

# Australia District News



Edition 33/1- Autumn 2018

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# From the Desk of District Apostle Andersen

Dear Brothers and Sisters

Our Chief Apostle announced his New Year greeting under the banner "faithful to Christ". This should be our determined striving as we progress towards the goal of our faith.

As we enter the Autumn season once again in the southern hemisphere (and Spring for the lands in our district that are in the northern hemisphere) we have many special events that are before us. In Australia and New Zealand we have planned a national "Moveathon" on Saturday 17 March where each congregation plans their own events and friends and family can be invited to attend and support the work of our charity NACare Foundation in whatever way they choose. Further details are provided in this edition.

The festive holy days of Palm Sunday, Good Friday, Easter, Ascension Day and Pentecost then follow. Easter this year marks the 50th anniversary of the first National Youth Convention that was conducted in Brisbane at Easter 1968. To celebrate this a reunion is planned for all the ex-youth who have ever attended a youth convention in our district since that time. Details of this have been circulated to all ministers in Australia and New Zealand so please contact them for any further clarification.

The new year has seen the much anticipated Sunday School curriculum released in the English speaking parts of the world and this is now being used to educate and engage our children in this most important period of their

lives. It is during the course of these formative years that they gain their Christian understanding which will be a blessing for them all their lives. We owe the many dedicated Sunday School teachers who give their time and efforts to this noble cause a great debt of gratitude.

Such sentiments of thankfulness are often voiced by the confirmands as they "graduate" from Sunday School and proclaim their Confirmation vow. As in past years, confirmation will (with few exceptions) take place during the period between Easter and Pentecost. It is a joy to see the young brothers and sisters in our congregations enter this new phase of congregational life and to welcome their participation in the many areas of congregational activities.

I wish you joy in all your activities, success in all your endeavours and blessings upon all your works as you continue to proclaim and practice being "faithful to Christ".

With loving greetings,

Andrew H. Andersen

# District Apostle Helper Schulte visits Solomon Islands

District Apostle Helper Peter Schulte travelled to the Solomon Islands for his first visit in February 2018. The Solomon Islands forms part of the working area of Apostle Lodewick and, for this occasion, he also accompanied the District Apostle Helper.

The first stop in the region was a visit to Western Province where the District Apostle Helper conducted divine services in Patmos, Barasipo and Noro. The sacrament of Holy Sealing was dispensed to four souls during these festive divine services.

The District Apostle Helper and Apostle Lodewick then travelled to the Weather Coast of the Solomon Islands where a ministers' seminar and a combined divine service were conducted in the village of Koragha. During this divine service, the long

serving District Evangelist Peter Mami was placed into well-deserved retirement. District Evangelist Mami had served faithfully in the ministry for 41 years and recalled numerous visits by the District Apostles Gerke, Rosentreter and Andersen as well as many other brothers from Australia.

The next leg of the journey saw the Apostles travel to Honiara where two divine services were scheduled. As an added blessing the District Apostle Helper conducted a divine service in the congregation of Boneghe. During this divine service, a new church building was dedicated.

The final divine service of this visit was conducted in the White River congregation in Honiara. Four souls received the sacrament of Holy Sealing during this divine service.



# Youth Convention in Fiji

The 2017 Fiji Youth Convention was held in the village of Veisaru near the town, Ba, from Friday 10th to Sunday 12 November.

A section of land had been cleared for this special event. The early arrival of the summer rain turned this usually scenic venue into mud. Our young brothers and sisters, who had started arriving that afternoon for the Friday evening program, were not concerned by the muddy, damp environment. Their accommodation was dry, the mango trees were laden with ripening fruit and the company was just great. What more could be wished for?

Excited greeting and welcoming was followed by an opening presentation that included a welcome address by the organising leader, Priest Waqabaca Wainiqolo and singing from the respective youth groups. Apostle Trevor Williams was invited to address the youth and pray an opening prayer for the youth convention. This was followed by the generous servings of the very tasty dinner that was prepared by an enthusiastic group of well organised cooks.

After a very wet night, the Saturday's planned activities left the enthusiastic participants somewhat muddy. The annual youth convention NAC Quiz was held with the usual competitive, friendly rivalry by all and also brought some relief from the sticky mud. That evening the youth convention concert with well-rehearsed items was presented by the youth groups from our Fiji congregations. Everyone enjoyed the spirited, stirring singing.

On Sunday morning, Apostle Williams conducted the youth service with the word from Daniel 5:14, "I have heard of you, that the Spirit of God is in you, and that light and understanding and excellent wisdom are found in you." The Apostle was accompanied by District Elder Bale, and District Evangelists Baledrokadroka and Matia. Holy Sealing was also administered to two adults and three children. Two priests and a deacon were ordained.

The visiting congregations from the Ra district brought a gift of two sandalwood trees that were presented to the Veisaru congregation. After the youth service, Apostle Williams was asked to plant these two trees. The brothers related that this gift was an historic symbolism of health, beauty and prosperity for many years to come. This ceremony was followed by fellowship lunch which was prepared for the youth and all the brethren after the service. Lengthy, sad goodbyes followed, and this brought an end to the 2017 Fiji youth convention that was attended by 68 youth. Though their special annual event was wet and somewhat muddy, everyone enjoyed their time in Veisaru.



# NACare update

The annual NACare charity day, known as the Move-a-thon, will take place on 17 March and a number of activities have been planned regarding this initiative.

As a church, we engage in charitable activities because we understand our duty as outlined by the gospel to offer assistance to those in difficult situations of life irrespective of their gender, age, colour, nationality or religion. This work is supported through the voluntary commitment of many helpers in the congregations, but also through material assistance. It should be noted that development support is not only for our New Apostolic Church brothers and sisters but for all members of the community who are in need and would like to improve their living conditions.

To date, NACare Foundation has operated in the emergency and disaster relief space and has had success. In addition to the ongoing generous contributions of our supporters, NACare Foundation received a very generous donation of \$100,000 in Bartercard dollars to be used for disaster assistance in Fiji. Some 13,855 individual items were purchased with the donated funds according to the donation parameters. These items included new clothing for both children and adults, detergent, disinfectant and personal hygiene products.

More recently, it has been decided that while it is important for NACare to respond to disasters by providing emergency relief, there is also a need for ongoing development support both in Australia and

abroad. To this end, a NACare Foundation workshop took place in December 2017 to discuss how this may be best achieved.

As an outcome of this workshop, it is envisaged that certain programmes will be rolled out initially in the Honiara region of the Solomon Islands and the Port Moresby region of Papua New Guinea respectively. The first of these programmes has an intended start date of 1 July 2018 and already, the teams are working to ensure that all mechanisms are in place for our objectives to be achieved.

We trust that this gives some clarification on what NACare is seeking to achieve and where our charity dollars are being spent. More information will follow in subsequent reports.

Get outside and get moving!

*Fellowship - Fun - Fitness*

**SATURDAY 17 March 2018**

**move-a-thon** →



To donate: [www.nacare.org.au/Donations](http://www.nacare.org.au/Donations)

Moveathon website: [www.moveathon.nacare.org.au](http://www.moveathon.nacare.org.au)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/moveathon](http://www.facebook.com/moveathon)



# Sunday School Activities

The Sunday School breakups that took place at the end of 2017 brought a smile to many faces, as the children presented various items and showed off their talents. After enjoying a break over the school holidays, the children have now recommenced their lessons. A number of Sunday School services were conducted at the commencement of 2018 under the theme "Jesus our King". It was explained to the children that Jesus is a different King to earthly kings in that He is kind, compassionate and loving. The services were interactive, where the children were engaged with questions and a slide show. Here is a selection of photos showing the recent activities of the children, parents and teachers.



1. Sunday School picnic to commence the new year for all congregations in Victoria
2. Apostle Williams conducted a seminar for the Sunday School teachers in Nadi, Fiji
3. Sunday School breakup in Albury, Vic
4. A play was presented at the conclusion of the Sunday School service in Hallam (Vic) to illustrate the theme of "Jesus our King"
5. Apostle Lodewick with Sunday School children in Marshall Islands
6. The children from the congregations around Auckland (NZ) came together to present an Advent concert
7. The recorder orchestra played during the Advent concert in Auckland (NZ)
8. Hallam and Springvale (Vic) congregations came together to celebrate the Sunday School breakup
9. Ascot Park Sunday School children with members of the congregation at their breakup
10. Children presenting an instrumental item during the Sunday School breakup in Ascot Park

# Around the Congregations:

1. Youth from Far North Queensland with Apostle Williams and D/Ev Bosshart
2. Apostle Lodewick spent time with members in Japan
3. Ordination of Dcn Gary Van Der Poel in Hallam (Vic)
4. Retirement of Pr Semeato in Samoa
5. Members from Nowra (NSW) congregation
6. Pr Peter Vogler was confirmed in his ministry in Mackay (Qld)
7. Ordination of Dcn Eric De Wet in Albury (NSW)
8. Ordination of Dcn Fuakuung (Daniel) Ndofula Hackham West (SA)
9. Albury Congregation, NSW
10. Advent concert in Auckland (NZ)
11. Bundaberg (Qld) Seniors' fellowship held at Grace Haven Aged Care
12. Confirmants in Samoa closing the year off



# Around the Congregations:

1. Divine service in Kerwil (PNG)
2. Wollongong (NSW) congregation
3. Ap Lodewick with ministers in Marshall Islands
4. Members with Bishop Yasi in Kerwil (PNG)
5. Members from Awatanda congregation (PNG)
6. Members of orchestra playing before a divine service in Christchurch (NZ)
7. Sisters in Christchurch (NZ) enjoying fellowship together
8. Preparation for Apostle visit to Bolba (PNG)
9. Preparation for Apostle visit to Jimi district (PNG)



## Celebrations:

1. Sis Karin Mawhinney of Ascot Park (SA) celebrated her 70th birthday
2. Br Reinhold Schaefer of Ascot Park (SA) celebrated his 75th birthday
3. Sis Laura Fleck of Box Hill (Vic) celebrated her 90th birthday
4. Sis Ferne Rosentreter of Buranda (Qld) celebrated her 80th birthday
5. Sis Lyn Tickner of Buranda (Qld) celebrated her 70th birthday
6. Holy Sealing in Rita, Marshall Islands
7. Holy Baptism of Noah van Dyk-Stowers in Kingston (Qld)
8. Holy Sealing of Christina Vogler in Mackay (Qld)
9. Holy Sealing of Denzel Muyaya in Hackham West (SA)
10. Holy Sealing in Perth (WA)
11. Holy Sealing of Ayesha Christians in Canberra (ACT)
12. Sis Ena Morris of Ascot Park (SA) celebrated her 95th birthday
13. Sis Erica Martens of Croydon (Vic) celebrated her 90th birthday
14. Dcn Tim & Sis Eirleen Tischendorf of Drury (NZ) received Silver Wedding blessings
15. Holy Sealing in Aljeltake, Marshall Islands
16. Holy Sealing of Axel Ravell of Springvale (Vic)
17. Holy Baptism & Sealing of Khloe Adonis in Christchurch (NZ)
18. Holy Baptism of Olivia Murray in Ascot Park (SA)
19. Holy Sealing of Jane Maina in Redcliffe (Qld)
20. Holy Baptism of Axton Teale in Redcliffe (Qld)
21. Sis Marilyn Alexander & Br Philip Sangster of Henderson (NZ) received wedding blessings
22. Holy Baptism of Oliver Byers in Leumeah (NSW)
23. DA (ir) Ernst and Sis Lya Graf received blessings for their 65th wedding anniversary in Ashmore (Qld)
24. Holy Baptism of Stig Feinauer in Beverly Hills (NSW)
25. Sis Stacey Alfred & Br Kieren Tracey received wedding blessings in Croydon (Vic)
26. Holy Baptism of Lincoln Dargusch in Windsor (Qld)
27. Pr Ian & Sis Edith Smith received 25th wedding blessing in Perth (WA)
28. Holy Baptism of Matthew Mathys in Howick (NZ)



# For your Information

## Chief Apostle Schneider's schedule:

Apr 2018	May 2018	Jun 2018
1: Nottingham, UK	20: Washington, USA	3: Ostermundigen, Switzerland
8: Karlsruhe, Germany		10: Luanda, Angola
15: Toronto, Canada		17: Leipzig, Germany
22: Trebaseleghe, Italy		24: Landshut, Germany
29: Livingstone, Zambia		

## Ordinations / Retirements:

Name	Ordination/ Commission	Ministry	Congregation
Pr Ralph Schubach	Confirmation	Priest	Christchurch, NZ
Ev Shaun Testa	Commission	Rector	Orewa, NZ
Pr Deon Abrahams	Confirmation	Priest	Orewa, NZ
Ev Pieter van Vuren	Commission	Rector	Rockhampton, Qld
Br Eric de Wet	Ordination	Deacon	Albury, NSW
Br Cornelius Muller	Ordination	Deacon	Morayfield, Qld
Dcn Johan Joshua	Confirmation	Deacon	Henderson, NZ
Pr Peter Vogler	Confirmation	Priest	Mackay, Qld
Br Gary Van Der Poel	Ordination	Deacon	Hallam, Vic

## District Apostle Andersen's schedule:

Apr 2018	May 2018	Jun 2018
1: Brisbane, Qld	6: Buranda, Qld	10: Morayfield, Qld
8: Wellington, NZ	20: Washington, USA	17: Suva, Fiji
15: Redcliffe, Qld		24: Sydney, NSW
22: Caloundra, Qld		
29: Perth, WA		

## In Memoriam:

Br Gary Heynes of Kingston (Qld)	† 24 Jan 2018
Br Joshua Laufer of Buranda (Qld)	† 16 Feb 2018
Sis Johanna (Hanny) Alder of Buranda (Qld)	† 17 Feb 2018
DE (ret) Murad Hanna of Fairfield (NSW)	† 3 Mar 2018

## Upcoming Events:

Apr 2018	May 2018	Jun 2018
1: Easter Sunday / 50th Youth Convention Reunion service	10: Ascension	
	13: Mother's Day	
25: Anzac Day	20: Pentecost	

### ONLINE OFFERINGS

If you prefer to transfer your offering electronically, this option is now available for all members. All account details are hidden and transactions are confidential.

Bank: ANZ

BSB: 014-275

Account No: 4832-99915

Reference: Your congregation (eg Redcliffe, Qld)

**AVAILABLE FOR CONGREGATIONS IN AUSTRALIA ONLY**



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