you Can, When you Can" and our local community and community gardens have embraced this by sharing plenty of nutritious excess garden produce. Community looking after community, don't you just love it? I know I do.

We have also assisted many local

groups with both monetary and goods/ items donations. These local groups also work tirelessly to support community needs with freezer filler food programs, school garden programs, youth activity programs, outreach food services to people who currently don't have a home, community events for all abilities and support for the RSPCA and Just Cats programs that support to people's animals that then assists people to leave family violence situations.

Regards,
Denise and Team

Converge

From February 7-10, around 800 young people converged to Stuarts Point, NSW to spend a time of worship, fun and fellowship. This was the eighth Converge meeting since 2016. This year Pastor Mesach Soli inspired the youth with stories of the gospel to encourage the youth to follow God's calling in their lives despite their perceived limitations. Pastor Sylvia Mendez led morning meetings by encouraging our youth to understand what worship means and gave practical tips on how to plan and do daily devotions.

The youth reported on how much they enjoyed being around their peers and learning that they have similar challenges and blessings of being Seventh-day Adventist in various parts around Australia. We had a 100 percent increase in attendance from Tasmania. Last year we had one Tasmanian attend, this year we had two. I am hoping for a 400 percent increase for 2025.



NEWS

PATHFINDER & ADVENTURER INVESTITURES

The months of November and December are Pathfinders and Adventurers Investiture season. Investiture is a wonderful time to acknowledge and reflect on memories created and achievements of the year. It is an opportunity for our churches to bless our Pathfinders, Adventurers, parents, and club leaders. Our Pathfinder clubs around the world are still our strongest discipleship program that creates leaders in our global church, and there are certainly leaders in our Tasmanian clubs. Thank you to churches, leaders, and our young people for investing your time in Jesus and each other.

We acknowledge the hard work and dedication that our leaders and the parents and young people put in to making the Pathfinder and Adventurer year special and memorable.



BURNIE



GLENORCHY



DEVONPORT



LAUNCESTON



ROSNY



NORTH WEST REGIONAL

The churches on the North West from Smithton, Wynyard, Burnie, Ulverstone, and Devonport, came together for their first spiritual regional on March 2, at the North West Christian School Performance Arts Centre. Guest speaker, Pr Darius Jankiewicz from the South Pacific Division office, shared with us the theme; "The Story Of God's Grace." At the heart of the worship service is a journey to experience how God's grace calls us to reach out and connect to others, to show Christ's love, and to serve others.

ULVERSTONE & BURNIE CHURCH NEWS

Baptism - Ruth Daley

On December 16, 2023, Ulverstone Church welcomed Ruth Daley into the Church family by Profession of Faith. Ruth, who unfortunately suffers from Parkinson Disease, has been on a long journey in coming to know the Lord. She left the church over 40 years ago but felt the Lord was still present in her life. Now knowing time is short, Ruth has recommitted her life to God, and is enjoying her time in Bible study with Pastor Afi.



NEWS

Child Dedication - Jesiah Redman

As Christian parents, Zac and Myressa Redman dedicated their youngest son, Jesiah to the Lord at Ulverstone Church on December 16, 2023. By doing so, they acknowledged their need for God in their family, inviting God to be active in their family life, submitting their own desires for their child to God's desires for him and making a commitment to raise their child in God's way. The Ulverstone Church family have also promised to help Zac and Myressa to spiritually guide their children in the Lord.

Baptism - Anji Edmond

Anji Edmond, being baptised into Burnie Church last year on December 9, testifies of her belief that Christ died for her and has forgiven her sins and so she has taken the step to publicly declare her faith. Being in a healthy God-centred relationship, Anji feels more confident in her love for Christ. She has had many ups and downs in her life, but now she is focused on God and serving Him.

Baptism – Aliana Smith

Ulverstone Church joyfully witnessed the public demonstration of Aliana Smith's decision to follow Jesus. It was a wonderful day with many friends and family travelling from both around the state and interstate to celebrate her decision. May the Lord bless you, Aliana, as you continue to follow the Lord and grow as a disciple.



GLENORCHY & MARGATE CHURCH NEWS

Glenorchy Church Christmas Carols

In December, Glenorchy Church hosted its yearly Christmas Carol program. This program has been a blessing to the community for the last 40 years. This year it began with a stirring bagpipe rendition followed by a multitude of musical, choir and other singing items. Even the wisemen came, dressed in their royal garbs to sing 'We Three Kings.' During the program, a generous offering of around \$2,500 was collected for Lifeline Tasmania. The Lifeline representative spoke about their work in our communities and showed great appreciation for our church's support.

The program was well attended by church members and others from the community. It was a wonderful festive evening celebrating and reflecting on the birth of Jesus, our Saviour.

Margate Christmas Carols

In the weeks leading up to The Margate Christmas Carols, church members handmade invitation cards and biscuits. Then together, the church members visited the homes around the streets and personally invited their community to the Christmas program.

On the day of the Carols, both members and people from the community came. The morning was an enormous success. There were a variety of items performed and readings shared, from Desire of Ages, on the birth of Christ. The program was finished with a delightful Christmas lunch that provided more opportunities to connect.



NEWS

LAUNCESTON CHURCH BAPTISMS

A Child Will Lead Them

Launceston church has made the youth their focus for 2024, following on from a paradigm shift in thinking over the past few years. This comes from a desire by our members to be sure that the families and young people in our church feel valued and important.

With this church focus on the younger generation, the year has started well with two young ladies being baptised. Isabelle Blockley has been studying the Bible for a couple of years and made her commitment to Jesus known on February 10. She sounded wonderful as she offered a musical item in way of a testimony, together with her mum, Sarah Blockley.

Following this, on March 9, Amy Evers (Wilson) also showed her dedication to God by being baptised and gave a song testimonial, singing "I Have Decided To Follow Jesus".

It is wonderful to see our young people making these decisions to follow Jesus, with another group of four youngsters studying the Bible this year, to realise their own ambition to follow Jesus in this way. Well done to all of you and may God bless your faithfulness as you journey with Him.



Ten Baptisms in One Day

A Day to Remember

2023 was a busy year for Launceston church, with much of the fruit of that effort being displayed for a combined baptism on "Remembrance Day", November 11. Throughout the year, eleven wonderful decisions were made to follow Jesus faithfully, with ten of them together on November 11. Neville, Chiara, Joanna, Ann, Knox, Norma, Tania, Funmi, Janice and Annette were either baptised or made a profession of faith and joined the Launceston church to the overwhelming joy of all. One member said, "I never realised the power of having multiple people baptised together at the same time!" Maritess McGuire sang a wonderful item, with her expressions showing the joy of those baptised. It was an emotional day for all, as many of them had studied together throughout the year and gave their testimonies from the font. Truly, it was an auspicious occasion, with the youngest in her twenties and the oldest in his nineties, showing you're never too young OR too old to give your life to Christ.



NEWS

10 DAYS OF PRAYER TASMANIA

February 17-27 was a time to seek revival and reformation through the power of the Holy Spirit during Ten Days of Prayer. During this time church groups in Tasmania united in prayer into a deeper experience with Jesus. Topics included *Less is More to Be Rich in What Matters*. A special Sabbath of personal testimonies was a time where individuals could share how God has answered prayer. Miraculous healings to healing broken relationships and many more answers were shared during church services.

One miraculous healing was for a Tasmanian man who the doctors said was in the sickest ten people in Australia and would only survive twenty four hours. He was prayed for and today we can praise God that this man is alive and well. We continue to pray and ask for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit. There are two Tasmanian Conference opportunities to make a prayer request. The first is through the Tasmanian Prayer Warriors Facebook page and you can also make requests or receive prayer chain messages through SMS. Contact Vicki Knight for further information on 0407 330 782.

Ten Days of Prayer Glenorchy

Glenorchy church recently participated in 10 Days of Prayer. Each day a group met at either 7 am, 12 pm or 7pm to pray for God's blessing for our church and community but also to seek to know Jesus in a deeper and more personal way. One of the biggest blessings was the strong connections built between those who attended as they shared testimonies and stories of God's goodness in their lives.



Ten Days of Prayer Margate

Margate church recently participated in 10 Days of Prayer. It was a wonderful opportunity to get to know each other and more about each person's journey with God and specific needs. A chapter of the book 'Closing Prayers' by Randy Maxwell was used each day to facilitate discussion and prayer focus.



Ten Days of Prayer Ulverstone



Ten Days of Prayer Scottsdale



Ten Days of Prayer Burnie



SALE OF INVESTMENT PROPERTIES

From the Executive

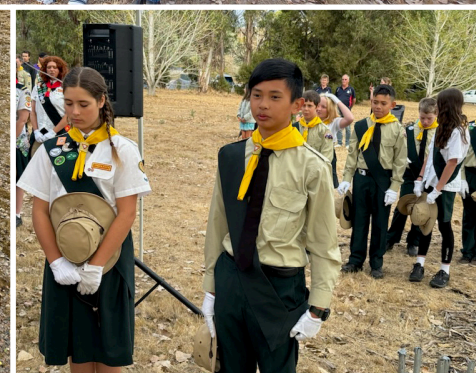
As part of the Conference property portfolio, funded from the sale of Franklin Wharf, the church had purchased two properties in Battery Point. These properties have proven to be poor performers due to high maintenance and low returns commensurate with their value. At the recommendation of the Investment Committee, the Executive Committee authorised the sale of these two properties, and their sale has recently been completed.

The Executive Committee's priority, over the long-term, is to maintain the value of the property portfolio, and so the proceeds will assist with funding the sub-division behind Hilliard Christian School. The sub-division was approved by the Constituency meeting in February 2021. This will be a loan to the Conference, and funds realised from the sale of the blocks will restore the property portfolio to the value prior to the sale of Battery Point (adjusted for any interest lost) to allow for additional property to be added to the portfolio. The Executive Committee was clear that it did not wish to see the property portfolio diminish over the long term, and no funds will be diverted to operating.

NEWS

PATHFINDER CAMPOREE

Tasmanian Pathfinders had our Camporee at Scout Island, Corra Linn on the long weekend from March 8-11. We had 50 Pathfinders in attendance and all our clubs showed up. The theme of the weekend was "Be Strong and Courageous" as we learned about stories of Joshua. Natalie Moore spoke to us in the mornings and the evenings, encouraging all of us to trust in God and His promises in every and anytime in our lives. The Pathfinders looked sharp in their dress uniforms in our formal ceremonies, and they were all good sports in our time of fun activities that challenged our Pathfinders to be strong and courageous. We give praise and thanks to God for memorable times together and for His promise to never leave us nor forsake us. Thank you to our churches, leaders, parents, staff and our Pathfinders.



NORTH WEST CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Brayden Morton - Principal

NWCS Athletics Day



North West Christian School was blessed with a perfect sunny day for our 2024 Athletics Carnival, providing the perfect backdrop for a day of spirited competition and camaraderie. Students competed in their three houses, Hunter, Maria and Flinders, and a fourth house, Dover, made up of home-school families invited to attend each year. This invitation encourages community engagement and enables our students and staff to build friendships and connections.

Athletes of all ages displayed their God-given talents across various track and field events, ranging from running, throwing, and jumping events, while finishing with the highlight of the day, the relays.

Beyond the thrill of competition, the carnival provided a platform for families to come together, cheer on the participants, and celebrate the values of sportsmanship and teamwork. Overall, it was a memorable day, and it was great to see an increase in participation and broken records.

Canyoning to Leadership

At the commencement of each year the year 11 and 12 students take on the challenge of different canyons around North West Tasmania. This year they chose Machinery Creek. This challenge was a progressive drop through multiple jumps and abseils of twenty meters or more throughout the day. We were impressed to see all the students were successful in overcoming their challenges and grew in confidence for the year ahead.



Year 7 and 8 Camp

The students were blessed to travel down to Spring Beach and spend time in the surrounding areas. They had a wonderful time and were able to overcome their own obstacles and challenges in groups on the low ropes and commando courses.

They were able to see dolphins and other sea life during their tour around the bottom of southeast Tasmania on a powerboat tour. The students also enjoyed a walk to Wineglass Bay.

Chaplaincy at NWCS

One of the most important aspects to making a school thrive are families. Though most of the time is spent with students and staff members, it is the parents who entrust the school with their child. At North West Christian School, we are planning several new initiatives to help support every member of each family.

We have created welcome packs for our families with resources to assist and encourage them each day. The welcome packs will be taken to the new families of the school very soon. As a wellbeing team at NWCS, we welcome and wish to support every family member, both old and new to the school community.

Growth of NWCS

We praise God for the continued growth

of the school, and we hope that you can join us in prayer for His continued blessings on the school and pray for further growth of His school. NWCS has also commenced training in Real Schools school improvement program where we learn to give the students a positive and restorative journey through their school life. We are currently training and developing our skills in this to further improve our efforts to be a positive light in the community.

Staff Training for Restorative Practices



Media Arts students creating a podcast and practicing for Faith FM



HILLIARD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Elizabeth Chaplin - Principal

Hilliard Christian School's Student Leaders Embark on a Journey of Christian Service

But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"
Luke 10:25

In a formal ceremony held at Glenorchy Adventist Church on Thursday, February 29, the student leaders of Hilliard Christian School were commissioned into their pivotal roles. Guest speaker, John Kamara, acclaimed as Tasmanian Australian of the Year in 2023, delivered a compelling address which resonated deeply with the congregation.



Drawing from his own remarkable journey as a refugee escaping the ravages of war-torn Sierra Leone a decade ago, Kamara illuminated the transformative power of Christian servant leadership. He recounted how the timeless wisdom of the Parable of the Good Samaritan guided him through the challenges of racism and rejection upon his arrival in Australia, ultimately shaping him into a beacon of leadership

within the community. With unwavering dedication, Kamara now champions the cause of migrants, refugees, and culturally diverse communities, leveraging his own experiences and expertise in child protection to address the unique struggles they face.

Kamara's impassioned message struck a chord with the assembled students, urging them to embody courage in the face of adversity and to manifest the teachings of the Bible through their actions and words. As these young leaders embark on their journey of service, Kamara's words serve as a poignant reminder of the transformative potential of Christian leadership in fostering inclusivity and compassion within our communities.

Numeracy Champion Action Research Project

Three educators from Hilliard, Daniel Segovia, Gillian Dinning and Gemma Campbell, have been selected to join a collaborative Action Research Project overseen by Dr. Carol Murphy of UTAS and Professor Tracey Muir from Australian Catholic University. The initiative's main aim is to examine the influence of Communities of Practice and Action Research on enhancing teachers' confidence in delivering mathematics instruction within primary school settings.

We are enthusiastic about the prospect of contributing to this investigation, recognising its potential to benefit both educators and students across the broader educational landscape. By sharing our findings through professional journal publications and conference presentations, we aspire to foster meaningful dialogue and inform best practices in Mathematics education. Hilliard School extends its sincere appreciation for the opportunity to engage in this enriching endeavour.

Hilliard's Upper Primary Swimming Carnival: A Day of Joy and Achievement

Students in years 3 to 5 at Hilliard School embraced a day of aquatic enjoyment and friendly competition at the annual

upper primary swimming carnival. As the school's first major sporting event of the year, the carnival witnessed an impressive display of team spirit among the participating houses.

Competing with enthusiasm, the students challenged themselves in both 25m and 50m races, displaying their athletic abilities with determination and grace. Following the races, participants indulged in a series of enjoyable activities facilitated by the staff, including novelty relay races and free play sessions in the pool.

For students and staff alike, the carnival proved to be a memorable occasion, marked by moments of achievement and camaraderie. As the day ended, echoes of laughter and accomplishment reverberated throughout the pool, underscoring the success of the event.

The upper primary swimming carnival is a testament to Hilliard's commitment to fostering a supportive and inclusive environment, where students can thrive both academically and athletically.



GOD'S ABSENCE IN ESTHER

Pr Mark Falconer

For over 2000 years, in late February and early March, a sacred, but joyous festival called Purim is held in Jerusalem to celebrate the saving of the Jews from extermination as found in Esther chapter 9. In 1994, Baruch Goldstein celebrated the feast of Purim, but an hour later he stormed into the Ibrahim Mosque in Hebron, during prayer, and opened fire on 800 worshipers – killing 29 Muslims and injuring 130 worshipers before being beaten to death. Truly bizarre how some think they are doing God's bidding.

Although Esther celebrates the saving of the Jews, it is a troubling book, because nowhere are the names of God – YHWH and Elohim – ever mentioned. Strikingly, nor is there a record of any visions, miracles, dreams or even the citations from the Law. Even more odd, prayer is not mentioned – even when fasting is recorded in Es 4:15-16. And prayer and fasting go together like Adam and Eve. It is like the Book of Esther goes out of its way to not mention God – Why? In fact, if you were to give the book of Esther, by itself – without the Old Testament – people will not see God and think this is just a nice story. Do you find this strange? I wonder what God is teaching here?

In the Old Testament when His people are threatened, God responded spectacularly – the ten plagues, the crossing of the Jordan, killing of the Assyrian soldiers, Book of Daniel, but not so in Esther. Although God is hidden, his hiddenness is not abandonment. In fact, he is working behind the scenes and working out His will.

“God does not abandon her – though His name is not mentioned!”

For instance, in Chapter 2, after Queen Vashti is banished, the search for the perfect queen begins. Like winning lotto, Esther is selected as one of the candidates. To maximize her chances, she impresses Hegai by being very compliant. She did this by keeping her faith hidden, did not observe the dietary laws (2:9); slept with the King before marriage and then married a heathen – all against the Law. Beauty, wealth, power and compromise were the commodities on exchange. Now contrast this with how Daniel and his three friends upheld their faith in Babylon. Esther was not a good Adventist as we would say today. But God

does not abandon her – though His name is not mentioned!

God was still working through a complex combination of circumstances that would bring about His will and the salvation of the Jews. To the outsider they appear as coincidences – but not so in the Book of Esther. It was not pretty in chapter 2 – no pun intended – but God graciously takes her hand and by Chapter 4, when she needs to step in as Queen – to see the King and save the Jews – she responds unafraid and sacrificially, ‘If I perish, I perish’ (4:16).

We know the end of the story, but we are still left with the question of the absence of God – Why? Aren't our lives like this? People ask where is God in day-to-day life? God normally does not intervene with ten plagues, but he does work behind the scenes to bring about His will. As the book of Esther shows, God can be seemingly and conspicuously absent, but still powerfully present working in our lives. That is how it is today. So, as you go about your business – actively look for God's presence and His workings during the day.



Esther's tomb

IT'S WHO YOU KNOW

Session Recordings Available for Viewing and Download



Take a moment to revisit the enlightening sessions presented by Pr Lee Venden at Big Camp 2024. Whether you missed a session or want to reinforce your learning, now is the perfect time to catch up and empower yourself with valuable information. Throughout his presentations, Pr Venden inspires and encourages us to develop a personal relationship with Jesus. You'll find immense blessings in rewatching these 12 sessions. Happy viewing!

WATCH ONLINE OR DOWNLOAD



Please visit the Tasmanian Conference website
www.tas.adventist.org.au/its-who-you-know/
OR scan the QR Code