



Farewell To
Pastor Greg - pg. 7

WELCOME TO THE LATEST EDITION OF LIFE IN THE VINE.

Christmas is upon us, and our thoughts turn to gifts and giving. Sometimes the gifts we receive can lead us to mixed emotions, or when we use up the gift or it is lost, we are left disappointed. We, however, can still celebrate these gifts long after the event by remembering the blessing behind the acts of love, kindness and generosity given through the gift.

In this edition of 'Life in the Vine' we recollect and say goodbye to Pastor Greg for his service to our community over the last eight years. Although this can be a sorrowful time, we remember the gifts he gave and left us, seen in the success in areas like Fete, Young Adults, Youth groups and School Community. This is a reason to rejoice and celebrate!

At Christmas, Isaiah 9:6 reminds us all of the gift that God gave: "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

This is truly a gift that we can all continually benefit, celebrate and share with everyone – the Hope, Peace, Joy and Love freely given to us through Jesus Christ.

May God's gift be your blessing this Christmas and new year!!



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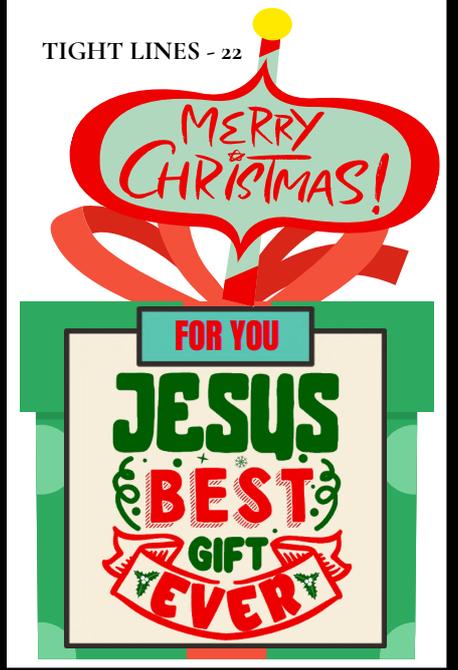
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HIGHLIGHTS FROM CHURCH COUNCIL

BY JON SCHUTZ
GGLC CHAIRPERSON



Pastor Greg's Installation
7th February 2016



“So when Greg turned up with his curly locks...”
Pastor Greg Reflections - p.8

It was always my hope that as chairperson I would never have to deal with calling a new pastor. As Greg has told us on a number of occasions, there is a difference between hope and wishful thinking.

Greg and Connie's departure has crept up on us quickly as we have been focussing for some time on the fete. I need not say too much about the fete as that is dealt with elsewhere, but briefly - we were blessed with excellent weather, a good crowd, some very positive feedback and a budget target satisfied. As our fifth successive annual fete, we are gaining some efficiencies and feeling a bit more confident in delivery. A big thanks to Joel, taking over the role of Fete Director this year, and doing it well.

As Greg received more and more calls over time, I started keeping a record of when he was called and when he declined (or so I hoped - now the record includes one acceptance). 14 calls later, we have enough data to report some statistics. What we have learnt from this is that a typical pastor (Greg) takes an average of 33 days to decline a call, and at least 19 days but never more than 54. However it takes 82 days to accept a call. This perhaps reflects the difficulty of making a decision to uproot oneself and one's family to follow a calling - Gideon demanded evidence through the golden fleece, Moses quoted every excuse in the book, Samuel had to be asked 3 times, and Greg and Connie took 82 days.

By the time this edition is published, we would have already said our farewells to Greg and Connie at the “Greg Fowler, This is Your Life (at Golden Grove)” event and Greg would have preached his last message and performed his last baptismal act at Golden Grove on November 26. We do wish them every blessing for their new ministry at Faith Lutheran College, Redlands, and thank them for their service to our congregation over a period of eight years.

(Reflections on Greg’s ministry are elsewhere in this edition.)

In other news from Church Council, briefly:

- An updated Joint Usage Agreement between the church and school has been signed off by both parties. There are no major changes in arrangements, but the document has been updated in line with current practices. Also some of the history behind the agreement has been captured so it does not get forgotten as it is passed on and updated by future generations of church and school councils.
- We have entered into a contract to build a new manse - please refer to the “House wants a Pastor” article.
- Investing the proceeds of the manse sale into term deposits was surprisingly difficult, mostly due to stricter identification requirements related to anti-money-laundering rules. That has been worked through and hopefully will not be a problem again in the future. Following the Special General Meeting in June in which the congregation gave authority to invest the money in term deposits and other securities, the available funds were split roughly 40%/60% in term deposits and registered first mortgage loans. Details will be provided at the Half-Yearly Meeting.
- Insurance has been causing some disquiet of late. With the backdrop that the school is having some challenges with its claim relating to the collapse of the retaining walls (“a few small glitches”, as Will understates in his article following), insurance for the fete is becoming complicated and may affect the future of some activities that have traditionally been a part of the day; it is quite difficult to nail down our cover in any detail because of the way group insurance works; and on top of that the invoicing timing is being brought forward which means we have two invoices to pay in 2023. Needless to say, this is a regular topic at Church Council meetings, but to what extent the situation can be improved is still hard to predict.

**“We do wish them every
blessing for their new
ministry at Faith
Lutheran College,
Redlands...”**



- Budget-wise, our projection for the end of year puts us at a deficit but a slightly smaller deficit than we had planned. Given the two insurance payments as explained above, and that we made a contribution to the District that was not in the budget, overall it is a reasonable outcome. Our predictions for next year and beyond are improving, particularly once the manse is completed in 2025. However, the predictions do rely on a small increase in offerings each year, so I would ask that you take the opportunity as we head into the new year to review your giving and at least consider an increase in line with CPI if you have the capacity to do so.

Now we turn our focus to calling a new pastor. Coincident with the Half-Yearly Meeting, we will have a pre-call meeting to analyse our needs and decide on a call committee. This should lead to placing a call early next year. A pastor has a month to respond (33 days in Greg's case), and if they accept, three months to move. Therefore our vacancy period is at best until around June 2024, and as we know from our own past experience as well as the current experience of other congregations, it is likely to be much longer. We are blessed to have 6 young people stepping up to lead our services; Steen Olsen will provide some regular pastoral input for the worship leaders, oversight of confirmation and pastoral visits, and lead a communion service once per month; we expect to have other visiting pastors as well. I would ask everyone to support our young leaders, and consider stepping up to a lay ministry role of any sort to help share the load during our vacancy period.



Christmas

IN JULY

With the end of the year being so busy for the cafe and volunteers, it was decided this year to celebrate our year and festive period by getting together in July.





NEWS FROM GGLPS

BY WILL WALLACE
PRINCIPAL

It has been an exciting time at Golden Grove Lutheran Primary School with construction of our new Foundation classrooms starting in August. We have had a few small glitches with one of the retaining walls near the site coming down and being rebuilt, however we are on track to see building completed in Term 2 next year.

We have welcomed 20 new students to the school this year who have loved becoming part of the Golden Grove family, and Mrs Ellen Zimmer also joined us in July to teach year 1/2. Our school community have continued to enjoy many of the traditional events that add so much to our culture - Middle of Term Breakfasts, the fete, as well as mornings and afternoons in the cafe with our generous volunteers!

There have been many wonderful opportunities that our students have embraced. We were blessed to have thirty five Year 5 students visit us from Eisugakkan, our sister school in Japan at the beginning of Term 3 - the first visit since COVID! It was a wonderful week of exchange with much more to look forward to next year. Our Junior Primary Concert - 'Colours' was also a big hit as well as National Science Week and our visit from the CSIRO, Book Week and Character Parade, and Special Persons' Afternoon where we were blessed with gorgeous weather and a magnificent concert!

Our Australian Rules teams were very successful with the year 5/6 girls making the SACSAs grand final, and our year 3/4 basketballers winning the SACSAs competition. Our year 5/6 basketball team also won the ACBA premiership in the Thursday division.

We have also enjoyed sleepovers, excursions to Adelaide Zoo, commemorating Remembrance Day, the Festival of Music and Year 6 Exhibition. The originality, quality and insight of our student learning really is quite amazing and a testament to our students and our teaching team.



Foundation Building Works



Eisugakkan School Visit



Book Week

**“Our school
community have
continued to enjoy
many of the
traditional events
that add so much to
our culture...”**

Eden Revink represented the school beautifully in the IPSHA Junior Orator competition, whilst Henry Kumela received a third place prize in the Oliphant Science Awards and Caleb Smith was selected in the SAPSASA Cricket team.

It has been a pleasure to see the links between the school and the church continue to grow through the Pong a Thon, Messy Church, playgroups and Ignite junior youth and Senior youth groups. Joel Schiller, Lauren Neumann and Robert Mills have been invaluable in this regard and have worked very hard to make all of these things a great success.

We also recognise and thank Jacquie Paech and Elaine Baldock on their retirements at the end of this year. Both Elaine and Jacquie have been with us for over two decades and have made a substantial contribution to the growth of our learning community. Jacquie has had a significant career in Lutheran Education, serving at Hermannsburg, Waikerie, Tanunda and at Golden Grove, and has been instrumental as a classroom teacher, with our music programme and with leading our Spiritual Life team which is a great support in the continued spiritual formation and growth of our staff, and maintaining our Lutheran foundation at the core of all that we do.

Elaine and Phil Baldock and their family have been a significant part of our school for many years, with Elaine's heart for the school shown in her service of voluntary cleaning in the school back in the 1990's, which later became a paid position. Since then, Elaine began her role in our office from 2001 until the present day, managing reception, enrolments and a whole range of other duties! We are grateful for Elaine's genuine love for our community and for her contribution over a significant period of time. More broadly, we also give thanks for the Baldock family and their efforts for our school and church over a long period of time.

Mr David Gardner has been successful in gaining a teaching position at Cedar College for 2024. We are thankful for David's contribution to our school community, both for the compassionate way he has taught his classes as well as the leadership he had provided over the past two years as our STEM Co-ordinator, and growing that part of our school. David has been a valued colleague, and we wish him the best.

(Please continue to read tribute from GGLPS to Pastor Greg next page)



Junior Primary Concert



Year 3/4 Camp



Connected Schools Worship



SACSA AFL Team



Ping Pong-a-Thon Awards

FAREWELL TO PASTOR GREG

In late September, Pastor Greg advised the Golden Grove Lutheran community, that he and Connie had accepted a call to serve at Faith Lutheran College Redlands, Queensland, leaving SA in November 2023. We have asked a few people to reflect on working with Pastor Greg over nearly 8 years within the ministries of our community.

Thanks to Pastor Greg from GGLPS Principal

We're thankful for the way Pastor Greg has given a beautiful sense of belonging, joy and hope over the past eight years for everyone that has encountered our community.

We've seen it in the fruit of his ministry, in ways such as the opening of the cafe, the welcoming play space, the growth of playgroup, junior youth, youth and young adults groups, in the fete as a community outreach, in the hospitality for families and community members and in our school Chapel services, Step Up to Communion sessions and classroom visits. In the practicalities of the warm conversations, in the staff devotions and retreats. in growing the school and church partnership, and the way our congregation or fellowship have continued to grow together and be bound together as a harmonious community.

We have greatly appreciated Greg's passion for our school, from his exemplary service on our school board. He is greatly loved and will be sorely missed by all of us, but of course goes with our prayers and best wishes for his service and ministry.

We've loved having his wife Connie, his children Annie and Georgia, his son in law Patrick and grandchildren Teddy and Olivia as part of our church family, and seeing Teddy and Olivia around the school. Teddy pretty much became our school mascot and has been a joyful presence at sports days, staff devotions, class carers meetings, playgroup, morning teas and the list goes on! Ministry is a team effort and we appreciate the sacrifice that Greg's family have made in support of his service and what they've all brought to us and added to us as a community.

We appreciate the unique skill set that God has blessed Greg with, from his experiences serving with our school and also previously with Endeavour College. He will be an amazing fit for and a great blessing to the community at Faith Lutheran College Redlands.

Will Wallace



“He will be an amazing fit for and a great blessing to the community at Faith Lutheran College Redlands.”

Pastor Greg Reflections from GGLC Chairman

Greg and I started our respective roles here at the same time. I wasn't involved in the calling process so I had little prior knowledge of Greg. I've known a pastor or two over the years, and so had a mental image - right or wrong - of what to expect.

In my mind a pastor was a bald guy, at least ten but probably twenty years older than me, unable to use a computer system and prone to forgetting appointments.

So when Greg turned up with his curly locks, being not very different in age from myself, there were adjustments to be made. I soon learned that Greg is also quite comfortable with computers and is very good at keeping appointments.

Not only did we have a new pastor and chairperson at the beginning of 2016, we also had a new school principal in Shane. I think one of the significant influencing factors in Greg coming to Golden Grove was the opportunity to be involved in school ministry - and indeed no doubt one of his key reasons for moving to Faith Lutheran College Redlands as well. As events transpired, in late 2015 our principal Daryl also decided it was time for a change in scenery, so Greg may have felt a little bit like he'd been involved in a bait and switch scam when he turned up and Daryl had moved on.

So looking back on that time, when Greg arrived I think he slipped quite smoothly into the joys of the day to day work here, but defining the church-school relationship and the pastor's role in the school was an ongoing struggle for a number of years. This is something that Greg and Shane, as well as the respective church and school councils, worked hard on resolving - if you look at our Partnership Covenant, our new Mission Statement, - where we talk about intentionally developing the mutual relationship - and also the school Constitution and Joint Usage Agreement - you will see the fruits of that work.

There was a lot happening in those first years, which set the foundation for the ministry in the later years. Early on, rebuilding our children's ministry was a priority, we upgraded our altar and sanctuary furniture, we ventured into renovations to address some of the friction points in people coming to church and to launch a cafe ministry, as well as celebrating our 30th anniversary and hosting a one day District Synod, and launching Teaching Saturdays. Later on came the fete. Those are all things that came as team decisions from Church Council but Greg backed them all, otherwise they probably would not have happened.

And then COVID. The world as we knew it ceased to be. Church worship services were very much in the line of fire of the health restrictions. What struck me most is how Greg walked onto the stage on our first exclusively live-streamed service, and made it look like he had been doing it for years. That very first live-stream only service, when we look back on it, captured a lot about our congregation and Greg's time - it reflects Greg's unshakeability, our technology and resourcefulness, the skills of our volunteers who made this happen, and our community who rallied in this situation.

Jon Schutz

Working with Pastor Greg as Pastoral Care Team Leader

Soon after Pastor Greg began his ministry at Golden Grove I was asked if I would re-establish and lead a Pastoral Care Team. It was an interesting challenge for both of us because it had been some time since the previous Pastoral Care Team had been operating and it was felt that we needed to re-look at what the purpose of the Team would be, and how it might best be structured.

Greg and I found that the most effective method of working through these issues was to get together on an informal basis to share our ideas and thoughts and come up with practical suggestions. Once the team was established, we still found that getting together on a semi-regular basis was very valuable for two reasons – firstly to prepare for upcoming meetings and then secondly, after meetings to work through in detail some of the issues raised by the Team.

Greg has a definite passion for encouraging people and developing ministries and it's been a pleasure to share that passion and enthusiasm with him. He also has a very relaxed, laid-back approach to these types of discussions that allows him to look at each issue with an open mind. I came to appreciate Greg's ability to listen to all points of view, analyse a situation and then work out what might be best for all concerned.

I believe the members of Golden Grove Lutheran Church, and the Congregation itself, have grown considerably in the almost 8 years Greg has been here, thanks to his enthusiastic use of those gifts God has blessed him with.

Dave Shrowder



“His continued optimism and smile have always had a positive effect...”

“Greg has a definite passion for encouraging people and developing ministries...”



Working with Pastor Greg in Children's Ministry

Over the past 2 years, I have worked very closely with Pastor Greg. His continued optimism and smile have always had a positive effect on how I tackle anything – big or small. Whenever I have come to him with an idea no matter how crazy it sounds, the answer is always – let's do this! His unwavering support and smile whenever he is present in kids ministry does not go unnoticed by those participating. Thank you for all that you have done and the belief that I can do it. May you enrich the lives of the children you work alongside with at Faith Lutheran College as you have here at Golden Grove Lutheran Church.

Lauren Neumann

“We honour you for your servant heart, your optimism and passion for ministry and outreach...”



Yeah, Yeah, Yeah, Yeah, Yeah, Yeah
Better than anyone

Working with Pastor Greg in Youth Ministry

Greg and I started working together predominantly when I became the youth coordinator. As many of you have witnessed, we became the ultimate duo, throwing ideas around and coming up with initiatives to better support our congregations spiritual development. He has also provided me with a lot of valuable life advice. Thanks PG for all the fun and spiritual guidance!

Joel Schiller

Working with Pastor Greg in Christian Education

I still have the large pieces of butcher paper stuck together with sticky tape. From time to time, I open the folded butcher paper and examine the timeline that the Christian Education Team mapped out identifying the ministry programs beginning from Baptism to Seniors that were offered at GGLC in 2017. Strengths and potential issues of each program were identified and discussed, along with the identification of any ministry gaps.

The Christian Education Team recognises that Christian Education is lifelong and that the next logical step would be to begin examining and planning additional programs, courses and Bible studies for congregational members. To help inform this process a survey was conducted to asking the congregation what areas of Christian discipleship they would like to focus on and learn about. The feedback in the survey provided the Christian Education Team with valuable insights regarding the needs of the congregation along with a strong willingness to be involved in and support Christian Education at GGLC.

So, the newly formed Christian Education Team had its beginning! Pastor Greg has always been part of this team. He encouraged the team to meet regularly, to share, review and adjust the various ministry programs. He supported team members to visit other congregations to investigate possible new programs and most importantly of all to “dream big”! Pastor Greg involved himself daily with the ministry programs and didn’t hesitate to provide the team with necessary coffees during planning sessions.

Pastor Greg, we thank God for your time at GGLC. We honour you for your servant heart, your optimism and passion for ministry and outreach and most of all your courage in accepting the challenges and opportunities that God continually provides to share the gospel in the Golden Grove community.

Ruth Zimmermann



Pastor Greg & Young Adults

Greg has been an amazing blessing to the young adults community over the last few years. He has stepped in, in such a monumental way not to take over but to support, asking us what areas we wanted to grow in and help us with that growth. Through this he helped to bridge the gap between the generations and helps us to do the same, welcoming us and helping us feel heard. He has taught us how to facilitate this growth within our own community, and how to guide each other to grow. It has been a blessing to be able to grow with Greg in this time and hear his wisdom from both faith and life.

Lauren Kahl



Pastor Greg's Involvement in the Asaroka Partnership

Pastor Greg's first trip to Asaroka with the Friends of Asaroka Group began with trepidation. Unsure of what to expect and the culture difference meant trusting in God and those who had been before. On the second trip he was excited and keen to reconnect, knowing what to expect, ready to grow the relationship that had been established. Pastor has been faithful in praying for the Asaroka community and reminding the congregation of this connection in worship services.

The love, the care and acceptance from our beautiful friends of PNG soon had Greg feeling much more comfortable. What stood out was the little they had, they gave willingly, especially their time, their faith, food and bilums (bags).

The excitement, the smiles and curiosity of the children in the elementary and primary schools were contagious. They just wanted to be close to Pastor Greg and the group.

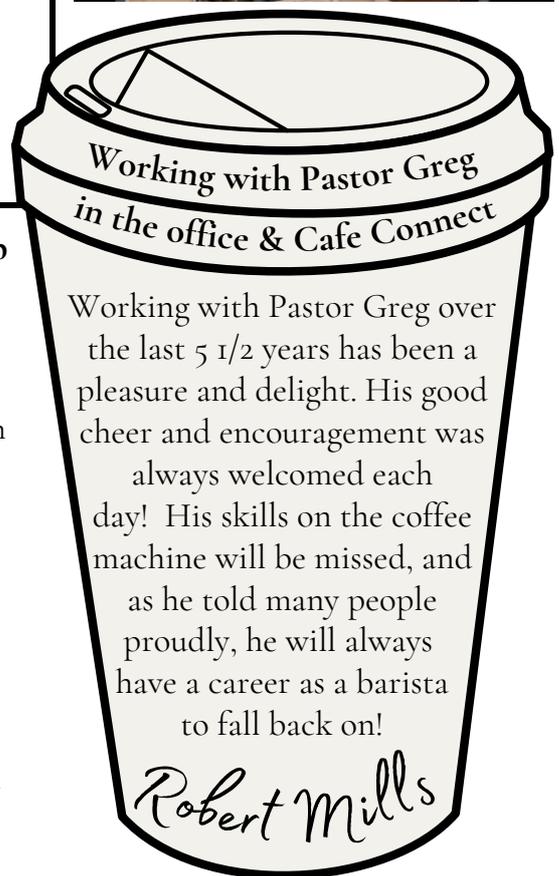
At the High school the walk around the school touched Greg as the learning conditions were very basic, and the accommodation for the boarders was crowded, yet the students although shy were happy, keen to be seen with us or have a chat.

The Saturday mumu at the High school, while waiting for it to cook, gave Greg ample opportunity to spend time in conversation and prayer with the chaplains. On the Sunday Pastor was involved in giving the message during the service and assisting with Holy Communion.



I believe Greg would share that one visit isn't enough. You need to go several times to build the relationships, and to appreciate and embrace the people and culture fully. It was a life changing experience. A faith that was challenged and grew. An experience that will stay with him always.

Rosalie Hoklas





REFLECTIONS

BY PASTOR GREG & CONNIE FOWLER

**May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight,
Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.**

Psalm 19:14

My heart is full of gratitude and love as I reflect on the past eight years as pastor of Golden Grove Lutheran Church. In my many conversations over the last months I hear 'has it been that long? I guess it must be, you looked much younger when you first arrived!' Much has happened to us all and we have been a blessing to each other in unexpected and exciting times. God has been good.

Connie and I have played our part in God's mission here at GGLC. We were blessed with an amazing, mature and adventurous congregation that has impacted so many lives. Our Lord called us to be part of the continuing journey and we witnessed His faithfulness and grace throughout our time. Many new things came to be and God's will was done.

GGLC is a place of love, grace and trust in God. Everyone who spends time here is affected in a positive way; none more so than me. GGLC is a place of forgiveness. Many times I let people down and at times I hurt those I was entrusted to care for. In every instance you forgave me and our relationships grew stronger because of God's grace. Thank you for that gift.

GGLC is a place of welcome. Connie and I were warmly embraced and I was invited into your lives. I was privileged to be part of the most significant events of your lives. In sickness, in healing, in death, in birth, in relationship breakdowns and in marriage. I was welcomed into your lives as you ponder 'where to now?' and we listened to God together. I was welcomed as we each discovered new gifts for the good of the body.

GGLC is relevant. I was blessed to be part of a community that is willing to do new things so that God's promises are heard and understood by others. New and innovative worship, new technology, contemporary discipleship and focused outreach show how the Holy Spirit prompts us and we are willing to respond. GGLC remains exciting and relevant because of our extraordinary leadership. Our Church Council and our staff team are second to none. If I ask just one thing as I leave it is love, encourage and support the gift of our leaders and staff.

As Connie and I answer God's call to minister in a different mission field I grieve leaving GGLC. Our roots are deep and we love, and are loved, by you. I am comforted by the Lord's promise to be with us always to the end of the age. I know this next phase at GGLC will be renewing and energising. Connie and I will be praying for you. Please pray for us.

Greg & Connie Fowler

**“Much has happened to us all
and we have been a blessing to
each other in unexpected and
exciting times.”**



HOUSE WANTS A PASTOR

BY JON SCHUTZ

In this new series, the sequel to the highly acclaimed "Pastor Wants a House" reality series of one episode that was prematurely axed when the main character departed, we examine new developments in the quest to build a new manse to house a new pastor.

FIRST YORKSHIREMAN:

Oh, we used to dream of livin' in a corridor! Would ha' been a palace to us. We used to live in an old water tank on a rubbish tip. We got woke up every morning by having a load of rotting fish dumped all over us! House? Huh.

FOURTH YORKSHIREMAN:

Well, when I say 'house' it was only a hole in the ground covered by a sheet of tarpaulin, but it was a house to us.

SECOND YORKSHIREMAN:

We were evicted from our 'ole in the ground, we 'ad to go and live in a lake.

THIRD YORKSHIREMAN:

You were lucky to have a lake! There were a hundred and fifty of us living in t' shoebox in t' middle o' road.

FIRST YORKSHIREMAN:

Cardboard box?

... from Monty Python's Flying Circus
- "Four Yorkshiremen"

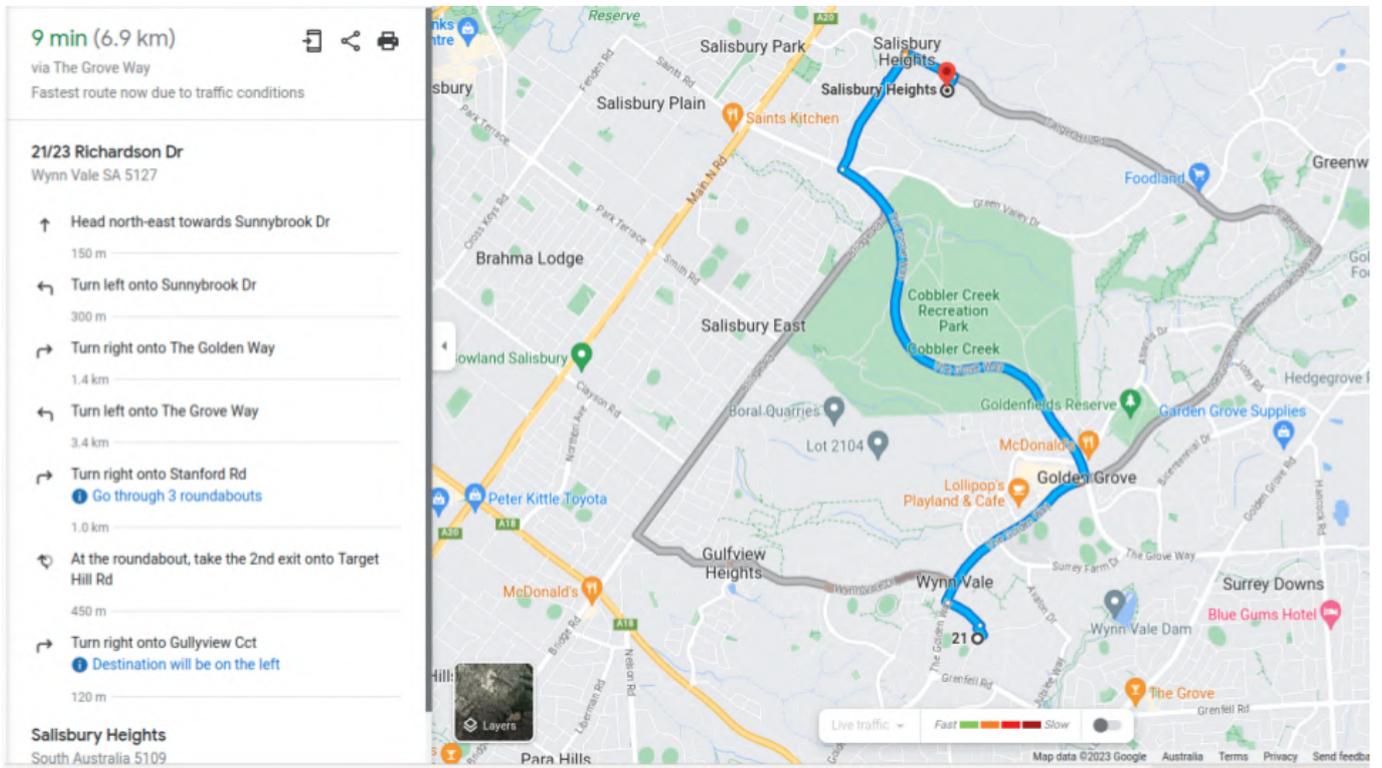
Recapping, we decided to sell the manse at 8 Laredo Ct primarily because of issues associated with the spiral staircase, and in the hope that we might improve our financial position in the changeover. Then the housing market suddenly hit boiling point, we couldn't have bought a shoebox in t' middle o' road (nor any of the other options suggested in the sidebar), and Greg and Connie were on the verge of being kicked out on the verge. That is where we pick up the story...

From early on in the process, there was a plan B: to build. There are obvious reasons why it was not plan A - the time frame of ~ 2 years, proximity of available land, builder and cost risks, finding alternative accommodation in the meantime - but ultimately we decided that building would lead to the best outcome, delivering better and higher value accommodation without putting us in a worse financial position.



"We have selected the option to have the footings cast in gold rather than concrete."

Opportunities for vacant land in our area are mixed. The typical block is around 300m2 with a frontage of 9-11m at \$1000/m2 or more. The narrow frontage is problematic for a double garage and largely forces a two-storey build. Any wider frontage blocks are more expensive, as would be demolition of an existing house. There are new developments being opened up in Golden Grove (one near Garden Grove, another along One Tree Hill Rd) but they are on a 2-5 year horizon for availability. It is starting to become common for larger blocks in Gulfview Heights and Salisbury Heights to be redeveloped into several smaller blocks, but they are typically Community Title with common property. The far side of Salisbury Heights is still being developed, but we were fortunate with our timing that a very large block in the heart of Salisbury Heights had recently been subdivided into Torrens Title blocks along a new road called Gully View Ct, and these were within our target range of 10 minutes travel to church.



All of the blocks on Gully View Ct presented building challenges because of the slopes, but after evaluating four of those blocks and some others nearby, we chose the one at the end of the cul-de-sac, adjacent to the eponymous gully where the best gully views are to be found. At 854m², it is relatively large for a modern block (albeit with an SA Water encumbrance, which was present on all of the available blocks) and we hope will have good resale value should we ever have to go through this exercise again.

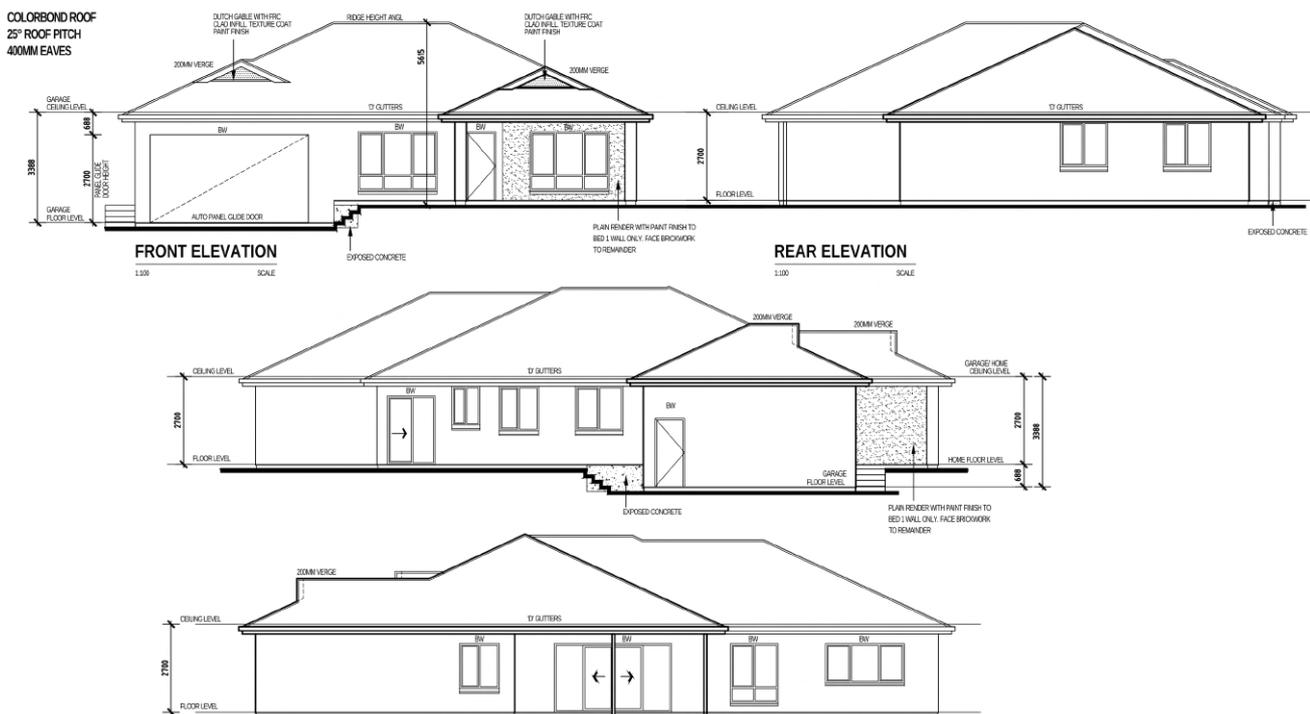
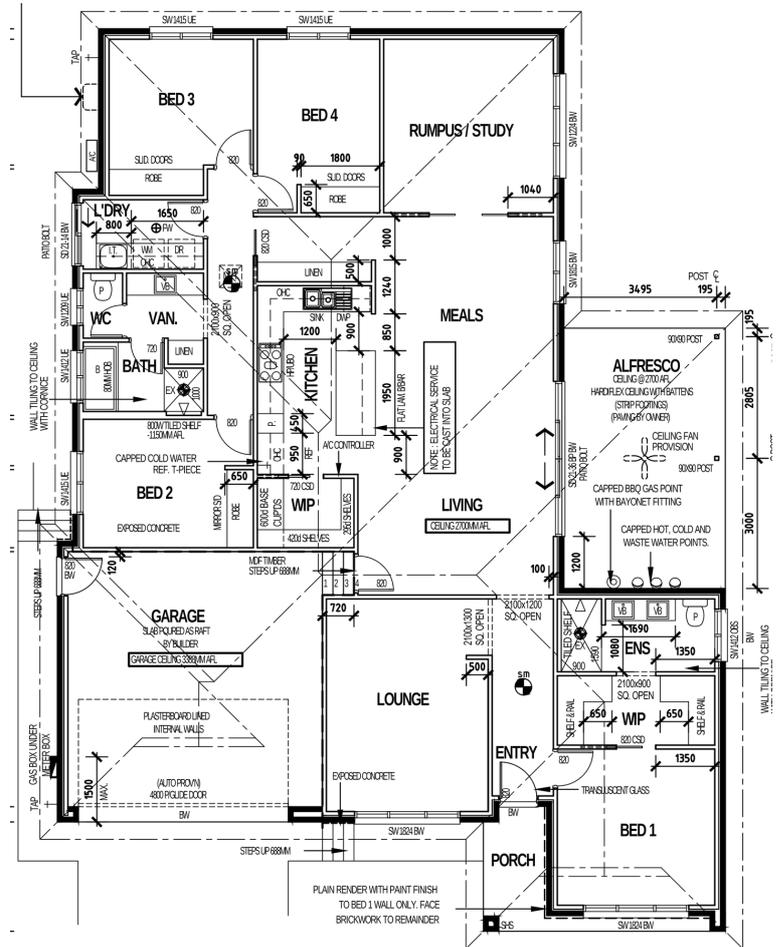
Settlement for the land was in July, but even well before that, Paul Napier - member of our congregation and Housing Consultant with Fairmont Homes - had been supporting us in developing plans, determining costs, working through engineering and ultimately leading us to sign a contract with Fairmont Homes as of November 13. The build will be a 4 bedroom, double garage house, with 2 main living areas, an extra rumpus/study space, alfresco area and ensuite/walk-in-robe to the main bedroom. The alfresco and living areas overlook the gully and the view to the setting sun.

We have selected the option to have the footings cast in gold rather than concrete. (I should qualify - the footings are actual concrete but the price is as if gold, due to the highly reactive clay soils on the site demanding a particularly hefty footing). This has impacted the anticipated build price by about 10%, which does make the budget less attractive, but nevertheless should still lead us to a position at completion where our loans are substantially less than they were when we started this process.

Since we have now signed a building contract, we have until early April to prepare the site (e.g. retaining walls, stormwater connection, weed control). To minimise costs we will do whatever we can ourselves, so please look forward to some working bees!

We can expect completion around the first quarter of 2025, a shiny new house ready for a shiny new pastor. We do of course hope that we will have a new pastor before then, and interim accommodation will be provided as we have done for Greg and Connie.

“... the first quarter of 2025, a shiny new house ready for a shiny new pastor.”





PING PONG-A-THON

BY JOEL SCHILLER



What a phenomenal effort by everyone in our Ping Pong A Thon this year!

We saw so much more involvement from the church and school communities than ever before, aiding in us getting the highest standalone amount raised than any previous year.

In typical fashion the school kicked us off with a bang, followed by our Ignite and youth ministries. Our Young Adults kept us going through the night, and the early risers kept us going for the remainder of the time.



Thank you everyone for the time you gave up to play, and the awareness you created when asking for donations and spreading the word about the cause. It was you who contributed to the almost \$17,000 raised this year, which will bring freedom to many peoples lives; so, they can live a free life just as God wanted them to.



“...much more involvement from the church and school communities than ever before...”





IGNITE YOUTH

BY LAUREN NEUMANN



Box City

This year we have had lots of fun at Ignite. We had an average of 30 children join us at each session. From water to wheels nights, box city and pong-a-thon, the children come along with great enthusiasm and energy. Our most successful afternoon was our latest which included 'Laser Tag', board games and outdoor games. The children all enjoyed being able to play and work together.



Each Ignite session, we begin with a message relating to the theme and activities. This is an opportunity to share the gospel in a manner that is friendly and inviting. The children have all enjoyed fellowship time with the different volunteers through the various activities which has been lovely to see.



Water Night



Amazing Race





YOUTH REPORT

BY JOEL SCHILLER
YOUTH COORDINATOR



STRIKE!!! - Bowling Night



MasterChef



MasterChef

“GGLC Youth is undergoing a change in name...will be revealed at our Youth Awards Night...”

We are at the conclusion of 2023, and what a year it has been at Youth.

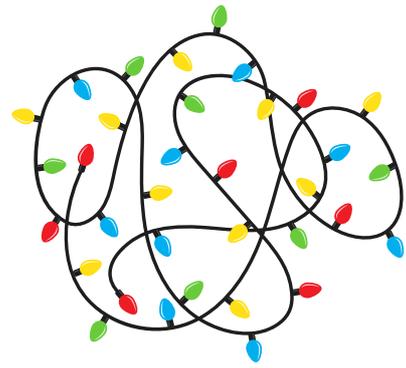
In GGLC Youth we've continued to have our two different formats, games nights and Bible Study nights. Highlights have included the Board Games Gauntlet, tie-dye night, our games show night and so many more.

Themes we've covered in bibles studies have included Joseph and the technicolored coat, Noah and the ark, and a lot more. Our intention has really been focused around growing and developing our biblical knowledge of where things are in the bible.

It has been really cool to see the group of youth that come along, grow and develop together both in relationships and spiritually. As a result, we saw one of our youth share a devotion on our youth flipped night (where the youth ran the event); it was impactful hearing God speak through them.

GGLC Youth is undergoing a change in name. The name that youth and leaders have decided upon together encapsulates what God is doing and will continue to do through our young people. This will be revealed at our Youth Awards Night on December 8.

I would like to thank all of our leaders at Senior youth for their work throughout the year and supporting our young people in having fun and getting to know Christ.



MESSY CHURCH

BY LAUREN NEUMANN



This year we embarked on a new ministry 'Messy Church'. This is very different to any format the church has seen before. With much preparation and many prayers we held our first one on a Friday afternoon at the end of term 2. Well, God certainly heard our prayers and he delivered with roughly 100 people attending. During the time, the children and parents engaged with many different hands-on activities and games based around our theme 'New Beginnings'. This was followed by a celebration time where we heard a message delivered by Pastor Greg and our Messy Church time finished with a meal together.

There was certainly lots to learn, however, when we ran our second Messy Church at the end of Term 3, we were a lot more prepared. This time, God answered our prayers in the sense of calm and family. Our families connected with members of the congregation through craft and activities entitled 'Spring'. It was lovely to walk around seeing young and still young at heart talking, creating, and learning from each other. Pastor Greg engaged the families to work together on making springs while we had our celebration time. We finished with a fabulous meal together.

Once again, a new ministry like this cannot happen without the huge amount of volunteers to help with catering, set up, pack up and running the activities. A massive thank you to all those who came along to lend a hand and join. I can't wait to see where this ministry leads us next year.



GOLDEN GROVE LUTHERAN COMMUNITY FETE

BY JOEL SCHILLER
FETE DIRECTOR



The 2023 Fete was a massive success!

We saw over 3,300 people walk through our church and school campus on what was a beautiful sunny Spring day.

There were new things at the fete including food trucks, and a games room, both of which proved to be a hit for all. Our own BBQ in the courtyard provided the cheaper food option for those who wanted it.

Our healing tent was in prime position and prayed for over 40 people through the day, for various needs. John and Sue Fielke shared the word about Vision Christian Media and their work. It was great having them both present to share the work they're doing to build God's Kingdom.

We had 10 young entrepreneurs, it was a thrill to see them there being proud of the product they were selling.

Thanks to our sponsors who contributed to the event, and most of all thanks to our volunteers for putting all your time and effort into the event and making it such a great success!





I enjoyed the comraderie & good spirit the fete brings.



...a pleasure to be involved!



Thankyou to All Our Major Fete Sponsors, Stall Holders, Volunteers and Visitors!!



Thank you for organising a great day out for the community!

Great overall!





TIGHT LINES

GOLDEN GROVE AMATEUR FISHING 2023 CATCH UPDATE



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

2023 has been another very successful year. GGAF wishes Pastor Greg and Connie every blessing for their future in Redlands Queensland and sincerely thanks Greg for his great support of GGAF over the last 8 years.

WALLAROO NORTH BEACH HOLIDAY PARK Friday to Sunday 30 Jun-3 Jul

35 adventurers travelled to Wallaroo with accommodation at the Wallaroo Holiday Park. The jetty was most popular for fishing with several keepers landed. Notable were Keith Hasler's 33cm King George whiting and Alison Goodchild's 2 large squid. Zimmo almost landed a very large flathead which released itself prior to landing. Point Riley was visited however yielded no fish. A family BBQ was held at the camp kitchen on Saturday night – thanks to Christine McCulloch for arranging and coordinating food.

RAMCO POINT (River Murray) - Saturday 12 Aug 10am to 4pm

The weather was great and the Carp were biting for the 43 fishers (including 7 Juniors) who made the river trip. GGAF provided a sausage sizzle lunch thanks to the Golden Grove Lutheran Primary School for use of their BBQ trailer. A total of 134 Carp were weighed in. Total weight was 64 Kg. Senior winner was Jenna Scott—a 77 cm Carp weighing 6.62 kg – being the second largest freshwater fish caught in the Club's history. Jenna caught 4 Carp with a total weight of 12.3kg. Junior winner was Harley Benes with a 48 cm Carp weighing 1.19 kg – this was Harley's first day with GGAF. Lou Goegan caught the most Carp on the day with 19, closely followed by Graeme Hoklas with 18.

WEST LAKES - Sunday 10 Sept 9am to 2pm

A perfect spring day greeted an excellent attendance of 51 people (including 16 Juniors) at West Lakes for an event which included training and a casting competition for children. A fishing bucket full of fishing gear (donated by Ian Wallis) was won by Max Edwards and a box of chocolates was won by Jessika Zimmermann who excelled as a caster on her first outing with GGAF. In addition to landing a few undersize fish there were 6 legal fish caught - species being Garfish, Mullet and Tommy Ruff. Bev Murdoch was the day's winner with a 120 g (25 cm) Garfish. A sausage sizzle BBQ was provided by the Club.



Wallaroo Fishers



Jenna with Ramco
Winning Carp



Ramco Junior Winner Harley
with Dad Travis



Bev with West Lakes Mullet



ANNUAL CAMP STANSBURY CARAVAN PARK

Friday to Sunday 20-22 October

Fantastic turn-out of 38 attendees. On Friday night an information session was led by Mark and Christine. Fishing commenced at 7am on Saturday with fishers spanning out from the caravan park breakwater through to the end of the jetty. A few different species were caught including garfish, tommy ruff, red mullet, drummer, trumpeter, zebra fish and mullet as well as one squid and three crabs of legal size. Weigh in was at 5pm at the end of the jetty with 35 fish weighing 2.4 kilos caught. Dual Senior Winners were Ray Shillabeer with a red mullet and Peter Van Loggem with a silver drummer – both weighing 190 gm. Many thanks to Christine McCulloch for organising and coordinating preparation of the meal on Saturday night.

COMMUNITY FETE – Sunday 30th October

GGAF participated at the annual Community Fete held on the grounds of GGLC and GGLPS with a car park stall. Thanks to Committee members who helped man the stall.

PRESENTATION NIGHT – Saturday 18th November

43 members and friends attended the annual Presentation Night held in the Worship Centre with President Graeme Hoklas MC'ing. Prizes were presented to Senior & Junior competition winners of each event and Graeme thanked the 2023 Committee for their dedication in planning and attending events. Members totalled 60 including 9 Juniors. Steve & Lyn Castle from 'Spot On' Fishing Tackle Shop were sincerely thanked for their ongoing support and sponsorship during the year. Special acknowledgement this year was awarded to Christine McCulloch for her dedication and loyalty as a member of GGAF including the last 12 years as GGAF Committee Secretary. The 2023 Senior Champion was Lou Goegan – second time Champion - and the Junior Champion was Harley Benes - first time Champion.



West Lakes Casting Winner Jessika



Ray With Stansbury Red Mullet



Stansbury Annual Camp



Junior Champion Harley Benes



Presentation Night



Senior Champion Lou Goegan

Website: <https://www.gglc.org.au/church/index.php/ministries/ggaf>

Enquiries to Graeme Hoklas 0419 828 091 or hoklasgr@gmail.com



GOLDEN GROVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Growing with God in a Loving Community

“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

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

 (08) 7200 0090

 GGLC YouTube

AN UNEXPECTED GIFT


Come and receive this gift yourself,
bring your family and friends too!

CHRISTMAS EVE

7-8pm Saturday 24th December 2023
GOLDEN GROVE LUTHERAN CHURCH
21-23 Richardson Drive, Wynn Vale

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

Sunday 25th Dec 9.30 am

ALL WELCOME

All Christmas Services Livestreamed
on YouTube and Facebook
 gglc.org.au  [@gglc.lca](https://www.facebook.com/gglc.lca)  GGLC YouTube

The Christmas Story dramatised, for all ages



GOLDEN GROVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Christmas

SERVICES

Sunday December 24th Christmas Eve
9.30am - *Advent 4 Tree Decorating*
7pm - *Christmas Eve Nativity Play*

Monday December 25th Christmas Day - 9.30am
Service with Holy Communion

Sunday 31st December - 9.30am

Please Note: GGLC Office is closing 22nd December -
Reopening January 22nd 2024

A little child, A shining star,
A stable rude, The door ajar.
Yet in that place, so crude, forlorn,
The Hope of all
The world was born.

Merry Christmas

AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR



GOLDEN GROVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

