

WELCOME TO THE LATEST EDITION OF LIFE IN THE VINE.



Stopping at lights recently whilst driving into Adelaide, a comment was made on how a vacant empty piece of prime real estate had become overgrown with weeds and strewn rubbish everywhere. Sometimes vacancies can go on for so long that they become paralyzing, debilitating and even disregarded. This can also be said for Church's without a Pastor.

In an article by Stephen Lewis, he tells us "Don't waste your vacancy", offering steps on ways to make most of this challenging time. As Lewis states "In short, vacancy need not be the first stage of dying. It can be the first stage of new life." (<https://rtc.edu.au/waste-vacancy/>) Whilst Golden Grove Lutheran Church is in a vacancy, we too can take steps to avoid the downward trend of our situation, and to use this time as an opportunity.

In this edition we witness an example of these steps:

- We are going to lead – *Church Council and GGLPS*
- We are going to provide – *Ignite & Arise Youth, Messy Church*
- We are going to step up – *Introducing our Young Leaders and Pastor Steen*
- We are going to invest – *Manse Update*
- We are going to celebrate – *Pastor Greg update, Christmas & more...*

Jesus encourages us, "We need to be energetically at work for the One who sent me here, working while the sun shines" (John 9:4 MSG) and to not waste our skills, talents and vacancies. Now is the time that we "press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called us heavenward in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3:14 NIV)

Enjoy this latest edition!

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM CHURCH COUNCIL

BY JON SCHUTZ
GGLC CHAIRPERSON

Wouldn't it be a shame if your church spent years without a pastor, and failed to make the most of it? Rather than enter a season of paralysing self-pity, consider your vacancy a gift from God, a strategic turning point. Nothing will position your church better to attract your next pastor than to be busy about the Lord's business while you wait. And whether the wait is long or short, this day in front of us is the day God has given. Let's not waste it.

Stephen Lewis

<https://rtc.edu.au/waste-vacancy/>

After roughly 5 months of pastoral vacancy, it would be an overstatement to say that things are ticking along just as when Greg was here, but nevertheless there is a sense of steadiness.

One of the biggest contributing factors to this is that we have six young people who have taken on the challenge of lay preaching and leading worship, and - with the support of Pastor Steen Olsen, some other visiting pastors, Prayer Healing Team and those newly licensed for sacramental ministry - this group is collectively filling the most prominent aspect of a pastor's role. I believe that this has reduced much of the anxiety about pastoral vacancy that might otherwise be felt across the congregation.

The model that we have long been using at GGLC - that our ministries are generally run by staff and volunteers and supported by pastor, rather than run by pastor - has meant that Vine Kids, Messy Music, Messy Church, Ignite, Arise, Young Adults and Cafe Connect have been able to continue uninterrupted, and the Pastoral Care, Worship, Christian Education, Church Council and other management teams can carry on.

“...it would be an overstatement to say that things are ticking along...”

During this period there has also been the tragic loss to the Rawolle family of Kirsten. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with the Rawolles. It has affected many deeply. I would like to thank all of those who have been providing support in various ways, and also remind everybody that ongoing pastoral care is available. At such times, the void left by pastoral vacancy is vividly exposed, and in the midst of this tragedy we can be thankful for the support we received from a number of pastors, particularly Matt Bishop who provided a team of counsellors, and we can be most grateful that Greg was able to return from Queensland temporarily to assist. Greg's travelling costs were borne by the LCA Transfer Fund and we thank the SA/NT District Office for authorising this.

The process of building the new manse is moving along and I hope you will all be not too judgemental on the quality of reporting of progress that you have been receiving in the "Pastor wants a House/House Wants a Pastor" series in this publication.

On the finance front otherwise, the Finance Team will be meeting shortly to assess progress for the year to date and a summary will be provided at the AGM on May 26. It is important to remember that during vacancy, giving is as important as ever, as we continue to pay an amount linked to a pastor's salary into the LCA Transfer Fund during this period. This is 90% of salary for the first 6 months, 70% to 12 months, then 50% for over 12 months. Money paid into this fund is used to pay visiting pastors for their time and travel expenses, as well as to support pastors moving between positions in the LCANZ.

And on the topic of giving, the LLL is transitioning from being a bank to being a Religious Charitable Development Fund. Everyone who holds an LLL account should have received communications about this; if not, there is copious information available on their website. As a result of these changes, using an LLL account for REG will no longer be possible for most people (as most people will fall into the "non-associate" category). Please be aware that the LLL will still facilitate REG, but your contributions must come from a non-LLL account. The difference between REG and doing a direct bank transfer to the church account is that REG remains anonymous. If confidential giving is important to you, please fill in the REG forms with the LLL. (Please also be aware that we are very careful to remove any names that are included in bank transactions when they are copied into the church accounts).



Finance
with a
mission
"...the LLL is
transitioning from being
a bank to being a
Religious Charitable
Development Fund."

While most groups within the church have been working to live with the vacancy situation, the call team, comprising:

- Kendall Kahl
- Allen Kupke
- Liz Mills
- Lee Norrey (chairperson)
- Ben Ridley
- Joel Schiller
- Jon Schutz
- Luke Wachtel
- Will Wallace

have been working to end it. There are over 100 names on the current list of pastors that are eligible to receive a call. The team shortlisted 15 names initially, and after some advice from the District Office, made initial contact with five. More extensive discussions have been had with two.

To ensure that due diligence has been carried out, another eight names have since been added to the shortlist and are currently being reviewed. One or more recommendations will be put to the congregation at a call meeting. A call meeting is an official meeting of the congregation and requires a quorum of one quarter of the members to make a decision to call a pastor. Due to the way the timing has worked out, the May 26 AGM will include an agenda item which will be to address the matter of calling a pastor. Please do your best to be available for this meeting.

“There are over 100 names on the current list of pastors that are eligible to receive a call.”



Photo by Joel Schiller



NEWS FROM GGLPS

BY WILL WALLACE
PRINCIPAL

The school year has begun on a really positive note with a lot of families back in the courtyard and cafe, and it feels like the courtyard is back to its historical 'peak' numbers in the mornings and the afternoons which is great! The cafe has also been buzzing and we are thankful for our team of church volunteers who support this ministry so well and provide a wonderful outreach and sense of connection and community.

We have an exciting year ahead as we embark on the implementation of our new strategic plan. We are energised by our purpose to enrich the lives of children and each individual in our school community, and beyond the school environment. With a Christ-centred foundation, we foster an inclusive environment where everyone can belong, explore and thrive. Equally exciting are our new values - love, collaborate and explore, which will underpin all that we do, as well as our strategic priority areas of:

- Excellence and innovation in learning
- Well-being and culture
- Community and Partnerships
- School Development

A warm welcome to Liesel Smallfield and Jade Fielke who have started on year 3/4 this year along with Emily Gower who continued on from her time on year 1/2 in 2023 to share a class with Jade this year. All three new staff members have settled in well. The installation of our new staff, along with the blessing of our board and staff team on Sunday 4 February was a good shared occasion - we are very thankful to GGLC for the continued warmth of our shared relationship and the hospitality. Sadly, Liesel moved back to New South Wales for family reasons at the end of week 10 of this term. We are thankful that Liesel had been able to join our school community this year and appreciate all that she has contributed over the short time that she has been with us.



“We have an exciting year ahead as we embark on the implementation of our new strategic plan.”

Download our Strategic plan at:
<https://www.goldengrove.sa.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Strategic-Plan-2024-2028.pdf>

Year 5 and 6 enjoyed their overnight camp recently, which went very successfully with good weather, and Year 3/4 headed off on camp in the last week of term.

It was a pleasure to see so many of our families join us already for a number of Parents and Friends Association events. Our Parent Information Night enabled us to share in a great time of community together thanks to their magnificent job of arranging drinks and nibblies for the evening for us to join together in community. Community is always one of the highlights of our school, and it was a pleasure to hear from some of our former students at the Endeavour College Opening Service earlier in the year who also articulated that the sense of community that we enjoy at our school was one of the defining positive features of their educational experience here. Our P&F have also held a great welcome evening for our new Foundation families which was well attended and enjoyed by all, and a delicious BBQ on Sports Day (thanks Graeme for your help with cooking!).

Work is continuing on our Foundation classrooms. The steelwork frame is currently being installed with a roof, cladding, walls and the interior to follow shortly thereafter! The retaining wall and ramp to the oval and basketball courts will also be rebuilt in April. We are certainly excited at the prospect of having the ramp back! We are awaiting a final refurbishment of the middle (Junior Primary) playground following the installation of a new retaining wall there, and are hopeful that this should reopen during May.

Worship is continuing to go well with James Salisbury heading up the Spiritual Life Team this year. The SLT led a great Bible Study for staff this term. Tim Kriewaldt and Lauren Neumann are sharing the organisation of weekly Chapel, with staff taking turns to lead Chapel each Friday. Chapels have been busy with the induction of student leaders and presentation of Bibles to our Foundation students, to our new students in Years 1 - 6 and with Ash Wednesday, Harmony Day and Easter services.

Congratulations to Kuno Berghout, who has won a position working in grounds and maintenance at Thomas More College. Kuno has been a much loved member of our community over the past fourteen years and he will be sorely missed, to say the least! We have appreciated the immense amount of work that Kuno has done for our school over that time and for the positive rapport that he has enjoyed with students, families and staff alike. Kuno's children also went through our school over that time, so it is very much the end of a very enjoyable era for both him and us. This new opportunity for Kuno gives him the chance to work as part of a larger team in a different setting, and we are sure that his broad skill set will be very much appreciated! We have advertised for a replacement and in the meantime, one of our school parents has a maintenance business, so Mrs Kylie Myllynen will be around the school on Fridays looking after some of the tasks that Kuno undertook in the interim.

It has also been a difficult time with the loss of former students Kirsten Rawolle and Dakota Woodford over the past month. We extend our sincere condolences to the Rawolle and Woodford families. Both Kirsten and Dakota are fondly remembered by our school community from their time here and their contribution to the life of the school.



**“Work is
continuing on our
Foundation
classrooms.”**

It is exciting to be launching our school band programme for students in Years 3 - 6. This provides students who are interested to be able to learn a range of instruments including flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet or trombone. Students will be able to participate in a range of weekly group tutorials and rehearsals as part of the programme.

We are continuing to plan for our trip to Japan for September - October 2024 with a small group of students and parents attending, and Mel Bishop is doing a great job in working on all of the arrangements, as some year 5 students from Eisugakkan will visit also us in late July at the beginning of term 3.

The term has finished on a high with two of our key annual events taking place!

We were incredibly blessed with amazing weather on Friday 22 March for our Sports Day. It was wonderful to see the students having fun and participating in the range of events and activities in the sunshine! The boys and girls enjoyed participating in a great spirit of fairness and encouragement. A huge thank you to Mrs Adele McCusker and our staff team for organising a great day and for the extra time you gave for set up, pack down, and ensuring all went smoothly, as well as to our P & F Association for the wonderful barbecue on the day, our Golden Grove Lutheran Church for the great cake stall, Carla Doecke and the team at LJ Hooker for the coffee van, and Rob Mills and the team in Cafe Connect!

Harmony Day on Monday 25 March was a special day and exciting day where we were able to celebrate and share the range of different cultures that make up our school community. The children enjoyed coming in their traditional cultural costumes - we loved beginning the day with our Chapel service and parade to share in the range of cultures and costumes within our school community!



Yr 3/4 Camp



Term 1 MOT (Middle Of Term) Breakfast



Farewell to Kuno



New House Banners and House Captains



Sports Day



Harmony Day



MESSY CHURCH

BY LAUREN NEUMANN

Jesus says, "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. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. John 15:5-8

This term, we saw our first Messy Church event of the year entitled 'I am the Vine'. We had vines being made out of wool, clay leaves moulded from hands young and old, bunches of grapes carefully scrunched and glued together and of course, a good old game of dodgeball with 'grapes'. Whilst all these activities are fun, the one thing I noticed as I looked around was how we were providing a space where families can connect and create together through various activities. At one point I looked over to see a child who is very active, sitting quietly creating a lego masterpiece with their parent. During this interaction there were smiles and laughter between very intent building moments. It was at this point that I knew that God was in the room working at bringing young and old together in those special moments that we know children truly treasure.



"...we were providing a space where families can connect and create together..."



This time of being together for fun ended so quickly, but luckily, during the celebration time, there was more fun to be had. The families had a task to change the dead stick into something beautiful as Jesus reminded us in John 15: 5 - 8. We put our beautiful sticks into the sand to represent us being 'rooted' in Christ. We explore that the fruit in our lives is not actual fruit (although it is yummy!) but how we live our lives. The fruit Jesus is talking about is love, kindness, thankfulness and peace in our own lives. By showing love, we are loved in return.

We then showed our love and kindness by serving a dinner of baked potatoes. For most this was definitely a delicious meal. The pineapple on it was a real hit!! This was another time for families to connect with each other and enjoy the company of those around them.

Next term we will be continuing our 'I am' series with 'I am the Good Shepherd'. Come along for some creativity, connections and good food as we provide a space for everyone to be spiritually nourished.

**“Come along for some creativity,
connections and good food...”**



Theme: I am the Good Shepherd

Friday 21st June
4:30 - 6:30pm

Golden Grove Lutheran Church Worship Centre
Come along for fun, fellowship and dinner

Scan the QR code to register (by 19 June):



All Ages Welcome!



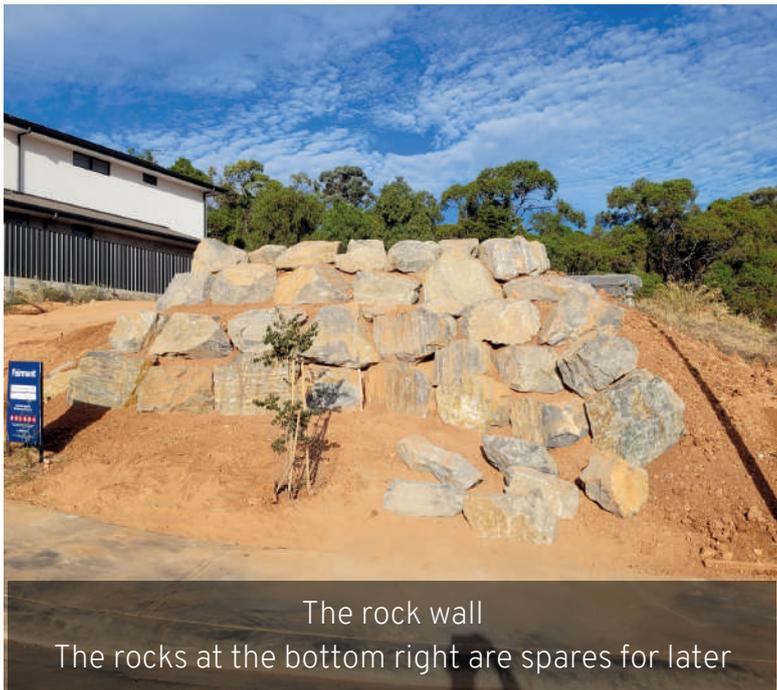
HOUSE WANTS A PASTOR EPISODE 2

BY JON SCHUTZ

Arguably, there is no better time to be building a manse than in a period of pastoral vacancy. This wasn't our plan at all, but as we know "A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps" (Prov 16:9). And we'll need some steps as well, but we'll cover that in a future issue of this new series that can now claim to be a series by virtue of reaching a second episode without a name change. In the current issue, things start getting dirty.

Yes, dirt has moved. Lots of it. And quite a bit of it fell on Roger and Will... but let's not get ahead of ourselves. The last episode ended on a cliffhanger with promises of contractual obligations to be met and working bees. Here's how it all played out.

A building contract from a builder can be paraphrased as "Sure we'll build your house. But you have to do some things first... or else!". In our case the things we had to complete by April 12 included:



- A retaining wall at the top of the easement, to stop the house sliding into the gully;
- A rock wall at the front, to stop the bedroom falling onto the road;
- Running services under the rock wall, since that's easier to do before the rock wall is there;
- All weather access to the house from the road (6m of driveway at a stretch);
- Clearing of weeds and any other organic matter;
- Application for an electrical connection;
- Providing proof that we have the money to pay for it all.

And the "or else" was the threat of a "price review" (read as "price increase") in an industry where materials and labour costs are doing their best to keep up with skyrocketing rent and house prices.



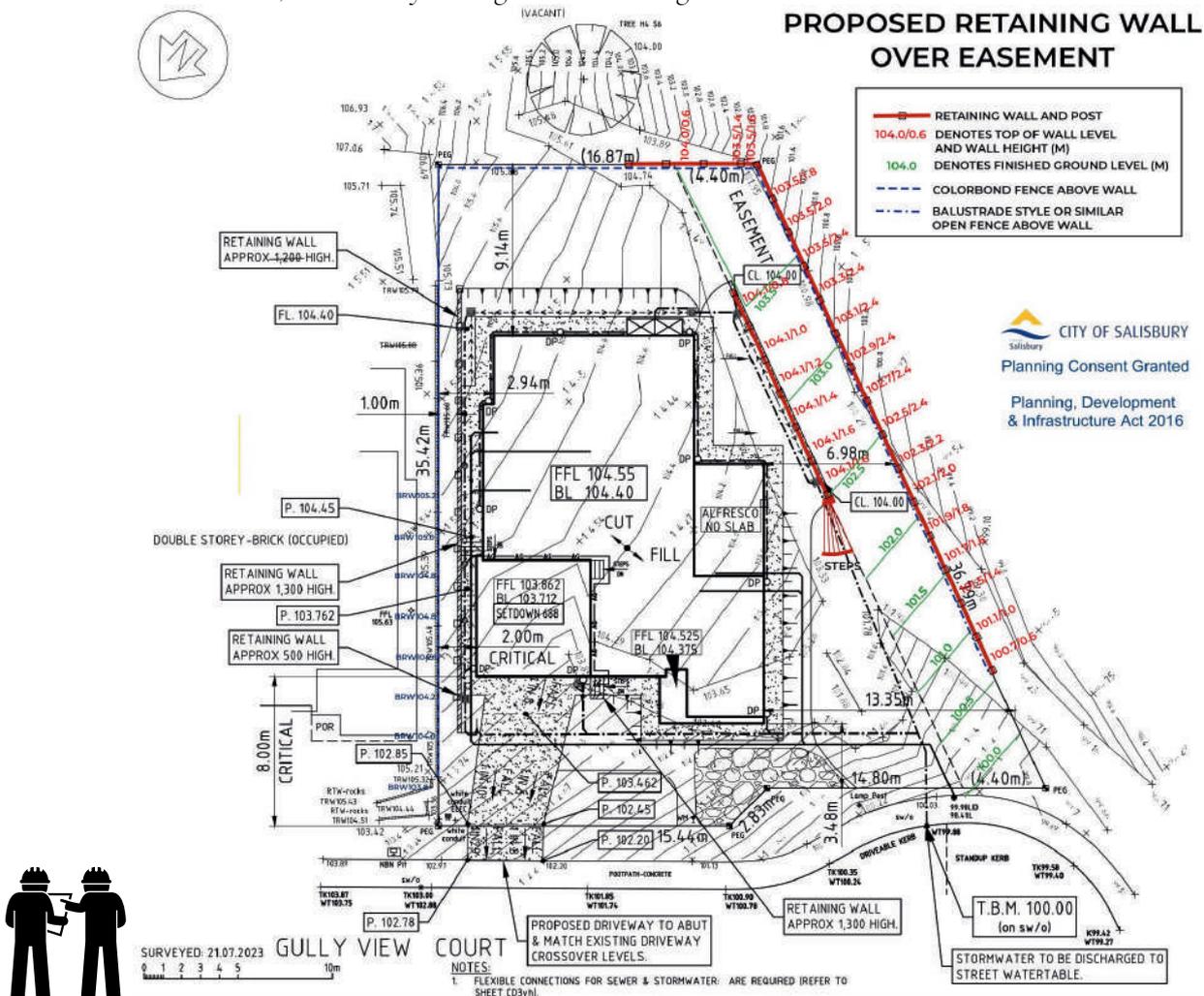
**"...you have to do some things first...
or else!"**

That all seemed a little too easy, so we added to the list:

- Another retaining wall adjacent to the neighbour's boundary, to stop their house falling onto the new manse; this wall could have waited until the site was benched, but it suited us to bring it forward;
- Yet another retaining wall, on the southern boundary along the gully, to stop the retaining wall that's stopping the house from sliding into the gully from sliding into the gully. This one is our own initiative, not required under the building contract and not tied to the April 12 deadline; it will add significant value as it creates another 150m2 of usable space, facilitating access to the back of the property, and will in due course permit a good sized shed to be built in the back corner.

Many of the tasks were easily dealt with but we enlisted the help of professionals for the walls. Pascoe Earthmoving completed the rock wall in mid March and Williams Retaining installed the concrete posts for the first two sleeper walls in late March, clearing the way for working bees on Easter Monday and the following Saturday.

And thus we were able to meet our contractual deadline and avoid a price review, with thanks to the small army of helpers who came on Monday and Saturday to deal with the weeding and sleeper installation, drainage, and backfill of the first two sleeper walls. Particular thanks to Roger and Will who were the last men standing on Saturday, though perhaps standing not in the best place when the tractor was backfilling the last bit of the wall; this is why God gave us washing machines.



Retaining walls everywhere! In red are the top of easement and southern boundary walls. On the left is the retaining wall to the neighbouring property and at the bottom (front) is the rock wall.

It is fortunate that the southern boundary retaining wall was not required by April 12, as the approval process was lengthy. Being on an easement, we had to firstly make enquiries to SA Water and apply for their approval (November-December), and then submit an application for development to Salisbury Council (Jan 4), where it had to be assessed and go through a public notification period before Planning Consent and then Building Consent could be granted. Salisbury Council raised a concern about using plain concrete sleepers, which are smooth and susceptible to graffiti, so we agreed to use textured sleepers and all walls were then changed to use the “Kensington” style sleeper with the striated rock-like finish.

We finally received development approval on... April 12. Williams Retaining has since done the posts, so (following another working bee or three) that wall will be done and the builder will be able to start work on the footings.



The top wall of the easement coming together



The wall at the top of the easement complete



Security camera maintenance

The final act of working bee #2 was to erect a security camera disguised as a dead tree. The plan was for the camera to go up with the post and stay there at the inaccessible height of 6m until the house is built. It was a good plan but the camera SIM card popped out after 2 days so the high-altitude equipment had to be brought in for maintenance.

So just one more wall to complete, and then the builder takes over.



GullyView-Cam

Gully View



The wall adjacent to the neighbour's house, as it looked at the end of the first working bee



The wall adjacent to the neighbour's house, complete

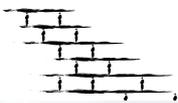
Those who helped at the working bees will have recognised poetry in motion on seeing how a rookg piece of concrete dangling on the end of a string in mid air slides seamlessly into the gap between two perfectly parallel I-beams set in 600mm footings, so we draw this episode to a close with a poem to celebrate our walls.



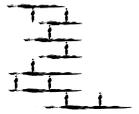
Walls of Unity (A poem by ChatGPT)



In the heart of a landscape, four walls stand tall,
Retaining the earth, holding dreams for all.
The builder, with hands skilled and strong,
Crafts walls that will last, where they belong.



The first wall rises, steadfast and true,
Bringing pride to the builder, a job well due.
With each brick laid, each stone set in place,
A vision takes shape, a structure to embrace.

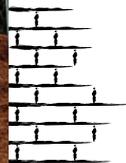


The second wall curves, a gentle embrace,
Guiding the land with a tender grace.
For the homeowner, it's a canvas anew,
A garden's delight, where flowers will spew.



The third wall stands firm, against time's cruel hand,
A guardian for the house, where memories grand
Are forged and cherished, in rooms warm and bright,
A sanctuary of love, in morning's first light.

The fourth wall whispers, to the neighbor's ear,
A promise of harmony, year after year.
It stands as a symbol, of goodwill and care,
A boundary respected, a friendship to share.



So here they stand, these walls of delight,
Uniting the builder, the owner, the neighbor, just right.
In their strength and their beauty, joy does reside,
A testament to unity, side by side.



Poetry in motion



CELEBRATING FAMILY - AN UPDATE FROM PASTOR GREG

BY PASTOR GREG FOWLER



But Timothy has just now come to us from you and has brought good news about your faith and love. He has told us that you always have pleasant memories of us and that you long to see us, just as we also long to see you.

1 Thessalonians 3:6

It's hard for us to believe that it has been five months since we left GGLC to follow God's call for us to serve at Faith Lutheran College in Redlands. So much has happened in that time, including finding a new home, Connie starting a new job, doing our best to understand Queensland and missing our family in Adelaide. For eight years GGLC was family for us and we definitely feel the loss of deep relationships and warm familiarity. God has blessed us with some visitors over this time and the joy we feel when we embrace our loved ones from GGLC is refreshing. We have kept in touch with some members, for both joyous and tragic reasons, and it is in these times that realise the strong spiritual connection we share.

Connie has begun work in the Women's Prison here in Brisbane. We always knew this would be a difficult assignment as she left friends and a job she loved to start again in a new place. The sacrifice Connie makes for me and our God is something that astounds me and I realise just how lucky I am. Nonetheless, we need your prayers as this transition hasn't been easy and Connie is feeling less fulfilled than she did in Adelaide. Of course we are also feeling the distance from Teddy and Olivia.

“It's hard for us to believe that it has been five months since we left GGLC...”

God has been good to us and Connie and I have enjoyed much quality time together; something that we both have desired for a while. We know that Jesus is doing a new thing in us, in our marriage and in our ministry. Thank God for his wisdom and faithfulness. We are enjoying the beautiful weather and Redland Bay is a delightful place to live. Our only gripe is that there are no good wineries here. Oh how we long for the Barossa or the Clare Valley.

It is very comfortable for me to be back in school ministry full-time. I love the energy of a school and I learn new things every day. I know how important it is to have a pastor in our schools to be a presence of the Holy Spirit and to bring God's Word to a community that is hungry for meaning and peace. I know that God is at work in and through me as I walk with staff, students and families. My prayer is that I become less as Jesus becomes more at Faith Lutheran College.

Connie and I think and pray for GGLC often. Please continue to pray for us.

Blessings *Greg Fowler*



Me with Teddy at the beach





ARISE YOUTH

BY JOEL SCHILLER
YOUTH COORDINATOR



Arise Youth leaders
(plus Lauren who took the photo)

We are going to provide... a new youth name!

In the last edition of LITV I teased that we'd be changing our name for our senior youth program (years 6-12), and we settled on Arise!

One of the scriptures this is drawn from is Isaiah 60:1-3, which in essence talks about us being called to share the light into the world. I feel this encapsulates our youth as being a place that deepens our youth's walk with Christ and sends them out to be the light in the world.



Leaders Retreat - Team Building

Our youth leaders had their 4th annual retreat, held at Port Hughes in late January. It was a great time where we planned term 1, did some team building games, and played some board games.



Opening BBQ

The year has kicked off with a bang! As usual we started with our Opening BBQ and Games Night which saw many families attend. We also had our 'Night to Remember' reflecting on Jesus' sacrifice, where sleep was minimal. Our biggest event by far was our Laser Tag night, held on April 12. We saw 32 youth, and of that number only 6 of them were first timers.

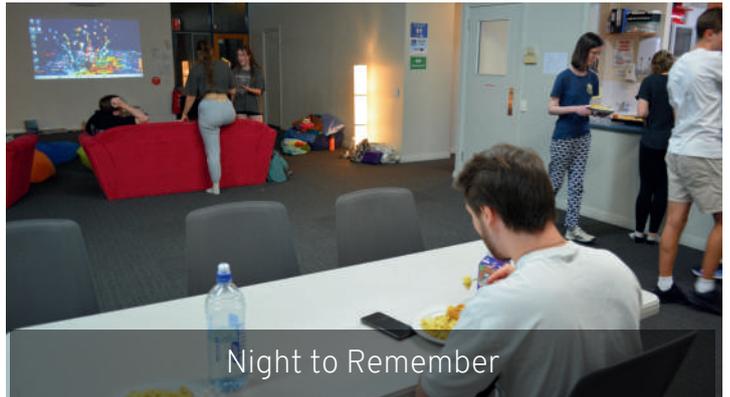
This year we have seen an increase in people attending, with a number of year 6s from this year and last year attending. It has been great to see! God has guided, we have provided and people have decided (to attend youth).

Taking all of this into account we are going to be running the Youth Alpha course on a couple youth nights per term to really delve into the basics of the Christian faith.

At the GGLPS Sports Day on March 22 we had a bake sale stall, raising around \$580. All funds raised go towards youth group merchandise. The plan is to have jumpers or shirts made with the new youth logo on them. Thanks to all those who baked and managed the stall during the day.

We also welcome Ella Dissel to our youth leadership team.

Please pray that our youth can continue growing in their understanding about God and are willing to build a relationship with him.



“Thanks to all those who baked and managed the stall...”





IGNITE YOUTH

BY LAUREN NEUMANN



This year we have launched into our Ignite ministry with exuberance. Whilst we do not have a pastor to lead, we feel that we can still continue on with this ministry with enthusiasm and love. Our first event of the year was a welcome bbq and games night. We played some games, had some fun and enjoyed each other's company before the parents joined us for a welcome session. We then all headed over for a bbq and fellowship. This was a lovely opportunity for the parents to meet all the leaders as well as the Ignite families and 'Arise' youth to meet, share a meal and connect.

Our second event of the term was more adventurous as we piled onto the bus and headed to Goldenfields playground for some fun. We based ourselves at the new playground which provided different challenges for us all. This included how quickly you could climb to the top of the ropes before being tagged! The children connected through soccer, flying foxes, swings, tag and trampolining just to name a few. Before we headed to Goldenfields, however, we joined together in devotion as Joel led us in talking about the Parable of the Lost Coin. This allowed us to continue to provide the spiritual growth for the children before we connect with each other. Next term we will have our Masterchef afternoon which is always fun for all.

"...we can still continue on with this ministry with enthusiasm and love."



WE WELCOME A NEW PASTOR! (SORT OF...)

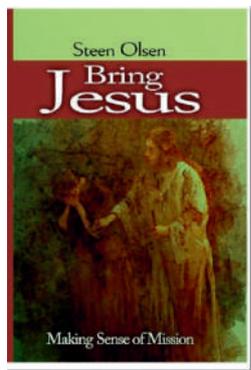
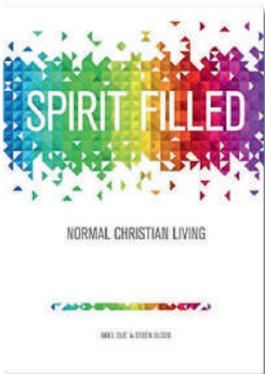


OVER THE PAST FIVE MONTHS, RETIRED PASTOR STEEN OLSEN HAS BEEN HELPING US DURING OUR VACANCY BY LEADING SOME SERVICES AND SUPPORTING IN OTHER PASTORAL MATTERS. HERE WE LEARN A LITTLE ABOUT PASTOR STEEN.

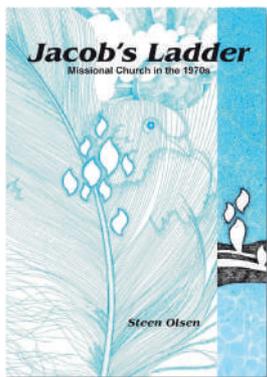


“Almost fifty years ago Ruth married me...”

I was born in Denmark. We emigrated to New Zealand when I was a child, and after a year at Auckland University, I came to Adelaide to study at Luther Seminary (now Australian Lutheran College) at the start of 1971. While at the ‘Sem’ I was very involved in a street-level ministry called Jacob’s Ladder which God used to bring many kids to faith from bikie, drug-taking and other backgrounds. (Read all about it in my book!) Almost fifty years ago Ruth married me, and we have two children, two children-in-law, and five grandchildren, all living in Adelaide at present. Hallelujah!



After graduating, we served three parishes: Hunter Valley NSW for six years; Tuggeranong ACT/Cooma NSW for eight years; and Christchurch NZ for three years. I was then elected president (now called ‘bishop’) of the Lutheran Church of New Zealand, which was my role for twelve years. It was during this time that I worked with Pastor Greg. Finally, I was Director for Mission in the SA-NT District (and informally WA) for a decade before retiring six years ago. While at Tuggeranong, together with Pastor Fred Veerhuis, we established the Kogodus Renewal Ministry in Australia, which ran more than 150 retreats.



Pastor Steen’s Books Are Available From GGLC Church Office

In retirement it has been my privilege to continue helping out in congregations in various ways, speaking at conferences, mentoring and supporting those still on the front line, writing books [Jacob’s Ladder: Missional Church in the 1970s, Spirit Filled: Normal Christian Living (with Dr Noel Due) and Bring Jesus: Making Sense of Mission—they are available from the office at GGLC] and my blog [bring Jesus - subscribe at www.lca.org.au/enews - You find it under ‘LCA Districts’]. I also teach a one-week intensive course for the Frontier School of Mission (Shaping Mission in 21st Century Australia).

Steen Olsen



VACANCY? WHAT VACANCY?! (PART ONE)

DURING THE VACANCY, GGLC HAS BEEN BLESSED TO HAVE SIX YOUNG MEMBERS VOLUNTEER TO LEAD AND BRING MESSAGERS TO OUR SUNDAY SERVICES. HERE WE HAVE ASKED SOME QUESTIONS TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THEM.

What three words would you use to describe yourself?

Organised, Opportunity-driven, Bible-oriented.

What do you do for fun on your days off?

I make the most of particularly the sunny days when I can, to go out for a walk and soak in God's beautiful creation.

What is the most exciting adventure you've ever been on?

As a family a few years ago we had the opportunity to go overseas to Thailand, Hong Kong and Nepal. There was a lot to learn about the different cultures. The exciting part was having the opportunity to share a message, alongside my dad in a Nepalese church.

Why have you decided to step up and contribute in leading and bringing messages to GGLC?

For me I felt that God was calling me to step up and contribute in this way. It has been something I have done a few times over the last 4 or so years, particularly at Salt Factory. So there was a natural progression into this space for me.

What's your favourite book of the Bible and why?

The book of Joel? No, I would say the Gospel of John. Particularly with the different perspective it brings. An interesting thing I found in the Gospel of John at Easter time this year was how John provides more detail of events between the last supper and Jesus trial. It is in these last hours of Jesus life where he shares what he can with his disciples, including when he talks about the vine and the branches. Check it out!

What biblical time period would you like to live in and why?

While I very much believe we have been placed here at this time for a reason, if I had to choose I would say the time of Jesus. I would want to see how he went about doing miracles first hand, and see how people got their head around Jesus the Son of God being on earth with them.

What does prayer mean to you?

Prayer is an opportunity to connect with the creator. It's how we build our relationship with him, it's just like having a coffee with Jesus. Through prayer we can lean on the biblical principles that Jesus gave us; John 10:10 – Jesus came to give life to the abundance.

Can you describe your daily spiritual practices?

Typically, this looks like the following, but it can change. If I have a long drive, I put on a message by a Christian pastor which is a good opportunity for me to develop in my understanding about God. Currently I am also trying to get into the habit of incorporating God into my decision making and asking him what he wants me to do. I usually finish the day by reading the Bible before I go to sleep and then pray.



Name: Joel Schiller

Age: 25

Occupation: Chaplain & Youth Coordinator



Name: Kendall Kahl

Age: 18 while writing this (19 when this comes out)

Occupation: Student -
Bach. of Palaeontology
and Bach. Archaeology
Flinders Uni (1st year)
Work - Childcare
specifically OSHC
(GGOSH here at
GGLPS)

Three words to describe myself

Confident, Chaotic, Perceptive.

What are you most passionate about?

I am passionate about ministry, whether that be my own personal faith life or sharing God's love with other people. I'm also personally really passionate about my relationships. I really enjoy getting to know people, but also intentionally investing in the great friendships I currently have.

What do you do for fun on your days off?

I really love driving and spending a lot of my time in the hills as I love cold weather and good scenery. Mostly Lobethal, Hahndorf and Mount Barker. I enjoy exploring new places with good company (normally my best friend Emma), with a hot chocolate and my camera.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

While I am studying Paleo. and Arch. at the moment, I truly see myself working in ministry in the future - whether that is as a pastor, on camps, or in a school setting. I'm yet to find out.

Why have you decided to step up and contribute in leading and bringing messages to GGLC?

For me it wasn't even a decision. Pastor Greg and I had been working really closely on my gift of preaching for about 4 years, so I think it was a natural progression. In 2023 I had been working as a youth pastor in the uniting church, but after a year of being heavily involved in another denomination I decided my heart really is in the Lutheran Church. I'm so glad I could find that in my home community.

Who is your favourite person in the Bible?

This is one of my favourite questions! I really love David! Throughout the Old Testament we really get to join him on a lot of his journey. From a scrawny little boy, to a favourite, to an outcast, and then to a King. His story, even with the ups and downs, reflects a confident child of God. Now I can't directly relate to being hunted by the king or adultery or killing an army, I still find a lot of hope and peace in his story.

What brings you the greatest joy in ministry?

Exploring God in all moments, and helping other people to do this also. The most filling experiences I have had with God, have been at the lowest points in my life. I am a big advocate for the fact that discomfort can push you in a really healthy way, and sometimes we have to sit in this. So exploring this in my life has brought me a lot of joy (even if it wasn't necessarily in the moment), and I love teaching other people that this is okay. I also find so much joy in encouraging other people to explore their relationship with God, to find what works for them and then to be bold in that.

What spiritual gift do you "earnestly desire" (1 Corinthians 14:1)?

The context of this verse puts a really interesting spin on the phrase "earnestly desire". When Paul wrote this letter, the church in Corinth were making the Godly desire of spiritual gifts into an obsessive pursuit. I truly believe that the main pursuit (and sometimes the hardest) for Christians should be love, so this is something I strive to do well every day. In saying that, I feel gifted and called in both teaching and leadership.

What causes the most frustration in your ministry?

I believe one of the most common struggles in the Christian life is hearing God. Some days this is easy and some it is hard. A big frustration of mine is the struggle that can be exploring how you hear God.



Name: Ben Ridley

Age: 23

Occupation: Associate
Research Engineer

Three words to describe myself

Loyal, Vulnerable, Intentional.

What's a skill you'd like to improve on?

A skill and recent passion that I have been working on developing is videography. I love creating and taking people on a journey through film and the whole editing process. I am working hard and have been looking for and taking opportunities where I get to spend time doing that.

What are you most passionate about?

I am most passionate about my people - my community. I love getting to share the ups and downs of life with those around me. I love being able to celebrate the awesome things with people, but also sit with them in the tough seasons life has.

What event in your life has shaped you most as a person? How did it do so?

The most profound event in my life was my first physical encounter with God through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. I was in a very dark place during high school and it was the final night of NOVO in 2015 during worship, when God reached down from Heaven to embrace me where I was at, in a very powerful way. I have since had many similar encounters with God and His Spirit and have resulted in a faith and relationship that is immensely deeper than it ever would have been.

Why have you decided to step up and contribute in leading and bringing messages to GGLC?

I don't necessarily think it was a matter of me choosing to step up and serve in this capacity. Rather, God put me in the position and chose me to be a vessel for His message to our community. He inspired and encouraged me to take up the calling He put on my heart. I am nothing more than a willing servant for the church and I am honoured to have such an opportunity to speak life to our community.

Which biblical person do you relate to the most?

I think I relate most to David before he was king. He was known as a man after God's own heart and showed incredible faith and total trust in so many situations. He was still a sinful human like all of us and made plenty of mistakes, but that never waivered his faith in God.

What biblical time period would you like to live in and why?

First of all, if I could, watch the craftsmanship of God the creator speaking the universe into existence. Secondly, I would want to be able to sit at the feet of Jesus and hear Him speak, watch Him perform miracles, heal the sick, free the oppressed. Finally, I would want to experience that first Easter. To experience both the hopelessness that His followers would have experienced as He died, and also the insurmountable joy at His resurrection would be truly phenomenal.

Tell us about your spiritual walk with Christ and if He has been revealing anything to you during the past 12 months.

God has taken me on an absolute rollercoaster in the past 12 months, but above all of it, one thing has remained important and true for me. This was the theme for the camp I just directed (NOVO) - Jehovah Jireh, which is Hebrew for 'The Lord will provide', said by Abraham after God spared his son Isaac and provided a ram to be the sacrifice. Regardless of situations we go through, we can take confidence in the fact the God will and has already prepared every provision you will need now, and where you are going.

What brings you the greatest joy in ministry?

For me the greatest joy in my ministry would have to be found in camping ministry. That overwhelming joy comes in seeing the God of my life who totally transformed me and saved me, move in profound ways in the lives of the young people He calls to be at camp. Every year I find myself reduced to tears of praise for how He changes the hearts and lives of those campers and seeing that continue year after year only makes it even more special.

National **Volunteer** Week

20-26 MAY 2024

Something for Everyone

National Volunteer Week is Australia's largest annual celebration of volunteering. This special event provides an opportunity to highlight the important role of volunteers in our community and invites people not currently volunteering to give it a go.

Café Connect is into it's sixth year as a volunteer operated business. We acknowledge and thank all our current volunteers but Café Connect cannot operate without volunteers

If you would like to learn a new skill or create great relationships and have some time to commit, come on in to Café Connect and let us know.



cafeconnect

CAFE CONNECT NEEDS YOU!

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP IN OUR CAFE?

**JOIN OUR TEAM TODAY AND
BECOME A VOLUNTEER!**



**WE ARE FLEXIBLE:
MORNING SHIFTS.
AFTERNOON SHIFTS.
WEEKLY.
FORTNIGHTLY.
CASUAL.**

TRAINING PROVIDED.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE SEE
ROBERT IN CHURCH OFFICE**

**YOUR TIME, EFFORT, AND PRESENCE AS A VOLUNTEER
WILL MAKE A WORLD OF A DIFFERENCE THROUGHOUT
THE GOLDEN GROVE LUTHERAN COMMUNITY.**



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

Last year, GGLC produced a Christmas Eve play titled **AN UNEXPECTED GIFT**. Thank you to everyone who helped and participated to create another extraordinary production.



WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING IN OUR COMMUNITY?



GGLPS Board & Staff Installation and Blessing ~ February



Messy Music Playgroup



Easter Services ~ March



TIGHT LINES

GOLDEN GROVE AMATEUR FISHING

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

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday 4th February

Following tabling of reports from the President and Treasurer the following members were re-elected unopposed to the

Committee this year:

President – Graeme Hoklas

Vice President – Peter Van Loggem

Secretary – Christine McCulloch

Treasurer – Chris Simanis

Other Committee Members – Ian Zimmermann,
Geoff Hill, Peter Van Loggem,
Keith Scott and Mark Caldicott.

The 2024 program outlined to members includes a Fish Cooking Night in May with Geoff Thiel as “Master GGAF Chef”, a midyear trip to Waikerie on the River Murray and the Annual Camp will be at Meningie Caravan Park on Lake Albert.

REMAINING PROGRAM FOR 2024

18th May (Saturday)

Fish Cooking Evening at GGLC 6 pm

3rd June (Monday)

Tackle Night – at Spot On - Salisbury Plain 7.30pm

28th June–1st July (Fri-Mon)

Waikerie Holiday Park

10th August (Saturday)

Port Noarlunga Jetty 10 am – 5 pm

8th September (Sunday)

West Lakes 9 am–2 pm

11th-13th October (Fri-Sun)

Annual Camp at Meningie - Lake Albert Caravan Park

27th October (Sunday)

Community Fete 11am at GGLC/GGLPS

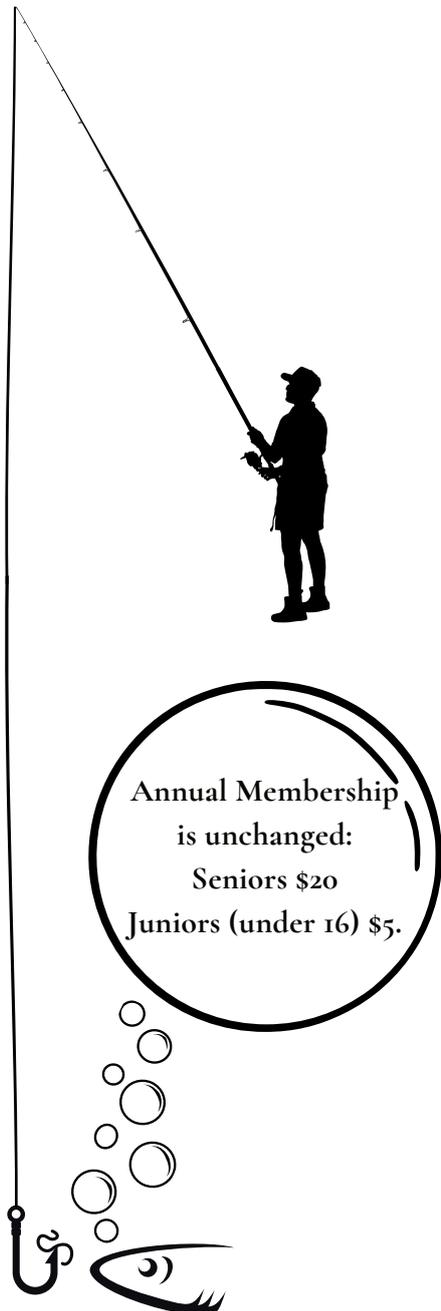
16th November (Saturday)

Presentation Night at GGLC 6.30 pm

Note: Events may be subject to change.



GGAF AGM





Crabbers at Webb Beach



Meredith with Winning Crab



Angela & Ian with Cockle Haul



Cockling is Fun

CRABBING at WEBB BEACH



Saturday 10th February

48 people attended the crabbing day at Webb Beach this year. With a very low tide, a long walk to the water and a brisk breeze that sprung up, very few legal crabs were raked. (Notably the peak period for crabbing this year occurred later than normal, not long after the GGAF event). Although the crabbing was poor, with 16 legal caught, the cook up was eagerly watched by many juniors and Chris Hahn's overseas guests who enjoyed the overall experience. Peter Van Loggem demonstrated the dismembering and eating of crabs. Due to the scarcity, the eating of crabs was restricted to juniors and those that hadn't tasted crabs before.

Winners were:

Largest male – Senior Joint Winners Meredith Glaetzer and Peter Van Loggem (117mm) Largest female- Senior Shirley Hasler (115mm)

Junior Winner:

Largest male –Oliver Kennett (111MM)

Thanks to Zimmo and Ruth for providing nibbles and watermelon, and for the many hands who helped with the setting and packing up of gazebos etc, which was appreciated.

COCKLING at GOOLWA BEACH

Saturday 2nd March



It was a great family day for all who attended. We had 42 attend and there was no need to travel to the left of the Goolwa Beach Car Park with 4WD vehicles as the cockles were in abundance all along the beach. The weather was a little windy but the temperature was fine and the children had great fun in the water both digging and playing. It was great to see Chris Hahn attend with a couple of his PhD Students from overseas. This was a new experience for them. Many cocklers gathered their 300 cockle limit. After cockling and the opportunity to freshen up GGAF provided a BBQ sausage sizzle at Jaralde Park near the Goolwa Wharf.



Zeke at Mannum



Letty with Mannum Win



Fishers at Mannum



Luke with Winning Salmon



GOLDEN GROVE AMATEUR FISHING
Waitpinga Surf Fishers



MANNUM (RIVER MURRAY)

Sunday 7th April

An excellent attendance of 54 members and friends ventured to Bolto Reserve situated just over the ferry from Mannum.

Weather was perfect and whilst the fishing was slow, 32 European Carp of all sizes were landed with a total weight of 24 kilograms. Non-member Kuno Berghout caught the largest Carp (5.54kg). Junior Club Winner was Letty Sweeney with a 1.35kg Carp (runner up Dean Sweeney with a 1.2kg Carp) and Senior Club Winner was Peter Van Loggem with a .89kg Carp (runner up Rosalie Hoklas .81kg Carp). Ray Shillabeer landed a very large Yabby measuring 24 cms across the claws.

A BBQ sausage sizzle lunch, compliments of GGAF, was enjoyed by all plus cakes to celebrate Alison Ahrens birthday were provided by husband Simon.

WAITPINGA SURF FISHING

Saturday 27th April



19 fishers attended on a cool morning to find the beach scape completely changed. At the bottom of the wooden stairs waves had washed away sand and created a 2m embankment and exposed rocks.

An easterly wind created 2-3 m breakers and surfers were out in numbers assisted by 2 jet skis to tow them out behind the breakers.

As a consequence fishing was slow with undersize salmon trout and sand crabs first to the bait.

The 17 legal fish caught were a mix of salmon, salmon trout, mullet and a solitary tommy ruff.

The senior winner was Luke Jenzen landing a large 56 cm 1.84kg salmon. Luke caught a total of 5 fish and Lou Goegan caught 6.

A pleasant meal and banter at the Victor Hotel at the end of the day was enjoyed by 6 fishers.

Website:

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

Enquiries to Graeme Hoklas 0419 828 091 or

hoklasgr@gmail.com



SURE THING AGENCY AND GOLDEN GROVE LUTHERAN CHURCH AND PRIMARY SCHOOL PRESENT

Colin Buchanan's
10,9,8...
GOD
is
GREAT
NATIONAL TOUR

SATURDAY JUNE 15
WYNN VALE, SA
GOLDEN GROVE LUTHERAN CHURCH
AND PRIMARY SCHOOL

4pm

BUY TICKETS AT COLINBUCHANAN.COM.AU



SCAN TO
BOOK TICKETS

ping-pong-a-thon
serve up
some justice.

AUGUST 16-17, 2024

Community Fete
Sunday **20th** October
10.30am to 3.00pm
Corner of Richardson & Sunnybrook Drives, Wynn Vale



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

