



GOLDEN GROVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Life in the Vine

THE MAGAZINE OF GOLDEN GROVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Community Fete - pg. 10

WELCOME TO THE DECEMBER EDITION OF LIFE IN THE VINE.

Christmas is upon us! It is that time of year where plans and preparations are made, life becomes hectic all with the goal of entertaining and relaxation. Whilst we look forward to celebrating, we also reflect on the year past. The theme of this publication can be summed up by a post recently seen, *"This is not the year to get everything that you want. This is the year to appreciate everything that you have"*.

This year, even with all its trials and tests, we see how our community came together through the fete and the success that this event was. We also see in this issue, the generosity of our community through the purchase of new equipment, the refreshing of our site through paint, and the outstanding success of fundraising efforts whilst playing Ping Pong. We affirm our relationships with our Pastor and the School and treasure the outstanding assets and other events we have like the library. We also show our appreciation to Shane Patterson as he reflects on his final year as School Principal.

Whilst this year has been challenging, we can all reminisce and appreciate the original Christmas – the birth of our saviour Jesus Christ – leading us to praise and thanksgiving.

"Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!" Psalm 107:1

Stay safe, have a blessed Christmas and a joyful new year!!

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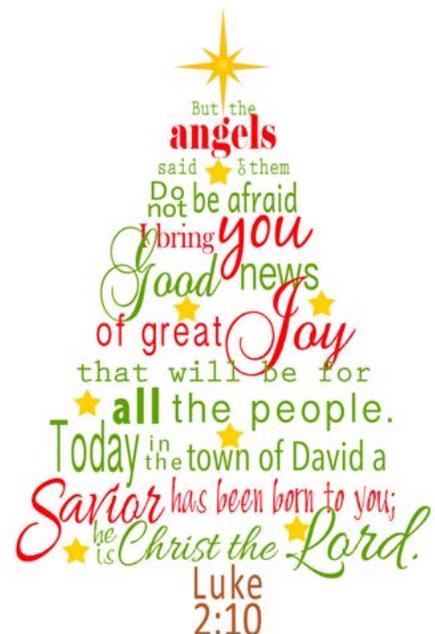
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PASTOR GREG SHARES

BY PASTOR GREG FOWLER



A Fearless Christmas

*But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary;
you have found favour with God.*

Luke 1:30

There are so many things to treasure about Christmas. If we consider how our leaders are currently focussed on ensuring Australians can freely travel at Christmas, we see how valuable this time is to our society. Christmas is about putting the things that matter most at the centre of our lives; even if it's just for a little while. Being with family, exchanging gifts and intentionally leaving worry behind to seek joy are hallmarks of a traditional Christmas.

While all of those things are blessings for which we thank God, the bible tells us that Christmas is much more. It is the celebration of God himself breaking into history to change things for the better. Jesus became a human so that we would have complete freedom and a secure future. When we look at the visitation of the angels at Christmas we see that they greet the recipients of celestial messages with the phrase 'do not be afraid'. Because of Jesus we can live beyond our fears.

“Christmas is about putting the things that matter most at the centre of our lives”

Do not be afraid, Joseph, to take Mary as your wife. When God calls us to do something, he will be with us by his Holy Spirit.

Do not be afraid, Zachariah, your prayers have been answered. When we pray in the name of Jesus we have access to the Father and our prayers are heard and answered.

Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favour. When we have faith in Jesus and live according to our conscience we are assured of God's favour and protection.

Do not be afraid, shepherds, we have good news. When we listen to God's word we are recreated by the good news of Jesus Christ that we are saved by grace through faith.

This Christmas may we be made fearless as we respond to his call, pray, believe his word and allow his grace to shape our lives. May we experience the joy of God coming to us.

“...we are recreated by the good news of Jesus Christ that we are saved by grace through faith.”





HIGHLIGHTS FROM CHURCH COUNCIL

BY JON SCHUTZ
GGLC CHAIRPERSON

Despite all the ups and downs of the last 8 months, we have still been able to deliver a full worship service with liturgy, music and message each week; for a short moment, it looked like Circuit Breaker Lockdown was going to prevent us from being in the church building. Fortunately, had the lockdown actually made it all the way to a Sunday, the live-stream would have continued from Greg's home, coordinated by Joel from his home. Now that the circuit breaker has been reset just in time, we again have lights, camera, action in the church and can proceed with normal worship... for this week at least.

But if you can cast your minds back to the days before widespread deprivation of liberty was reduced to an electrical metaphor, you might recall that our Fete on Sunday October 18 was an outstanding day. As it is covered elsewhere in this issue of Life in the Vine I will not recap in detail here. We have many things to be thankful for: that the timing worked in well around COVID restrictions; that the weather was perfectly matched to the occasion; that we had so many volunteers to help the day run; and that it was a very helpful contribution to our annual budget. We have estimated that at least two thirds of visitors would have been from outside the church-school community. An enormous "thankyou" goes to Lesley for coordinating the team of volunteers. Next year's event is planned for Sunday October 17, in a COVID-vaccinated world perhaps.

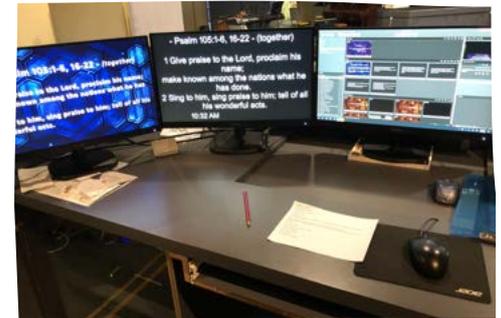
The Finance Team met in mid-November to review the current year's financial situation and to formulate the budget for next year. I would like to thank all members for continuing to support the church by maintaining regular offerings through an irregular year. Adding in the JobKeeper and Boosting Cashflow payments to our fundraising through firewood sales and the fete, these have enabled us to create a reasonable safety margin for our cash flow (which had become somewhat tight in recent years with our renovations) and to invest in a range of necessary equipment upgrades as outlined below. Our budget for next year is also looking quite manageable, due to having the fete as a regular fixture in combination with the cafe income as supplements to our offering income.

The proposed 2021 budget then goes to Church Council for review before being presented to the congregation for approval at the Half Yearly Meeting, to be held on December 13.

As reported in the previous issue, in the church we have two new large screen TVs, two new cameras, uncountably many new monitors on the PA bar, a new defibrillator, a new printer, and new presentation software, most of the costs of which were donated by individual members who have a passion to ensure that our worship and live-streams run smoothly, safely and professionally. In addition, we are also in the throes of replacing the mixing desk and some microphones which have been starting to fail, and the projector which is near the end of its useful life—which in turn will require a projector screen upgrade as the world has changed the way it looks at video in the 20+ years since the original screen was installed. The church office network also needs some upgrade work. These changes will roll out starting from post-lockdown and into 2021.

Pastor Greg’s 3 year Review of Ministry actually happened in September after several failed attempts. This regular process is also known as an “affirmation workshop” and considers the various roles of the pastor, the strengths and challenges of the relationship between pastor and people, issues concerning stress, and areas in which further work, growth and development might be required. The details of the discussion and outcomes remain confidential between those directly involved and the Bishop, but it was a positive process and I would like to thank Pastor Steen Olsen for facilitating the review and to the reviewing team for their valuable input.

The outside of the School, Worship Centre and Fellowship Centre have all had a fresh coat of paint, with a move away from the traditional maroon to a deep blue with white and woodland grey highlights. All of the costs associated with the painting have been borne by the school within a multi-year maintenance contract and we would like to say a big thankyou to the school for making that happen. We are currently working on upgrading the signage over the main entrance to the church, which for the moment is blank as the old lettering was removed for the painting, so (literally) “watch this space”.



“...move away from the traditional maroon to a deep blue with white and woodland grey highlights.”

The School Constitution has been under review for more than two years and significant progress has been made in recent times. I would like to thank everyone who participated in the short survey regarding the future role of the congregation in the governance of the school. The results of the survey demonstrated a strong preference toward having a continued role in oversight of the School from the congregation generally (rather than from a specific smaller group). Through the working groups that discussed the matters in more detail, it became apparent that the key issue was that the congregation continue to have a say over the relationship, more so than the need for oversight in a governance sense. At the time of writing, the School Council was considering (broadly) two main options: a Board and members model which has many similarities in structure to the current constitution, or a Board-only model with additional provisions that would ensure the congregation still has a say in future changes to the constitution and continues to receive annual reports from the school. School Council will choose one of these and ask the Members of the School (that is, you, the Congregation) for approval most likely at the AGM in May 2021.





NEWS FROM GGLPS

BY SHANE PATERSON
PRINCIPAL



A Change of Season

As you all know I am in my final weeks as principal at GGLPS. A Bible verse that has resonated with me over the last few weeks and months is from Ecclesiastes 3:1, 'For everything there is a season...' After five years my 'season' at GGLPS is coming to an end.

I have seen this season as a time to grow, to learn, to explore. It has been an enjoyable time in a diverse and supportive community. The multi-cultural nature of our school has been an absolute joy for me to experience. There have been several changes at the school during these past five years; buildings, grounds, curriculum, personnel. Another change has been the redefining of the relationship between the school and the congregation through the Partnership Covenant – a document which directs the ministry and mission of our joint community.

2020 has certainly been an interesting year and thrown many challenges at us as we learnt to 'be school' during the pandemic. Many of our loved community events and activities were compromised to some degree with some being cancelled completely. We learnt a lot about ourselves, our community and what is important in the educative process during this time. We pray that 2021 will see us welcoming parents fully (back) into the school.

To work in an environment where governance is completely understood by the School Council and trust given to me to manage the school on their behalf, has been empowering. I sincerely thank Gen and the Council for the support and faith shown in me over this time.

**“After five years
my ‘season’ at
GGLPS is coming
to an end.”**

“A trusting and supportive relationship ensures that this whole community works and prays together.”

The work of the staff and their care, love, commitment, and concern for the students is wonderful. Each one of us has been called by God to serve Him and to serve at this place at this time. I see daily the impact of the strong relationships between staff and students as we aim to make GGLPS a safe and warm learning environment. Tim and Jayne, as members of the leadership team have enacted the vision and strategic direction of the school and their wisdom and love of the school is obvious.

The strength of the relationship between the school and congregation is manifested in the strong relationship between Greg and me. A trusting and supportive relationship ensures that this whole community works and prays together. It has been wonderful to be able to participate and support various congregational ministries.

Relationships is a theme that has run through this narrative. The one relationship that perhaps matters the most is that which we have with God. Our Christian faith is the bedrock of the school and through all the uncertainty of this year, through the changing of this season, Jesus has been the one constant to which we can turn. It certainly is a joy and privilege to be able to speak the Gospel freely in our community and allow the Spirit to work in that.



Parliament House Visit



"Middle of Term" Breakfast



Pyjama Day

There are a number of staffing changes next year. Marion Chan and Kate Burton have accepted positions at Good Shepherd, Para Vista in 2021. Both have been given opportunities to follow their career passions. While it is sad to see them go, we pray that God will continue to bless them as they begin at a new community. Brodie Trezona has been appointed on a twelve-month contract.

As you know a new principal Mr Will Wallace has been appointed to the school. He will begin his service here early in the new year. I am sure he will be welcomed and be well supported as he plays his role in the joint mission and ministry of this community.

So, this current season now comes to an end. There is a time to say goodbye and a time to welcome Will as the new principal to the GGLPS.

A new season starts for me in Melbourne as I take on the role of Director of Leadership and School Improvement in the Victorian District. This role covers Lutheran schools in Victoria, New South Wales and Tasmania. I am certainly looking forward to this new calling and the challenges which lie ahead.

May God continue to bless and look over this community as it continues to move forward offering a strong Christian education.

Together in Christ, Shane Paterson



Golden Grove Lutheran Community looks forward to welcoming our new school principal, Will Wallace.

William is currently the Head of Junior School at Lakes Grammar, a K-12 Anglican School in NSW, where he has also served in the position of Acting Principal and Deputy Principal K-12 and has been involved in his local Lutheran congregation in Sydney.

William is married to Rebecca, a primary school teacher, and they have three children - Liam and Kennan (twins) and Jack.





COMMUNITY FETE

2020

BY LESLEY FRIEDRICH



“...a community full of desire to get out to “AN EVENT”!”

The second annual Community Fete (in the era of Pastor Greg) was held on October 18th. Once again a great success, overlaid with wonderful spring weather and a community full of desire to get out to “AN EVENT”! (Any event, after a long COVID winter!) You couldn’t miss the signage in surrounding suburbs... it seems we are building a brand with our eye-catching blue sky banners! 107.9 Life FM gave us frequent radio exposure through their LIFE DIARY, and we are most grateful for their support. An advert in the week prior, for the Tesla rides, even brought people out just to see the cars!

COVID added some complexities to preparation this year. With changing government requirements in the months leading up, we were constantly intrigued as to the future possibilities. Would we have to cancel last minute, be restricted further with numbers, or would we be almost back to “normal”? Even if at near normal, the potential attendance by patrons was pure guesswork. Would people stay at home, in fear of crowds? Would we be overwhelmed with numbers and need to stop people at the gate? As we didn’t expect more than 1000 patrons on site at any one time, we were able to run with a COVID Safe plan rather than the more onerous COVID Management plan. Our gate counting devices showed that we were running with around 600 on site fairly consistently throughout the day. All up, approximately 1500 people came through the gates, so with vendors and volunteers already on site, the total count would have been close to 1700 for the day.

We thank Blair Boyer for opening up the fete and for his complimentary words about the school, the welcoming atmosphere at the church and the wonderful Playgroup that his children enjoy. Blair's free donuts were always guaranteed to be a hit with a fantastic aroma as they were cooking in the car park.

The fete was well attended by GGLPS families, church families and members of the wider community. With approximately 40 stalls and attractions there was no shortage of things to do. Outside there were race, performance and electric cars on display, Tesla car rides around the block, the Nuclear Meltdown bouncy castle, market stalls including board games, things to save the environment, pre-loved goods, GGAF and the Prayer Tent. The kid's games and popcorn stand, run by GGLC Youth, proved very popular. The pony rides provided by Gawler River Pony Club had a huge line up at the kiss and drop area, but people didn't seem to mind as the Knotty Ash Miniature Horses were there for a pat and Modbury Hawks had a netball ring out for shooting practice.

Inside, the Kids Art showed off the many talents of Ms Richardson and her classes as well as wonderful works brought in from home. The Kids Baking Competition showed many budding chefs in our community. Some very mouth-watering baked goods were on display, as well as intricately designed cupcakes. The community arts and crafts were something to behold. Incredible talent on display as well as tremendous music with voices from the school Choir and GGLC singers! Cafe Connect was a popular stop-off point, and our cake and produce stalls sold out well before the end of the day. The vendors inside also presented an array of options for visitors to peruse, from baby's goods to wooden toys to gourmet confectionery to face masks. Skin care products and scrapbooking supplies as well, to cater for a range of tastes.



“...from baby's goods to wooden toys to gourmet confectionery to face masks.”



Outside, the plant stall surrounded by garden ornaments from Metal & More and the handcrafted birdhouses were fodder for the eyes for anyone who is garden proud.

Stratco stepped up first to be our major sponsor for the raffle prizes, with a \$500 Voucher plus a wheelbarrow. Other local businesses were very generous in their support for our raffle. In the end, there were 39 raffle prizes!

We were blessed to have the support of the businesses of two school families: BBQ Trailer Hire SA provided a free loan of the HUGE BBQ trailer (with attached preparation bench and eskies) that did the heavy lifting for food at the fete. We thank Jon Tritton for his generous contribution in this way. Also TRENT4RENT Horticultural Maintenance supported the raffle by donating a \$200 travel voucher from travel agent (and last year's major prize donor) Jason Hillier of Travel Whizz. Thanks Trent!

83 volunteers made a huge contribution to the fete by way of preparation, donations of goods and products, set up and pack up—many helped throughout the whole weekend. Overall, a hearty thank you to all the GGLC and GGLPS volunteers who made this a great event.

Thankyou To Our Sponsors



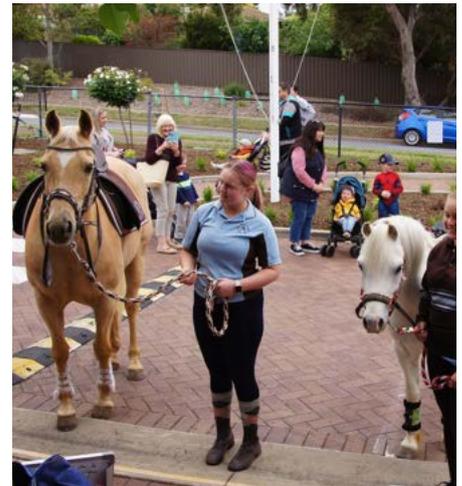
Medela Massage Therapy



We are gaining experience every year, streamlining our systems and finding better ways to do things. If you would like to join in the pre-fete fun next year, please make your desire known! See Pastor Greg or Rob in the church office.

I would like to acknowledge the core fete committee for their valuable contributions: Pastor Greg, Jon and Jacque Schutz, Luke Wachtel, Jenny Canevese, Rob Mills, Elaine Baldock, Graeme Hoklas, Joel Schiller and Jenny Rawolle. Many thanks for your hard work and creative ideas.

“We are gaining experience every year, streamlining our systems and finding better ways to do things.”





GOLDEN GROVE LUTHERAN CHURCH LIBRARY

BY RUTH ZIMMERMANN



God has truly blessed GGLC with a wealth of resources for all ages in our library. I would like to encourage everyone to come and explore the library shelves in the Church meeting room and Café to discover the wide range of non-fiction and fiction materials that are available for borrowing. The library area in the Café also has displays that focus on authors, different genres and seasons of the Church year. The display resources are available for borrowing at any time.

During 2020 the Library team have been busy using the new laptop and the Bookmark Library software that will allow the Church to establish an independent electronic cataloguing and borrowing system. This means that hardcopy books and DVD's can be borrowed electronically during Café hours and on Sunday mornings. Patrons will also be able to access the catalogue through the Church website. If you would like to become a member of the library, a GGLC Library registration form is available from the Church office. Completed forms can be returned to the Church office.

We are also looking for volunteers who would like to read and review the new books that have been processed. Please contact Ruth Zimmermann if you are interested in doing this.

Many thanks to Rosalie Hoklas who has provided the following book review.

SONGS OF ALASKA BY TRACIE PETERSON

A 3 PART SERIES: DAWN'S PRELUDE; MORNINGS REFRAIN & TWILIGHT SERENADE.

Although each of these books could be read as a singular story, they are much better read as the threesome. Each book builds on the previous one with more depth and understanding.

Dawn's Prelude begins with Lydia in Kansas city in 1870, a young woman in a loveless, violent and arranged marriage. There is little joy and hope and one thinks the book is just a historical romance, but this all changes on the death of her husband and father within days of each other.

Lydia sees this as an opportunity to leave her past life and begin again with her Aunt Zerelda who lives at Sitka deep in Alaska. Zee is a strong single Christian woman who takes in Lydia and has a lasting influence on her life as she introduces her to Jesus, His love and forgiveness.

Lydia develops into a strong, compassionate woman with a deep love for Jesus. Her influence on her family and the community of Sitka is very evident. Lydia becomes the deep foundation of the following two books which centre around the lives of Dalton in 1889 (her son from the loveless marriage) and Britta her daughter (1906) from her marriage to Kjell.

The books paint a great picture of the history and culture of the time, the harshness of the environment and includes information on the native Indian people - the Tlingits. Having spent some time in Alaska on holidays, it is quite easy to picture this environment and it has helped make the story come alive.

Some of the themes that run through the book are issues that have not changed over the decades but continue to encounter the lives of people today. The role of woman in society, domestic violence, greed, alcoholism, sickness and death, career choices, identity, finding peace, love, disappointment, purpose and fulfilment in life.

Through all the dramas of life we learn that leaning on and drawing on Christ, His word and truth is the only way to truly find peace and the strength to deal with the challenges that life gives us.

An inspirational series of stories that draw us closer to faith and our relationship with God, giving us wisdom and truth, while enjoying a great read. When all you want to do is read the next chapter to find out what will happen, you know that the book has been a wonderful journey.

Borrow the series and take a few hours each day to enter this world and the drama that unfolds.

Happy Reading, Rosalie Hoklas.

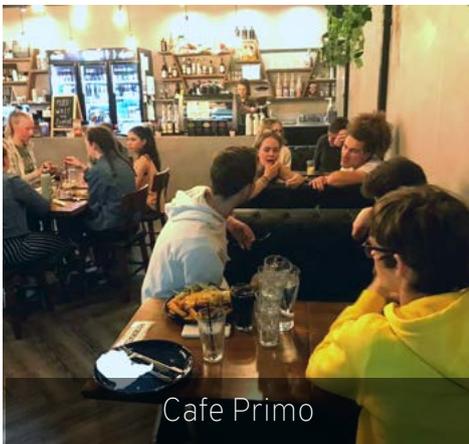


“An inspirational series of stories that draw us closer to faith and our relationship with God...”



YOUTH REPORT

BY JOEL SCHILLER
YOUTH COORDINATOR



Cafe Primo

Heyo. Both our Junior Youth and Youth ministries are well and truly back in full swing. It has been such a blessing being back together having fun and learning more about Christ. Unfortunately we had to cancel the End of Year Celebration and Wheels Night for Junior Youth due to the enforced restrictions and lockdown. I personally would like to thank all of those who have supported us this year, including parents and youth leaders. I am very much looking forward to what great things are in store for us next year. See what fun we've had in the photos below.



Games Show Night



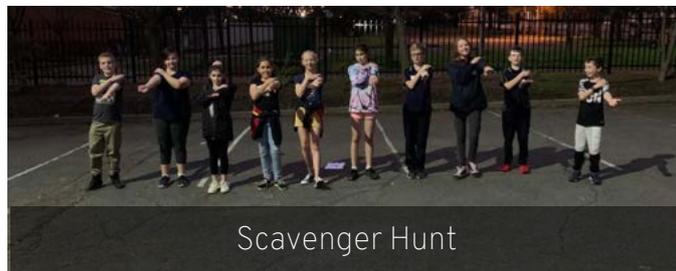
Games Show Night



It's a Small World



It's a Small World



Scavenger Hunt



Scavenger Hunt



Games 2 U



Games 2 U



Glow in the Dark



Glow in the Dark



PING PONG A THON

BY JOEL SCHILLER



As a School and Church community we participated in the Ping Pong A Thon which raised funds to combat slavery. It was played from September 18 3.30pm – September 19 3.30pm, a 24 hour event.



As it stands at this point in time we have raised \$8,693. Last year we raised \$5,000 which is an awesome effort.

Thank you to all those who played (over 35 people), donated and helped to provide food and beverages. It all contributed to an incredibly successful event.

It's still not too late to donate if you haven't already. Head to <https://pingpongathon.com/gglcwynnvalesa>.





TIGHT LINES

GOLDEN GROVE AMATEUR FISHING

Mission Statement: Giving all people opportunities to fish in a Christ centred environment

Whilst GGAF has been impacted by Covid19 this year the Club has been fortunate to have had only 2 event cancellations – being West Lakes (April) and Waitpinga (May). The June Tackle Night was rescheduled to August.

PORT HUGHES JETTY FISHING TRIP: 1 August

The cool weather did not deter 34 members, family & friends from attending this event. 39 legal fish were landed including squid, weed whiting, leatherjackets, cowfish and cuttlefish. Competition winners were Ray Shillabeer (Senior) and Lachlan Caldicott (Junior). Chris Hahn caught the largest squid and Mike Woodley landed a 1kg cuttlefish. Christine McCulloch started with 8 keepers for the day. 2 people enjoyed a meal at the Tavern.

Remaining Event for 2020:

Presentation Night

Note: Due to COVID-19 restrictions, this event has been postponed until further notice.

TACKLE NIGHT: 17 August

34 fishers attended a very informative Tackle Night in the GGLPS Conference Room. 2 guests from SA Water spoke on the opening of reservoirs for fishing and Spot On Fishing followed with advice and demos re fishing for Yellow Fin Whiting, using Clicker Pumps and displaying lures, rods and reels. Many thanks to Spot On for their ongoing sponsorship of GGAF and door prize donations. Bec Watcol cooked a seafood paella for tasting between sessions.

WALKER FLAT: 12 September

35 fishers ventured to the River Murray on a pleasant rain free (except on return journey) day to meet at Hettner Landing. Most fished around the landing or along the grassed area near the ferry. The club provided a sausage sizzle for all with the use of the GGLPS BBQ trailer. 33 carp and 1 Callop were caught. Senior comp winner was Michael Woodley (carp) and junior winner was Lachlan Caldicott (carp). Peter Van Loggem landed the 31cm callop. Lou Goegan with 7 caught the most fish.



Port Hughes



Port Hughes



Tackle Night

MENINGIE CAMP: 9 October to 11 October

An excellent camp at the Lake Albert Caravan Park was attended by 42 fishers, family and friends. Weather was excellent for relaxing, socializing and fishing. Those who fished caught 45 carp on the Saturday – comp winners were: Senior – Meredith Glaetzer with a 4.73kg carp and Junior – Briannah Woodley with a 1.51kg carp. Graeme Hoklas with 6 caught the most fish. 70kg of carp were caught overall and was cut in to manageable pieces for the 40+ pelicans to feast upon. All enjoyed dinner at the local Meningie Hotel. A short Sunday morning session produced only 2 carp. Senior winner Mike Woodley & Junior winner Joseph Hocking. After departing the Caravan Park the Coorong Wild Seafood business at Meningie provided a factory tour, tastings and lunch. The tour included a carp and Coorong mullet filleting demonstration and information/tips on the preparation/cooking of carp. Tastings of carp strips and patties were followed by a tasty gourmet Coorong mullet lunch. A big thank you to Peter Van Loggem for arranging this addition to our camp.

For enquiries, contact
Graeme Hoklas:
0419 828 091
or
hoklas@internode.on.net



COMMUNITY FETE: 18 October

GGAF participated with a stall at the successful Community Fete held on the grounds of GGLC. Many thanks to those Committee Members who manned the stall.

WARREN RESERVOIR: 8 November

A perfect day welcomed 17 attendees for a 3pm start. A fishing permit is required for the designated fishing area of the full reservoir. Whilst fishers experienced numerous bites the only fish landed were 3 callop by “Callop King” Peter Van Loggem – largest being 36.5cm. A number of attendees enjoyed tea at the Sandy Creek Hotel.





Knowing Christ and Making Him Known

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:5

 gglc.org.au

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 [@gglc.lca](https://www.facebook.com/gglc.lca)

 (08) 7200 0090

 GGLC YouTube



Need a coffee?

Cafe Connect will be closed from 11th December. We will reopen Wednesday 27th January 2021 weekdays, 8 to 11am



Church Service Times

Christmas Services

Christmas Eve
6.30pm & 8pm
(bookings essential)

Christmas Day 9.30am

Sunday Weekly Services

Morning Service 9.30am
Salt Factory Service 6.30pm
(No Salt Factory during January)