

Australia District News



Edition 31/2 - Winter 2016

In this issue:

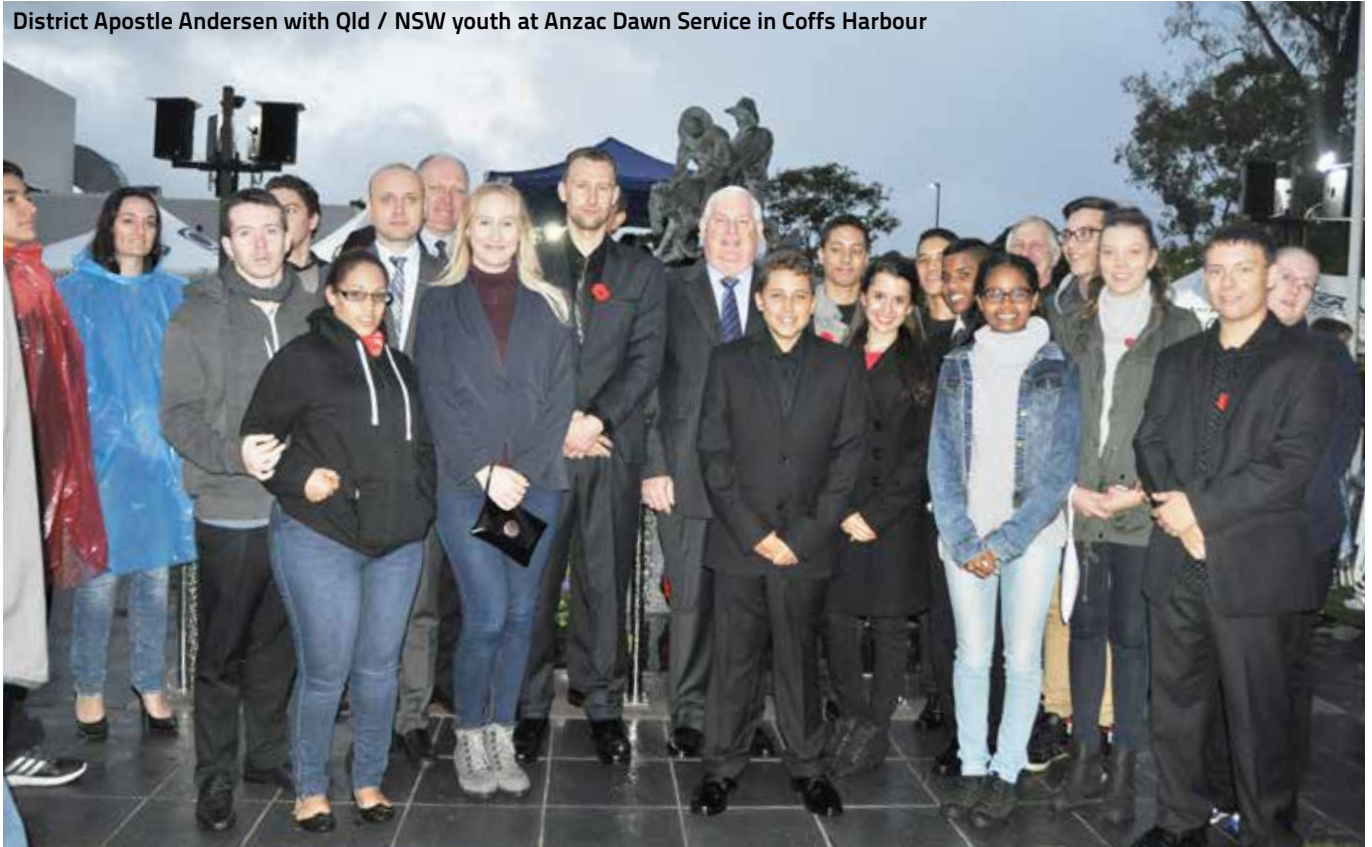
NACare update

Farewell to Bishop Green

Confirmation 2016

Qld/NSW Youth Convention

District Apostle Andersen with Qld / NSW youth at Anzac Dawn Service in Coffs Harbour



From the Desk of District

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This edition of the Australia District News pays tribute to Bishop John Green who passed away on 3 June. He served as a Bishop in the Australia District for over 25 years and was still active (although temporarily relieved since 15 May 2016 due to his illness) when he was called out of this life at the age of 64. A special tribute to our Bishop and a profile of his ministerial activity form part of this edition.

The special occasion of the visit of our Chief Apostle accompanied by all the District Apostles of the world is drawing closer. The congregations of Perth, Western Australia will host this special event in the history of the Australia District. The choir and orchestra will be made up of all who wish to participate from

anywhere within our district. Sunday School children from throughout our district are also welcome to participate. A special focus on our Chief Apostle and the District Apostles will be a feature in the next issue. A program of planned events is included in this edition.

On July 3 the New Apostolic Church worldwide conducts Service for the Departed. These special services, which we have 3 times per year, are an opportunity to especially focus on our loved ones and the many others who occupy the realms of the departed. In the last District Apostles' Meeting (in March 2016) it was noted that people around the world, irrespective of nationality, customs and



Representatives of the Qld & NSW Youth each laid a wreath with the District Apostle

Apostle Andersen

beliefs, almost all have a "fascination" with the concept of "life after death". As children of God we have an understanding of this and we naturally want to share this with others. The Service for the Departed enables us to invite interested people to experience a very special event in our congregation.

The NACare Foundation is now fully functional. As the charity arm of the New Apostolic Church in the Australia District it is actively receiving donations and is also providing the "first responder" assistance to disasters in communities in our district which is its primary function. The first such situation since its inception was the disaster caused by Cyclone Winston which hit Fiji on 20 February this

year. All the moneys collected through the NACare Foundation were channeled to the communities where our members live. A special report on this is contained in this issue. Also, in future, the Australia District News will dedicate a page to the work that goes on behind the scenes of this foundation.

With loving greetings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Andersen'.

Andrew H. Andersen

Service for Departed in Gladstone, Qld

The congregations of Rockhampton, Bundaberg and Mackay were invited to Gladstone for the weekend of 5 and 6 March 2016 when District Apostle Andersen was scheduled to hold the Departed Service in Gladstone. A tropical downpour could not hinder the joyful anticipation of all arriving in Gladstone from Saturday.

Our brothers and sisters, with their friends, filled our Gladstone church in excited anticipation of the interactive concert on Saturday evening. The concert was hosted by the small, well organised team of Gladstone brethren. The ninety-minute event was filled with musical presentations from all the congregations, interesting, humorous and inspiring anecdotes as well as short quizzes with incentive prizes that promoted good friendly rivalry and somehow left everyone feeling like winners. The concert was followed by a fellowship supper that was enjoyed by all and could not be subdued by the inclement weather.

District Apostle Andrew Andersen was accompanied by Apostle Trevor Williams and District Elder Peter Schulte for the Departed Service. The District Apostle's sermon was based on the biblical text that was given to all Apostles to serve with for that departed service: "Then the master said to the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.'" (Luke 14: 23).

In this festive service Brother Ryan Bosshart was ordained into the deacon ministry for the Gladstone congregation and Evangelist Craig and Sister Carolyn Bosshart received the Silver Wedding blessing. The inclement weather had no effect on the joy of the blessed fellowship even when the rector's vehicle was almost grafted into the soggy church garden. All visitors departed from Gladstone very thankful to their generous warm hearted hosts.





NACare supports Fiji brethren



Towns and villages in the Fiji islands were decimated by Cyclone Winston, the strongest recorded tropical storm to ever hit the Pacific region, during the evening of Saturday 20 February 2016. The villages in the island of northern Viti Levu, the island of southern Vanua Levu and the inhabited islands in between were hardest hit by devastating winds that reached up to 350 km per hour.



The communities were given warnings that the cyclone was approaching Suva and that it would hit between midnight and 1:00am on Sunday. Instead, the storm changed course and travelled north west, arriving seven hours earlier than anticipated. In the region of Fiji where the cyclone was most severe, families had to abandon their shaking, disintegrating homes and shelters. Completely exposed to the elements, their only refuge was to lay low and huddle in the long grass while the raging winds and torrential rains scattered their belongings across the countryside with very little of it ever to be seen again. In the wake of this frightening experience, many families learnt that they had lost absolutely everything.

As news of the devastation caused by Cyclone Winston spread around the world, many wanted to know what they could do or how they could help the communities of the Fiji islands recover from the destruction and loss that had been experienced by so many. This was very difficult to assess as all villages were isolated by large amounts of debris that covered the roads. Only after some days could District Elder Jiona Bale and our congregation leaders reach all our brethren and identify the urgently required needs of many.



The response to the call for donations was quick and generous with contributions of \$AU13,100.00 to NACare Foundation.

In the first instance the immediate basic needs of all families who had lost almost everything were addressed. NACare Foundation's primary focus was those who were remote from the major highway and who could not get to the immediate support provided by the major non-government organisations. Members and their communities were supported with basic goods that included cooking pots and kettles, and utensils for preparing meals - table knives, forks and spoons. Each family was given plates, bowls, cups and cutlery for the family. Tarpaulins were purchased to cover and waterproof temporary roofs and shelters. Buckets and bars of soap were purchased as well as the much appreciated mosquito coils. In addition, parcels of basic foods that included bags of split peas, rice and flour, coffee and tea, powdered milk and sugar were purchased for the families in need.



In Lautoka, the home of our Priest and his family had its roof ripped off and some walls badly damaged by the destructive storm. This home is used for the divine services which are held there every Wednesday evening. Temporary repairs have been done and it is proposed that a new roof will replace the temporarily repaired leaking roof and the walls will also be repaired to ensure that this home is a sound dwelling to live in and conduct services in again.

Now that the immediate needs of these communities are being met, we are identifying recovery projects that we can support the Fiji island communities with.



In Memoriam: Bishop John Green

It was with great sadness and a measure of shock that brothers and sisters throughout the Australia District and in many other parts of the world learned of the passing of Bishop John Green in the late evening of Friday, 3 June. He had been admitted to hospital only 3 days prior and was expected to respond to the treatment that he was given, but this was not to be.

John Green was born in Brisbane on 21 September 1951, the oldest of 4 boys in the Green family. As a young adult he embraced the teachings of the New Apostolic Church eventually receiving the sacrament of Holy Sealing in 1972. He married his wife Karen Barnes in 1973 and just 11 years into their marriage they embraced the call of the Heavenly Father to serve Him as a 'minister family'. John was subsequently ordained as a Sub-Deacon on 22 January 1984. He received the deacon ministry on 12 May 1985 and then the priest ministry on 1 January 1986. He was commissioned as Rector of the Windsor congregation in 1987 and then moved to Sydney for business reasons in 1989. He served there as Evangelist and then District

Evangelist before being ordained as Bishop for Queensland and New South Wales on 13 January 1991.

During his 25 years of serving as Bishop he also worked extensively in a number of other countries in our district including Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu. Bishop Green was loved by children and seniors alike and always had time for everyone. He was a zealous servant of God and when he learned of his illness he refused to allow it to hinder him from serving the Lord's work. Even when he retired from his business, he insisted on continuing his work as a Bishop. After extensive discussion and recognising his declining health condition, he finally agreed to a retirement date, but the Lord called him out of this life before that could be put into effect. We are thankful for the many gifts that he brought to our district as God's servant and he certainly occupies a very special place in the history of God's work in the Australia District. He is survived by his dear wife and faithful supporter Karen, their 2 children and 3 grandchildren.





Qld/NSW Youth Convention

With Monday 25th April being the ANZAC Day public holiday, it afforded the opportunity for a youth convention over the long weekend.

The venue chosen was Coffs Harbour which is midway between Sydney and Brisbane. Months before, intensive planning took place to ensure that the weekend was a great success.

The day finally arrived and the youth committed to waking up very early on Saturday morning to board buses at 5.00am in Sydney and 6.00am in Brisbane. The youth could not contain their excitement and already on the journey youth on both buses were facetimeing each other to show off their musical talents.

We all arrived at the camp at the same time and after a good lunch and checking in, the youth participated in the afternoon activities. First up was the Zorb Ball and Mega Drop. The Zorb Ball involved being strapped into a giant ball with a partner and being rolled down a hill. The Mega Drop entailed climbing up onto an installation 12 metres above the ground and then jumping off. The second round was the Commando Course which combined all of the youth. This was extreme with all youth being tested in their endurance. The evening consisted of some great events such as trivia and fun games.

On Sunday morning the youth were blessed to participate in the Youth Service

conducted by the District Apostle. It was a most blessed event. This was followed by lunch and an evening presentation on the ANZAC spirit. Those who had previously attended ANZAC presentations remarked that this was the best by far. This also prepared the youth for the ANZAC Dawn Service the next day.

On Monday morning the youth had to be on the bus at 4:45am to make it in time for the ANZAC Dawn Service at the local RSL. The District Apostle, together with one representative each from Qld and NSW, laid wreaths at the service. It was a memorable event. At 11am we prepared to leave camp after a good breakfast. All enjoyed it thoroughly and are looking forward to the next one.





NSW Sunday School Camp

The Sunday school children and their families from the NSW district were invited to a Sunday School Camp weekend at the beginning of the year.

The children, as well as the supervisors and organisers, were filled with eager anticipation as they travelled to the camp in the Blue Mountains on the outskirts of Sydney on Friday night. Bishop Green officially opened the camp with prayer.

Saturday was filled with a variety of activities including rock climbing, swimming and other sporting activities as well as a treasure hunt. The choir practice and ensemble practice in the afternoon were a good preparation for the Sunday School Service next morning.

On Sunday, the children participated keenly answering questions, singing and playing their instruments before and during the divine service. After cleaning out the rooms and lunch there was more time for games and swimming on a beautiful summer day. All enjoyed the weekend and many stayed until mid-afternoon to continue to enjoy the fellowship before returning home. We thank our Heavenly Father and all who contributed for a very blessed weekend.



Croydon, Vic



Samoa



Geelong, Vic



Mt Hagen, PNG



Badibo, PNG



Mackay, Qld

Redcliffe, Qld



Karratha, WA

Seven Hills, NSW



Confirmation 2016

Dear Confirmands,

Your confirmation is a subject of great joy for your parents, your leaders, and the entire congregation. We are all very happy that you are resolved to follow the Lord.

I dedicate the following Bible text to you for your future walk of life:

"But when the multitudes knew it, they followed Him; and He received them and spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and healed those who had need of healing" (Luke 9: 11).

No matter what happens in your lives, you can be sure that you are always welcome with Jesus. Never hesitate to come to Him!

The spiritual instruction you have received makes it possible for you to understand the will of God: He has called you to enter into His kingdom. The Holy Spirit now wants to help you discover it. By growing in the knowledge of Jesus Christ, you will come to the same realization to which we, as your elders, have come: The Lord is always greater than we think! The better we get to know Him, the more we will love Him.

On behalf of all the Apostles, I thank you for responding to the call of the Lord. Thank you as well for supporting the apostolate in its mission! Wishing you much joy in the Church, we extend to you, dear confirmands, our most heartfelt greetings.

Jean-Luc Schneider

Christchurch, NZ



Hobart, Tas



American Samoa



Buranda, Qld



Auckland, NZ



International District Apostles' Meeting
Perth, Australia
20 - 23 October, 2016



In the spirit of unity

Chief Apostle visit to Perth, Australia

Saturday, 22 October 2016

All members are invited to an afternoon of fellowship including a sausage sizzle, drinks and afternoon tea. Activities for the children include a jumping castle, face painting and egg & spoon races. Transport options from the city are available and details will be advised closer to the day.

Venue:	Trinity College	2 Trinity Ave, East Perth
Time:	From 12.00 pm 2.00pm - 3.00pm 2.00pm - 3.00pm 3.00pm - 5.00pm	Lunch and activities Children's choir practice Orchestra practice Choir practice

Sunday, 23 October 2016

Divine service to be conducted by Chief Apostle Jean-Luc Schneider. All District Apostles and District Apostle Helpers from around the globe will be in attendance for this special occasion.

Venue:	Perth Concert Hall	5 St Georges Tce, Perth
Time:	10.00am (local time)	



Stay up to date on Facebook!

Visit www.facebook.com and search "Chief Apostle Visit - Perth 2016"





Around the Congregations:

1. Howick (NZ) Sunday School children held an Easter hat parade
2. The New Zealand confirmands of 2016 had a weekend in Wellington (NZ)
3. Seniors get-together in Auckland (NZ)
4. Mother's Day in Buranda (Qld)
5. A workshop was held on Good Friday for youth in the Auckland (NZ) area
6. Mother's Day in Elizabeth (SA).
7. Members of Orewa (NZ) congregation held a discussion about life in the beyond in preparation for Departed Service
8. Valedictory dinner for the 2016 confirmands in North Shore (NZ)
9. The District Apostle with ministers in Buranda (Qld), where he conducted the Pentecost Service





Celebrations:

1. Holy Sealing of Kaliya Halleur in Paihia (NZ)
2. Holy Sealing of Zac Kloosman in Morayfield (Qld)
3. Br Alex Anderson of Elizabeth (SA) celebrated his 95th birthday
4. Evangelist (ret) Heinz Hammacher of Beverly Hills (NSW) celebrated his 80th birthday
5. Br Horst & Sis June Lethaus received Golden Wedding blessings in Scoresby (Vic)
6. Adoption of Br Charles & Sis Melva Wakeley in Invercargill (NZ)
7. Br Steve & Sis Leigh Meagher received Silver Wedding blessings in Buranda (Qld)
8. Holy Baptism of Elena Vogler in Mackay (Qld)
9. Sis Ulrika Haller of New Lynn (NZ) celebrated her 70th birthday
10. Sis Audrey Griffin of Paihia (NZ) celebrated her 80th birthday
11. Br Greg & Sis Anndrea Heynes received Silver Wedding blessings in Hallam (Vic)
12. Sis Dolly Dietz of North Ipswich (Qld) celebrated her 102nd birthday
13. Holy Sealing of Staffanie Canoy, Carlos Carelse & Kilik Adams in Hallam (Vic)
14. Holy Baptism of Daniella Tshiaba in Ascot Park (SA)
15. Br Kevin & Sis Schlosz received Silver Wedding blessings in St Marys (NSW)
16. Pr Cornelius & Sis Dalene Human received Ruby Wedding blessings in Redcliffe (Qld)
17. Holy Baptism of Sarah Manase in Werribee (Vic)
18. Br David Heynes of Hallam (Vic) celebrated his 80th birthday
19. Sis Regi Goodyear of Buranda (Qld) celebrated her 70th birthday
20. Br Daan & Sis Tina Bothma of New Lynn (NZ) received Diamond Wedding blessings
21. Holy Baptism of Abbie Mackrill in Redcliffe (Qld)
22. Sis Alida Mayer and Br Brian Tanner of Howick (NZ) received wedding blessings
23. Br Hans & Sis Hilda Schwarz of Buranda (Qld) celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary
24. Br Gabriel & Sis Frieda Henry of Paihia (NZ) received Golden Wedding blessings
25. Br Alex & Sis Christel Anderson of Elizabeth (SA) celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary
26. Dcn (ret) Eric & Sis Patricia Ziervogel of Ashmore (Qld) celebrated their Diamond Wedding anniversary

For your Information

Chief Apostle Schneider's schedule:

Jul 2016	Aug 2016	Sept 2016
3: Vancouver, Canada	7: Leipzig-Mitte, Germany	11: Innsbruck, Austria
10: Tirana, Albania	14: Heilbronn, Germany	18: Krefeld, Germany
17: Kananga, DR Congo		
24: Kampala, Uganda		

In Memoriam:

Br Karl Barlow of St Marys (NSW)	† 4/4/16
Br Henry Richardt of Hallam (Vic)	† 16/4/16
Pr Johannes (John) Schulte of Mackay (Qld)	† 21/4/16
Sis Marianna Fischer of Albury (Vic)	† 25/4/16
Br Udo Martens of Redcliffe (Qld)	† 14/5/16
Sis Brigitta Edwards of Windsor (Qld)	† 18/5/16
Bis John Green of Seven Hills (NSW)	† 3/6/16
Sis Ruby Barnes of Seven Hills (NSW)	† 15/6/16
Sis Edna Williams of New Lynn (NZ)	† 15/6/16

District Apostle Andersen's schedule:

Jul 2016	Aug 2016	Sept 2016
3: Solomon Is	7: Munich, Germany	4: Caloundra, Qld
10: Sydney, NSW	14: Heilbronn, Germany	11: Canberra, ACT
17: Samoa		18: Toowoomba, Qld
24: North Shore, NZ		25: Mackay, Qld
31: Ashmore, Qld		

Upcoming Events:

Jul 2016	Aug 2016	Sept 2016
3: Service for Departed		4: Father's Day
8-10: NACYAC		10: National day of fellowship
		11: 25th anniversary of Canberra church
		18: Chief Apostle Schneider's birthday
		21: International Day of Prayer for Peace
		24-25: NZ Youth Convention

Ordinations / Retirements:

Name	Ordination Commission	Ministry	Congregation
Pr Shaun Testa	Ordination	Evangelist	Paihia / Whangarei, NZ



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