



Tascla

Transforming Tasmania with Jesus for Eternity

MARCH 2025

BIG CAMP 2025: A TIME OF FAITH, FELLOWSHIP, AND FUN

Pr Rick Hergenhan

For nine wonderful days, from January 17 to 25, church members from all over Tasmania gathered in Devonport for Big Camp. This annual event brought together families and friends for a time of spiritual growth, connection, and uplifting activities.



The main speaker in the Big Tent was Pastor Brendan Pratt, who shared inspiring messages on “**Kingdom Culture.**” He encouraged everyone to stay faithful and live for God’s kingdom in today’s society. His thought-provoking talks were a highlight of the camp, and for those who missed them, the night programs are available online through the Tasmanian Conference website.

Each morning, campers started the day with devotionals from Amanda Bews, who shared stories from her latest book, *Devotionals from the Aisles*. Glen Reed from the Adventist Book Centre was at Camp with a wonderful selection of books and other resources for campers to explore.



SCAN THE CODE TO
WATCH THE BIG CAMP
2025 RECORDINGS ON
YOUTUBE.



@tasmanianadventists

The JETS shed



The **JETS Shed** was the place to be at Big Camp. An average of 50 kids, aged 10 to 15, walked through the doors each day, engaging in Bible studies, crafts, sharing good news, and enjoying fun afternoon activities. On the two Sabbath mornings, nearly 70 kids were in attendance. Pastor Jeff Parker, AUC Youth Director, was the speaker. The theme for the week focused on mirroring the Kingdom of God in our communities. On the final Friday night, 30 kids expressed their desire to be baptized and/or participate in Bible studies with friends. A heartfelt thank you to the incredible team of volunteers who supported these kids throughout the week.

Every morning in the **Primary Shed**, the children began with a countdown to liftoff. Once we rocketed off, we sang songs, learned space facts, and embarked on an exciting journey with our fluffy puppet friend, Astronaut Cosmo. Each day, Pastor Daron Pratt showcased his incredible balloon skills while sharing messages about Jesus' great plan to save us. This was followed by a fun craft session. But the excitement didn't end there. The afternoons were filled with thrilling excursions, including pedal buggies, a waterslide, and a visit to the Planetarium. Here, friendships blossomed, and beautiful memories were created. To conclude the week, the children visited a retirement home, sharing the love of Jesus with the residents by singing, reciting memory verses, and gifting balloons.

The PRIMARY shed



The KINDY division



The Kindy division was an underwater world of discovery for our youngest Big Campers learning about God’s deep love for us. The morning playful worship with music and movement explored stories of the sea in the Bible, like Jonah and the big fish. Afternoon Playgroup offered delightful sensory, water and messy play. Kids and parents alike were fascinated with the seahorses that visited from the Creation Discovery Centre.



On Sunday morning, the **Big Camp Fun Run** brought together around 40 enthusiastic participants,

both adults and children. Beginning at 7 a.m., runners had the option of three courses—1km, 2km, or 5km. The youngest runner, four-year-old Hannah, completed the 1km course, while the oldest participant was in their late fifties. Those who finished first and second in the 5km race impressed with their speed, while others enjoyed a leisurely run, jog, or brisk walk at their own pace. Winners from each category were awarded Sanitarium merchandise.

After the completion of the Fun Run, Sanitarium generously sponsored a free breakfast. Attendees enjoyed cereals, Up & Go, vegetarian sausages, and a variety of plant-based milk options. A big thank you to Sanitarium for their ongoing support of our Church’s mission.

Later that day, Pastor David Leo organised a fun-filled **Family Fun Day**. Everyone enjoyed classic games like tug-of-war and relays, creating wonderful memories for both children and adults. The Sunday afternoon expo was also a great success, featuring organisations such as Asian Aid, ADRA, Josh’s Food Van, Avondale University, Faith FM, the South Pacific Division, Adventist Men’s Group, and Madison Mission. It was a fantastic opportunity to learn about these ministries and their work.

One of the special musical highlights at Camp was a performance by **The Commissioners**, an Adventist men’s singing group from Victoria. Made up of men from Vanuatu, their powerful and professional performances inspired and uplifted the audience.

During the camp, Toa Kofeloa and Pauline Stanton set up a **pop-up hairdressing and barber service**, providing haircuts for what felt like almost everyone at Big Camp! Through their efforts, they raised over two thousand dollars to support a mission trip to Papua New Guinea in July. We truly appreciate their dedication and generosity.

pop-up BARBER



BIG CAMP snaps



One of the unexpected highlights of Big Camp was the chicken hatching experience. Two incubators, set up in the camp office, held over thirty eggs, and campers were delighted to watch as baby chicks hatched during the event. It was a popular and fascinating sight for all ages.

On the final Sabbath of Big Camp, the mission offering collected, raising nearly \$4,000 to support Fulton College in Fiji. This generous contribution will help further the college's mission and

educational initiatives, making a positive impact in the lives of many students. Thank you to all who gave so generously.

A popular spot at Big Camp was the **Gathering Cafe**, which served hot drinks and sweets. Many campers appreciated this warm and welcoming space, where they could relax, enjoy a treat, and connect with others. The cafe provided a wonderful opportunity for building relationships and fostering a sense of community.

The Camp Kitchen, led by Josh Radford, kept everyone well-fed with delicious meals throughout the week. A huge thank you to all the division leaders, pastors, speakers, musicians, kitchen staff, security team, cleaners, and volunteers who worked tirelessly to make Big Camp a success.

Big Camp 2025 was a truly special time of worship, fellowship, and fun. We look forward to gathering again next year for another unforgettable experience.

TASYOUTH: FAITH IN ACTION AT BIG CAMP

Pr David Leo

The theme for Tasyouth is **“Faith in Action.”** The intention is to make our faith practical by serving God through serving others.

This year, we had the opportunity to experience **Youth Rush**, where some of our youth got a taste of what Literature Evangelism looks like. We also had fun times at the beach, on the lake, and challenging each other with paintball. Additionally, we hosted a **prayer tent**, where we witnessed many praises for answered prayers and heartfelt petitions brought before God.

Pr. Jay Pulelisi challenged us to go back to the basics—**Bible study, prayer, and sharing our faith.** The youth café successfully raised funds for the upcoming mission trip in July.

I encourage and challenge our youth to continue in the spirit we started at youth camp. Get involved! Volunteer to help with your local church missions, support conference events like **StormCo, Tween Camp, PNG Mission**, and, most recently, the exciting and challenging **Youth Rush!**



TRUST SERVICES NEWS

Anytime is a good time to make a Will and ensure your family's future is secure.

Have you ever considered what might happen should you pass away without having made a Will? Given more than 52% of Australians over 18 (according to a 2024 finder.com.au survey) don't currently have a Will the realities of such a scenario are all too common. The term 'Intestate' can be defined as *“when a person dies without a valid Will, or has a Will which does not distribute the estate in its entirety.”*¹

In this scenario there is legislation that deals with the distribution of your Estate which may or may not be in line with your values, beliefs or desires.

A common misconception in this regard is that if you die without a Will then the 'government will get all of your stuff.' Whilst this is a potential outcome, the laws of intestacy would only allow this if you had no living relative.

Regardless, the importance of having a Will cannot be understated and the ministry of the Trust Services Department assists church members (and those otherwise associated with the Seventh-day Adventist Church) in this Endeavor.

Throughout 2024 Trust Services has been working not only to produce Wills for our clients but also ensuring that the records we do hold are as accurate and up to date as possible. This is no easy feat and requires countless hours of work both with clients, their families and our supervising Solicitor. To assist with the delivery of this ministry in as timely a manner as possible, and to extend it more readily to our members in Tasmania implemented an online booking system for those able to attend an online appointment. Additionally, in consultation with the Administrative team of the Tasmanian Conference, and after the success of our 2024 visit, two further visits to Tasmania are planned for 2025.

- **Wednesday 30 April – Sunday 4 May** we will be in Hobart at the Conference Office
- **Wednesday 10 September – Friday 12 September** we will be in the north of Tasmania (locations still to be finalised)

Whilst bookings for these visits are not yet open, please don't hesitate to get in touch with Trust Services to place your name on the wait list.

If you are uncertain of the need to have a Will, or whether your Will as prepared by Trust Services some years ago is even up to date, please don't hesitate to get in touch. Head to the **Conference website** or contact **Josh Wood** on (03) 9264 7777 or email **JoshWood@adventist.org.au**



¹ <https://www.millsokley.com.au/insights/major-changes-to-intestacy-laws-in-victoria-2/>



MISSION TRIP: THE GREAT ESCAPE FROM WINTER TO SUMMER

Letter by Stuart Barons

Hello, my Tasmanian family! It's Stuart here, inviting more people to join the mission trip planned for **July 6–22 to Madang, PNG**. Planning is ongoing, but we are still waiting for additional details about accommodation. We trust in the One “*who shall supply our needs according to His riches in glory.*” Our *wantoks* in Madang are excited about our visit, and I am confident they will provide what is needed.

I was pleased to share information about this trip at Big Camp, but if you missed it, let me reiterate what we hope to accomplish:

Evangelistic Program: We plan to conduct an evangelistic program at up to three sites over ten days, organised by Pastor David Cherry.

Kids' Club: A Kids' Club will run for several days in the first week, led by Pastor David Leo.

Construction Project: We will build a two-classroom structure on the existing primary school site at the Mission Headquarters, led by our CFO, Mr Kelvin Wood. Currently, four skilled builders have volunteered, but a couple more would be fantastic, as the building will be approximately **20m x 6m**. We are also working to arrange local men to assist.

Fundraising Goal: We aim to raise **\$20,000** to fund the project. Last year, you generously donated over **\$16,000**, which provided over 2,000 Bibles for Madang. I sincerely thank you for your generosity and pray that the same spirit of giving will continue this year. I am mindful of the saying about *flogging a*



willing horse, so I will keep a low profile once this project concludes.

Travel Costs: The estimated cost for transportation to and from Madang is around \$2,500 per person.

How to Get Involved: An Expression of Interest form is available on the Conference website for those considering joining the trip. Additionally, on the **Church's E-Giving app**, you will

find a “**Madang Project**” heading where you can make financial contributions to support our *Sister Mission* in Madang.

If you feel called to be at the coalface of mission work this July, please pray for guidance. If God is leading you to take part, complete the Expression of Interest form, which closes on March 17.

Your brother in Christ,
Stuart Barons

YOUTH RUSH



We are now almost three-quarters of the way through our Youth Rush program here in Hobart, Tasmania! God is truly blessing this amazing team as they continue knocking on doors, trekking up steep driveways on even steeper streets. Tasmania, known as the most secular state in the country, is proving that reputation true—but God is blessing all the more because of it! We've had to order more books to ensure we have enough to keep going.

Unfortunately, no local Tasmanians were able to join the team for the full four weeks. However, praise God that Kimmie, Kara, Nanise, Donna, Esther, and Troy from Margate and Glenorchy were able to participate for a day or two! God is in control, and He has certainly brought this team together from all over Australia—now serving as “overseas” missionaries. Over the past three weeks, about 20 young people have been part of the team, helping deliver hundreds of Christian books into people's homes, including *The Great Controversy*, *Steps to Christ*, and others.

Despite facing rejection, rudeness, and countless “not interested” responses,

divine appointments continue to come at just the right time! Many people have been invited to church, prayed with, encouraged, and even challenged to think about God. Some have even considered Bible studies with Pastor David Cherry.

We have been so blessed by the kind church members from Margate and Glenorchy churches, who have provided many delicious meals—something the team has deeply appreciated! Additionally, the team had the privilege of leading church services at both Margate and Glenorchy, sharing fresh testimonies and an uplifting message.

Please pray for our young team as we finish our final week of outreach. Also, keep in prayer the many precious individuals who have been touched over the last few weeks. God is raising up a beautiful army of young people spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ, helping to finish the work in these last days—bringing hope and truth to hearts and homes while we still have time and opportunity!

We truly hope this Youth Rush program will be the beginning of many more here

in Tasmania and that more local young people will catch the vision and join in this vital work. Praise God!

Literature Distributed Thus Far

After two and a half weeks, we have been able to distribute the following literature in Margate, Kingston, Huonville, Geeveston, Dover, Glen Huon, Glenorchy, and surrounding areas:

- **Cookbooks** – 358
- **Peace Above the Storm** (*Large Steps to Christ*) – 162
- **Small Steps to Christ** – 2,100
- **The Great Controversy** (*Large*) – 225
- **The Great Controversy** (*Small*) – 166
- **Christ's Object Lessons** – 16
- **Desire of Ages** – 26

So far, our team has had the opportunity to pray with 65 people at their doors.

We are excited to see where God will lead and which doors He will open in our final week of outreach here in Tasmania!

GLENORCHY CHURCH NEWS

Glenorchy Aged Care Christmas Carols

Two weeks before Christmas, a group of Glenorchy church members, both young and old, visited Uniting AgeWell in Strathglen. Together, they led the residents in a Christmas carol sing-along to spread the joy of Jesus. The residents enjoyed selecting their favorite carols and the social chat that followed. Plans are being made to repeat this event in the coming years.



Glenorchy Social

To finish off the year, the Glenorchy church gathered for one last social event. Games and trivia were played, and a highlight for many children was the treasure hunt outside. The social committee also prepared and served a delicious range of pizzas, which everyone enjoyed.



Glenorchy Church Christmas Carols

On December 14, the annual Christmas carols program was held at Glenorchy Church. It was well attended by church members and many visitors from the community. Those present enjoyed singing well-known carols, as well as a variety of beautiful performances, including a collection of songs by the Hobart Recorder Society. About \$3,000 was raised at the event and presented to Mission Australia to support their ongoing work in the community.



Glenorchy 10 Days of Prayer

At the beginning of February, church members met at 7 a.m., 1 p.m., or 7 p.m. each day to read the World Church's Ten Days of Prayer devotional. Together, they spent time in prayer, seeking God's guidance, direction, and blessings for both the church and the local community. It was a special time of fellowship and spiritual growth for all.



Youth End-of-Year Party

Teens, youth, and young adults from Glenorchy Church came together for an end-of-year celebration in the hall. After a hearty meal of pizza and salad, they exchanged presents, played games, and worshipped together.



Walking Group

In November, Glenorchy church members met on several occasions at the Montrose Foreshore for fellowship and fitness, participating in a 3 km walk at each gathering. They continued their fellowship by dining together at a local restaurant.



NEW NORFOLK NEWS



New Norfolk Church 100 Year Anniversary & Baptism

On February 14, 1925, the New Norfolk Adventist Church building was dedicated with 50 people in attendance. On February 15, 2025, around 100 people gathered to celebrate the 100-year anniversary of the Church building.

Pastor Bruce Grosse extensively researched the history of this church in preparation for the anniversary. He then shared a fascinating and deeply inspiring account of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's presence in the Derwent Valley. From the dedicated efforts of the early pioneer workers to the self-sacrifice of the first members in securing land and constructing the church, the early history serves as an inspiration for our work for God today. The church's service to the local community, especially during times of flood and fire, is also worthy of emulation.

We enjoyed hearing about the work of Craig Brady's grandmother, who, alongside the minister's wife, helped distribute 1,400 articles of clothing to 500 people after the floods. It was also a joy to see a photo of Julee Rabe—the church's longest-attending member—as a little girl at the opening of the hall, built to accommodate the 36 children then attending the children's Sabbath School.

Henry Higgins shared an update on the church's current outreach in the New Norfolk community, followed by Pastor Rick Hergenhan delivering a sermon on God's purpose for His people—to be a blessing to those around them. He related how, just as Abraham and his literal descendants were called to bless others, so too is God's church today.



We then enjoyed a luncheon and a wonderful time of fellowship together.

The day before the anniversary program, the local newspaper featured our church on the front page under the heading "A Century of Saturdays." We praise God that many members of the local community attended, including former members who had drifted away but returned for this special occasion.

The highlight of the day was traveling up the Derwent River in the afternoon to witness Debra McArdle being buried with Christ in the waters of baptism, rising to live a life consecrated to Him and His service. Her testimony of how Jesus saved her and led her to our church was deeply moving. At the conclusion of the service, two members of the local community responded to the appeal for baptism.

Our hearts are overflowing with gratitude and praise:

"The LORD hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad." — Psalm 126:3



MARGATE CHURCH NEWS

Margate Food Pantry

The Margate Food Pantry continued to grow throughout 2024, thanks to the many church and community volunteers who have kept it running. In early 2025, the church was able to purchase a new glass-door fridge and freezer to help streamline the services provided. The Margate Community Food Pantry is becoming well known in the local area as it seeks to assist those experiencing hard times.

In February, local Member of Parliament Dean Winter and Kingborough Councillor Kaspar Deane visited the pantry and community garden to explore ways they could support our efforts in serving the community.



Margate Community Garden

In 2025, our church community garden has been supplying the Margate Food Pantry with free, fresh fruit and vegetables. This has been supplemented by donations from the local charity Loaves and Fishes.

We are grateful to have two new local friends from Margate join our team, further strengthening our efforts.



Margate 10 Days of Prayer

At the beginning of February, Margate Church members met daily at 7 p.m. for the World Church's Ten Days of Prayer readings. Together, they spent time in prayer, seeking God's guidance, direction, and blessings for both the church and the local community. It was a special time of fellowship and spiritual growth for all who participated.



Margate 'Live More' Project

Every Thursday evening at 7 p.m., Margate SDA Church has been running the Live More Project, researched and presented by Dr. Darren Morton. The program, coordinated by local church member Kara Fox, provides scientifically proven strategies to help participants live their best lives. Both church members and the wider community have enjoyed learning and applying the practical strategies shared in the seminar.



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Margate Baptism

Sabbath, February 8, was a blessed day at Margate as we witnessed Ryan commit his life to Jesus through baptism. After a picnic lunch, church members, along with Ryan's family and friends, gathered at Bellerive Beach for the special occasion.

Many of Ryan's family and friends had never attended church before or witnessed a baptism, making the event particularly meaningful.

Formerly an atheist, Ryan first encountered several Adventists while working on a job site in Launceston. Later, he worked closely with an Adventist from Margate who mentored him. Through extensive Bible study and discussion, Ryan made the decision to put his faith and hope in Jesus—a decision that brought great joy in Heaven.

Before the baptism, many of Ryan's friends and church family shared testimonies about the impact he had made in their lives as he journeyed toward Jesus. Ryan's hope is to share Christ's love with those who have not yet experienced it.



Margate Christmas Carols

On Sabbath, December 14, Margate Church held its annual Christmas program. Church members and community guests enjoyed singing, special musical performances, and narration by local youth Dan, Sam, and Kelly.

A generous offering of \$860 was collected for the Kingborough Helping Hands Community Charity. The carols program was followed by a Christmas feast, bringing everyone together for delicious food and fellowship.



ROSNY CHURCH NEWS



Adventist Men's Group (AMG) – Strengthening Faith, Fellowship, and Community

The Adventist Men's Group (AMG) has been bringing men together since 2014, connecting members of local Seventh-day Adventist (SDA) churches and the wider community. Through social events, working bees, and Bible studies, AMG fosters friendships and spiritual growth.

At its core, AMG strengthens bonds between men, encouraging faith, service, and community involvement. Whether catching up over fellowship and food, working on local projects, or engaging in spiritual discussions, AMG provides a space for men to support one another and make a meaningful impact.

Our Mission

AMG exists to strengthen faith, build friendships, and serve the community by:

- Encouraging men to be active in church and community life
- Fostering unity and a sense of belonging
- Supporting local areas through service projects
- Strengthening relationships through shared faith and service

We achieve this through:

- Bible studies to deepen faith
- Working bees to maintain churches, community spaces, and homes
- Social gatherings and recreational events

First Working Bee of 2025 – New Norfolk SDA Church

On February 2nd, AMG held its first working bee of the year at New Norfolk SDA Church, assisting with painting and

general upkeep in preparation for the church's 100th-anniversary celebration. Ten dedicated men joined together, working as a team to refresh and restore the church. The day was filled with camaraderie and gratitude, knowing their efforts contributed to a century-long legacy of faith.



Expanding Our Impact

In November 2024, AMG secured nearly \$20,000 through ADRA's CLAS Project funding to expand our community service initiatives. Churches across Tasmania have shown incredible support, even donating equipment to aid our efforts.

This partnership enables us to reach more people, grow our impact, and continue making a difference. We thank God for this opportunity and for the unity that continues to flourish among us as men of faith. AMG remains committed to providing a space for men to connect, grow, and give back to their communities.

Please pray for this ministry, that we may reach the hearts of more men and continue serving the Lord.



... SEW, A NEEDLE PULLING THREAD ...

No, it's not *The Sound of Music* production by the Rosny Church congregation, but rather the Thursday Craft Classes, led by Mrs Irene Wooley. Thirty-one years ago, Mrs Noela Warland had a dream of bringing women from the community together to engage in fellowship, fun, and creativity—and that dream continues to thrive each week for about five hours. Friendships are formed around tables where needlework, knitting, and various forms of art take shape in countless ways.

Two of the women attending today were part of the inaugural class in 1994 and continue to contribute by creating saleable items. Last year, their efforts raised a little over \$2,000 for Ronald McDonald House. Each year, they support a charity through their creativity, which not only gives them a sense of meaningful contribution but also provides financial assistance to help others thrive.

As expected, given the timing of these classes, most attendees are older women—or, as they may prefer, "more experienced" ones. A good chat over a cuppa helps resolve a multitude of issues, and with a dozen cars in the car park, a fair portion of the world's problems gets solved on a weekly basis!

Building community through friendship continues to flourish at Rosny Church on Thursdays. So, if you're in the area or simply looking for some "ME" time with a wonderful group of creative women, come along at 9:30 AM and have a chat with Irene. Your mental health will thank you for it!



SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST SCHOOLS TASMANIA

By Sandra Ferry

Each new year brings fresh opportunities to inspire, engage, and empower the students in our Adventist schools through academic excellence, meaningful social interactions, physical challenges, and spiritual nurturing—and this year is no exception. Seventh-day Adventist Schools (Tasmania) is eagerly anticipating another incredible journey.

This year, our schools have embraced two inspiring themes: **“Rise Above”** at Hilliard and **“Thrive”** at North West. These themes reflect a shared commitment to excellence and growth, creating vibrant environments where both students and staff can flourish.

At Hilliard, **“Rise Above”** challenges us to meet every obstacle with confidence, overcome challenges, and support one another as we pursue greatness. It’s a call to embrace innovation, determination, and collaboration to help our students reach their full potential.

At North West, **“Thrive”** invites us to nurture holistic growth—spiritually, academically, socially, and emotionally—by building a school community that values inclusivity, resilience, and a genuine love of learning.

We kindly ask for your prayers as we work to make this year one of unity, growth, and impact. Please pray that our schools will:

- **Rise to Excellence:** Pushing boundaries, innovating, and modelling Christian leadership.
- **Thrive in Community:** Strengthening bonds through a supportive and inclusive culture.
- **Rise and Thrive Together:** Drawing strength from our shared vision, confident that with faith and collaboration, we can achieve great things.

We are sincerely grateful to our departing teachers for their remarkable contributions; their passion, commitment, and unwavering dedication have left an enduring mark on our students and communities. Their legacy of excellence will continue to inspire and shape our school communities as we move forward.

To our incoming new staff and returning colleagues, we warmly welcome you as we embark on this exciting new chapter together. We eagerly anticipate the fresh energy and expertise you bring, confident that, united, we will achieve great things in our schools.

Lastly, to our church members, thank you for your unwavering support, dedication, and prayers. We are confident that this year will be one of growth, success, and transformation for our students, our schools, and our church communities. Let’s rise above, thrive, and make this year unforgettable!





HILLIARD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Elizabeth Chaplin - Principal

Unlocking Student Potential

Hilliard Christian School's High Potential Learners Framework

This year, Hilliard Christian School has taken a bold step towards fostering academic excellence and enriching the learning experience of its students with the introduction of the High Potential Learners Framework. This initiative is designed to identify and support students with high academic ability, ensuring they are given opportunities to thrive in a challenging and stimulating educational environment.

At the heart of this initiative is a commitment to recognising and nurturing high-potential students. The entire teaching staff has engaged in discussions to identify students who exhibit advanced academic abilities. Hilliard Christian School is committed to providing its high-potential learners with meaningful and engaging enrichment opportunities. By participating in these opportunities, students will be challenged to think creatively, work collaboratively, and apply their knowledge in real-world scenarios. These experiences not only enhance their learning but also foster resilience, innovation, and a passion for discovery.

With a strong foundation now in place, Hilliard Christian School is poised to build on the success of the High Potential Learners Framework. By continuing to provide challenging and engaging learning experiences, both inside and outside the classroom, the school is ensuring that every learner is given the opportunity to reach new heights.



In Year 7 Science, students were met with a rigorous and thought-provoking challenge on their very first day. Their mission? To save Gary the Gecko—a unique activity designed to develop critical thinking, teamwork, and problem-solving skills.

Nurturing Minds: The Launch of Hilliard Christian School's Student Wellbeing Framework and The Oasis Wellbeing Room

As Hilliard Christian School embarks on 2025, a strong focus has been placed on fostering student wellbeing. Recognising that wellbeing is the foundation for student success and holistic development, the school has introduced a formal Student Wellbeing Framework and proudly appointed a dedicated Student Wellbeing Officer to lead this initiative.

The newly established Student Wellbeing Framework is designed to create a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment where students can flourish. This initiative aims to:

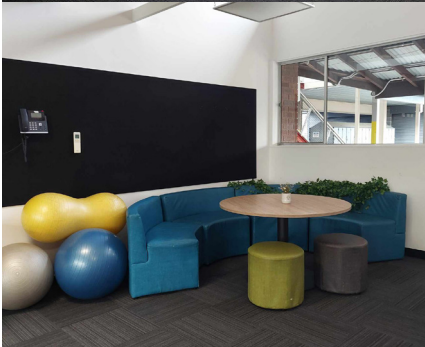
- Promote a culture of safety, inclusion, and support within the school community.
- Implement early identification and intervention strategies to support positive student outcomes.
- Encourage collaboration among school leadership, staff, families, and external agencies to strengthen wellbeing efforts.
- Utilize data-driven decision-making to ensure continuous improvement and effectiveness of wellbeing initiatives.

By embedding these principles into daily school life, Hilliard Christian School is ensuring a comprehensive and proactive approach to student wellbeing.

The Oasis: A Haven for Students

A significant addition to the school's wellbeing initiatives is the launch of The Oasis Wellbeing Room, which officially opened during lunchtimes on February 12th. The response has been overwhelmingly positive, with 17 students attending on the first day and 25 the following day. Designed as a space for relaxation and social engagement, The Oasis offers a variety of activities, including:

- Board games and interactive challenges
- Creative outlets such as drawing and LEGO
- A quiet space for students to unwind and reset



The Oasis is more than just a room—it is a sanctuary where students can take a break, reconnect, and practice self-regulation in a nurturing environment. Hilliard Christian School is not only recognising the importance of student wellbeing—it is championing it.

Hilliard's New ICT Room: A Hub of Innovation and Learning

In an era where technology is transforming the way we live, work, and learn, Hilliard's newly renovated ICT room has quickly established itself as a dynamic hub of innovation. More than just a classroom, this cutting-edge space is equipping students with vital 21st-century skills, fostering creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking through immersive, hands-on experiences.

One of the standout features of this space is the LEGO robotics program, which has captivated students with its engaging and practical approach to STEM learning. By working with robotics, students are not only developing technical skills such as coding and engineering design but also honing their design thinking, computational thinking, and problem-solving abilities. These essential skills empower them to tackle real-world challenges with confidence and ingenuity.

The ICT room is designed to be a collaborative environment where students can experiment, iterate, and innovate together. Whether they are programming robots to navigate obstacle courses, designing and 3D-printing their own creations, or diving into coding projects, students are encouraged to think outside the box and explore new possibilities. This approach nurtures a growth mindset, teaching students that failure is merely a step toward success and that persistence leads to breakthroughs.

Hilliard's commitment to STEM education through this initiative is already making a significant impact. Students are not only gaining technical proficiency but also developing a passion for discovery and innovation. The excitement in the ICT room is palpable, with students eager to push the boundaries of what they can create and achieve.

This initiative is just the beginning, and the possibilities are endless. One thing is certain: at Hilliard, the future is already taking shape, one brilliant idea at a time.



Hilliard Parents and Friends Association

The school year is well underway and at Hilliard that means our Parents and Friends Association (P and F) is planning events, fundraisers and ways to support our amazing staff and teachers as they share God's love with the school community. If you'd like to join our P and F meetings just email the address below for further details.

This year we will continue our annual Mother's Day and Father's Day stalls to celebrate the significant adults in our students' lives. If you could assist with donations be it purchased or home-made, please get in contact via our email address below.

Last year students and staff used their creativity to draw self-portraits, which were compiled and printed onto tea towels. These make a lovely gift or opportunity to uplift our school in prayer weekly. We have a limited number still available and these can be combined with a Hilliard Cookbook representing our multicultural community. Tea towels are \$15 each or 3 for \$45, our cookbooks have been discounted to \$5 or free with a tea towel purchase. As always, thank you for your continued support of Hilliard Christian School through your encouragement, offerings, prayers and attending school functions. To place your order please contact the school office on 6272 1711 or email pf.committee@hilliard.tas.edu.au and one of the team will get in contact.

Our teachers have prepared engaging lessons for our students and require base plates and bricks that are Lego or Lego compatible for a sustainability project. Students have a unique opportunity to consider how they can plan for their future and care for God's creation that surrounds us in a practical way.

Later this year we are excited to announce Hilliard will be having a school fair in November so watch this space for more information.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support,

Hilliard Parents and Friends Association



NORTH WEST CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Elizabeth Chaplin - Principal

Thrive in 25

As we welcome the year 2025, we are excited to announce our theme: **“Thrive in 25.”** At North West Christian School, we remain committed to excellence across all aspects of our school. Our vision for 2025 goes beyond academics—we strive to foster a community where both students and staff discover their identity and purpose in Christ, thriving in every facet of their lives. Together with students, parents, and staff, we will create a path to success, both now and in the future.

“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.” – Jeremiah 29:11

We are excited about the opportunities ahead and are confident that the coming year will be filled with growth, achievement, and a renewed sense of purpose.



At the end of 2024 we bid farewell to two of our teachers. We would like to extend our thanks to **Mr Zac Redman** for his outstanding contribution in

establishing our agriculture programme and for his instrumental role in developing our interschool sports programme. His dedication and passion have left an incredible mark on our school. We are grateful for his leadership and commitment, and we wish him every success as he embarks on a new chapter in his career.



We also wish to express gratitude to **Miss Ellia Redman** for her willingness to step in and take over our STEM programme. We thank her for all

her contributions, and we extend our best wishes as she moves into her new role at a different school.

We are delighted to introduce four exceptional educators who will join our team, each bringing a wealth of experience and a genuine passion for serving in a Christian school environment.



Catherine Laughlin will join us as a Secondary English and Humanities teacher. With 24 years of dedicated involvement in Christian

education across South Australia and New South Wales, she will bring an energetic and engaging teaching style that is both unique and inclusive. Her dynamic approach will be tailored to meet the diverse needs of her students, ensuring that every learner is both challenged and supported.



Sheree Webb will take on the role of Year 3/4 teacher. With over 15 years of teaching experience in Adventist and Christian schools throughout

Victoria and Western Australia, she is known for her passion, kindness, and care. Sheree excels at forging vibrant connections with her students, and her commitment to nurturing a warm and encouraging classroom atmosphere will inspire and motivate every child in her care.



Leandra Taylor will assume a pivotal leadership role at North West Christian School, guiding and shaping our teaching and learning

initiatives. With more than 10 years of experience in Adventist schools in South Australia and South Africa, Leandra is a model of positivity, compassion, and organisational excellence. Her efficient leadership and forward-thinking approach will have a lasting impact on our school's educational journey.



Brian Robinson will be teaching Maths and Bible. With a wealth of experience in Adventist schools across Australia, he is patient and considerate of

all learning needs. Brian's expertise will inspire and support his students, helping them achieve both academic success and spiritual growth.

We are truly excited about the positive influence these four outstanding teachers will have on our community. Their deep-rooted passion for education and service in a Christian environment embodies the very spirit of North West Christian School.



This year also sees the introduction of **Marlee**, our therapy dog, into our school community. Marlee will provide a cheerful presence and serve as a catalyst for positive emotional and social growth. He will help reduce stress and anxiety, particularly during moments of academic pressure or personal challenges. As students interact with him, they will experience a calming effect that will allow them to relax, recharge, and refocus. Research suggests that the presence of a therapy dog can lower stress levels and improve mood, and we are excited to witness these benefits unfold in our classrooms.

As we step into 2025 under the banner of "**Thrive in 25**," we embrace a future filled with promise, unity, and the guidance of our faith. Moving forward together, we trust that God's plans will lead us to a year of exceptional achievement and profound personal growth.



THE ALLURING CULTURE OF LUKEWARM

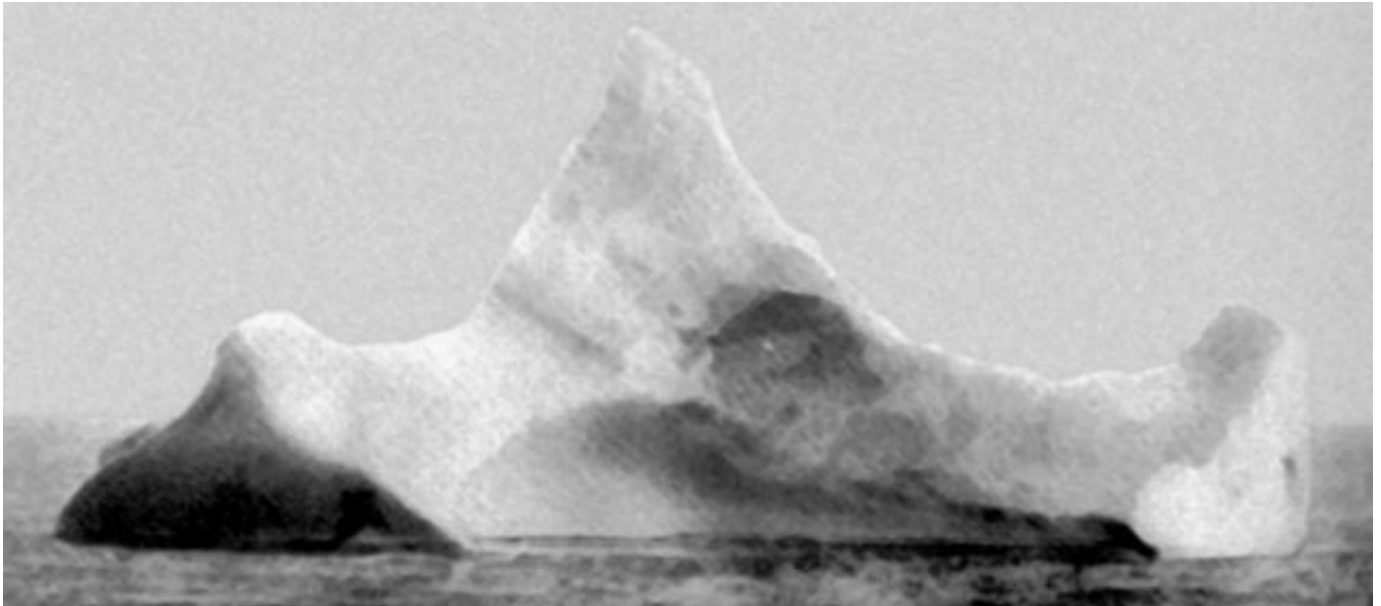


Photo of the iceberg that the Titanic allegedly struck on April 14, 1912, were released in 2012 to mark the centenary of the disaster.

If you were the captain of an ocean liner and received warnings of icebergs, would you slow down? Of course—common sense, right? Not so for Edward J. Smith, the well-liked captain of the Titanic. Many blame him, but not so fast. While he was responsible, the culture of the time significantly influenced decision-making.

Following the disaster, the U.S. Senate inquiry concluded unequivocally that overconfidence, ignored warnings, poor communication, and a lack of leadership led to the Titanic's sinking. Theories about how the Titanic went down are as numerous as there are armchairs, but the cultural mindset of that era presents an intriguing thread to follow. According to the Senate inquiry, this prevailing culture fostered a sense of overconfidence that led the captain not to slow the Titanic as it moved through the ice fields, consult with his officers, or increase the number of lookouts. Strangely, not all seven iceberg warnings were even relayed to him. The confluence of these events played a significant role in one of the greatest and most famous maritime disasters of all time.

A far greater disaster, however, awaits those from the prophetic church of Laodicea who fail to heed the warnings in Revelation 3:14–21. In the ancient church, their culture—shaped by extravagant wealth—fostered self-confidence, self-

assurance, and self-sufficiency, fuelling their cravings for pleasure and leisure. As a result, when it came to spirituality, the local church members mistakenly believed, “I am okay; I need nothing.” The parallels to our times are clear.

Prophetically, Laodicea represents the final church before the Second Coming. At that time, there will be no “lukewarm” Adventists—everyone will be either hot or cold. Why? Because, according to the letter, it is the “counsel of the True Witness” to the Laodiceans that eradicates lukewarmness. They were counselled to buy gold refined in fire, apply eye salve so they could see their true spiritual condition, and wear white garments to cover their nakedness. This counsel from Jesus is fairly standard, isn't it? Yet, while some become spiritually hot, the intriguing question is: why would Jesus' counsel cause so many Sabbath-keeping, believing Adventists to become cold? How can the message of Jesus be so divisive and controversial?

At the very heart of every false religion is the desire for people to save themselves (DA, p. 35). One reason many become cold is that something else has functionally taken the place of Jesus as their Savior. Innocuous phrases such as “I am okay,” “I am a good person,” or “I have all I need” are expressions of self-reliance apart from Jesus.

On the other hand, what drives people to become “hot” is best summarised by a story from Morris Venden. During a time of theological upheaval, he asked H.M.S. Richards, Sr., founder of the *Voice of Prophecy*, “What is the Adventist message?” Richards' razor-sharp reply cut through all the controversy with just two words: “Jesus only.” Could it really be that simple? For the self-reliant and self-sufficient, it is too easy to construct an alternative system of salvation. The Sabbath-keepers in Jesus' time did just that. While Jesus opposes a system of works-based salvation, He is not opposed to effort.

Many Laodiceans will make a shipwreck of their faith because they do not realise they are poor, miserable, blind, and naked. Today, the message to the Laodiceans has lost its meaning for many. The challenge remains the same each day—not to prioritise the ding of a phone notification but to answer the knocking door. In relational terms, it means listening to His voice and breaking bread with Jesus (John 6:51; Revelation 3:20–21), who promises eternal life. Simple and easy—right? Not when culture powerfully conditions people to expect low spiritual outcomes. Maintaining a vibrant relationship with Jesus requires countercultural effort.



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Take a moment to revisit the enlightening sessions presented by Pr Brendan Pratt at BIG CAMP 2025. 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 Pratt inspires and encourages us to develop a personal relationship with Jesus. You'll find immense blessings in rewatching these sessions. Happy viewing!