



**Community Fete - pg. 18**

## Collected Memories

In this edition of *Life In The Vine*, we reminisce through our theme “Collected Memories”. From reports to events, and even a wedding, our community happenings can be memorised and shared with all.

Reminiscing with other people can be a great pastime activity. Sharing life stories and experiences can be made easier using objects so that the listener can also imagine the described event. In today's modern times, recording and sharing each other's lives is uncomplicated through music, photos or videos via phones, social media and printed images. Purchasing objects, i.e. souvenirs, can also help share different experiences.

*(Who else has a display cabinet full of such objects?)*

It makes you wonder, however, how did people share and reminisce their stories before technology and gift shops? Reminiscing is not a modern concept—it is a natural activity that has been with us since creation. Even in the Bible we see the act of reminiscing. "Mary remembered all these things and thought deeply about them" Luke 2:19 GNT. What objects may have Mary collected to help remember and share her story of Jesus?

*(Come along to this year's Christmas Eve service to explore further.)*

Christmas is a great time to reminisce and share past events, especially the birth of Jesus Christ. It is through this momentous event that our Lord and Saviour came down to earth as human, to live and eventually save us all. As cliché as it sounds -

**He is the reason for the season!**

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year filled with many wonderful memories to reminisce on!

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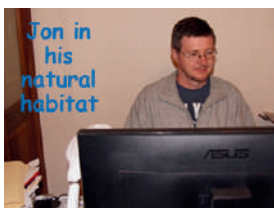


**Messy Church - pg. 9**



## HIGHLIGHTS FROM CHURCH COUNCIL

BY JON SCHUTZ  
GGLC CHAIRPERSON



2016 Jon answering his own questionnaire



2020 COVID times needing two Jons



2025 CHAT GPT Jon with another fun fact

**“It has been a season of experiences for which I am grateful.”**

As I leave the post of Chairperson, I feel it is time for a confession. I hope the statute of limitations has passed on this one. In my very first *Life in the Vine* article as Chair—which you will all remember from [March 2016](#)<sup>1</sup> as Rosalie interviewing the new Chairperson—in fact I wrote both the questions and answers myself while sitting in a cafe at Fisherman’s Wharf, San Francisco, during a work trip, with no Rosalie in sight anywhere. Now that the truth has set me free and in the spirit of two wrongs making a right, Rosalie (me) will interview me (me) again to reflect on the past 10 years.

**R: Welcome back.**

J: Thank you Rosalie.

**R: So, you made it through 10 years, beyond all expectations. Why are you getting out now?**

J: Could I go on for longer? Probably. Should I? I don’t think so. A wise elder of the congregation once told me that it was a 5 year job, then I should get out of the way and let someone else have a go. For me, these last ten years have been a season of service—full of planning, discussion, challenge (COVID and others), building, and following God’s plan. It has been a season of experiences for which I am grateful. Ecclesiastes 3 tells us *“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.”* Leadership in the church is never meant to be permanent. It’s meant to be faithful—for a time. And then it is meant to be passed on so that others can bring fresh eyes, new energy, and different gifts. We see this with pastors—they serve for a period and then are called elsewhere. This is both organisational and Biblical wisdom, with many examples: Moses led Israel to the edge of the Promised Land, but God appointed Joshua to take them in; David prepared the way for the temple, but Solomon built it; Elijah passed his mantle to Elisha; Paul trained many leaders in the New Testament church, then moved on.

Ecclesiastes reminds us that when a season concludes, that too is a gift. Change is a sign of life. Healthy things grow. Growing things change. So I think this is the right time for change in our congregation, and it’s also the right time for me to have a break.

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.gglc.org.au/church/index.php/download\\_file/4215/0](https://www.gglc.org.au/church/index.php/download_file/4215/0)

***R: We didn't have a pastor when you were elected to the Chair position and we don't have one now as you step down. What does that say about your term in office?***

J: Great question, although I think it would be fair to note that Pastor Greg started within a few weeks of me taking on the role, and served our congregation in an outstanding way for 8 years. We are of course working on calling our next pastor; unfortunately our most recent call to Pastor Lee Kroehn was declined, but he conveyed to us that the main barrier was the timing, and left the door wide open for us to issue another call to him later on.

***R: So what do we do while we don't have a pastor?***

J: Well, Pastor Greg provided us with a great service before he left, in grounding our six young adults for the lay preaching role. They have been supporting us for almost two years now—certainly longer than we had hoped, and from the beginning of this year we have been expressing our gratitude for their service through honorarium payments when they preach. Previously I reported that the District had agreed to fund the honorarium payments from the LCA Transfer and Support Fund. Regrettably, that decision was reversed at the Churchwide Office level. I have little insight into the details but you can be assured that our disappointment was unambiguously expressed. Ultimately, Church Council had no reservations in agreeing to pay the honoraria from congregational funds, although we continue to hold the view that the LCA Transfer Fund should have been able to provide this support.

***R: Hmm, yes that's certainly less than satisfactory regarding the Transfer Fund.***

J: Indeed. But let's not forget that although we don't have a pastor, we do. Pastor Kevin has been settling into the role of part-time interim pastor at 0.25FTE, supporting us one Sunday morning each month, at the Prayer Healing Service each month, and otherwise at the school, in Bible study groups and elsewhere as needed. He will also be running a confirmation course in the new year. We are blessed to have the presence of a pastor with such life experience and preaching experience, giving contrast to the youthful life perspectives of our younger lay preachers, and perhaps it is the contrast that gives us a better appreciation of both styles.

***R: Did you achieve what you set out to achieve?***

J: I think I can say that I did, because I didn't come in with particularly big aspirations. As attested to in my entrance interview, I was hoping to tidy up some governance aspects and sort out the toilets. Well ok, there was a bit more of a vision than that, in that we had a direction to make GGLC a place that people want to be, and to let the community know what we have here. I think we have done that—and of course it's not just about me, it's been a team effort to work together on these things over the 10 years. The governance is not perfect, and probably never will be, as we are a small organisation—but it's in a pretty good position, and partly thanks to modern technology, our administration and financial management is also feeling reasonably robust. The toilets escalated into a full-blown office, cafe, youth room, deck, carpet and chairs renovation, and the way was opened for us to do all of that on a modest budget; those facilities improvements have a long term impact on many of the things we do. Curiously, this was also the origin of the annual fete, the first fete being a celebration of the opening of Cafe Connect. To be frank, I wasn't particularly keen on the idea initially, but agreed that we needed to celebrate the cafe so went along with it—and that has now snowballed into an annual community event with 3700 visitors this year. I'm pretty sure that getting a new altar wasn't near the top of my list either, but it tied in well with our 30th anniversary celebrations. Likewise with the replacement of the manse—I think the first time it was raised my reaction was “That's never going to happen”.

So I feel that yes, as a team we have achieved many things, which may not have been on the initial agenda but were on the agenda of Proverbs 16:9—“Man’s mind plans his way, but God directs his steps”. I would have liked to have delivered a manse and a pastor by the end of my term, but turns out that pastors are harder than manses.

***R: Are we in good shape?***

J: Yes and no. I hear from external people that our youth programs, our fete, our cafe, our relationship with the school and even the vibe of fellowship after services are the envy of other congregations. Our main challenge is financial. The manse project was partly to provide a more suitable home for our pastor’s family and partly to improve our loan situation, which it has certainly helped with, but the cost of wages and insurance have continued to increase whilst our offering income has fallen sharply. Fete and cafe incomes have steadily increased but not sufficiently to offset the downturn in offerings. This year we will have a surplus—as we should, since we have only been paying 50% of a pastor’s wage (into the Transfer Fund)—but the surplus is not as large as it should have been under the circumstances. Next year we have budgeted on the basis of a 6 month vacancy, which ends up working out to about 75% of a pastor’s wage, but we are still predicting a deficit when we should again be in surplus. We need to recover from this so that we can continue to invest in our child and youth programs, and maybe more importantly in the short term, demonstrate that our finances are healthy enough to continue to support a full time pastor several years into the future.

***R: What do you think has caused the downturn in offerings?***

J: Well, we’ve seen that the *number* of REG contributors appears to have increased, so members are giving support through regular giving, but even so, the *total REG offering* is down. Having considered the possible causes over the course of a few years now, I think the main issue is that we are a victim of our Bactrian demographics.

***R: Bactrian?***

J: A two-humped camel.

***R: Not helping.***

J: One hump is the age group from the mid 40s to mid 90s, peaking near retirement age; we have had a number of members make the transition from full time employment into retirement recently, which is going to affect giving. The other hump has a peak around 25—our younger people who may still be studying or just starting out in their careers—and with living costs and housing costs as they are, they are unlikely to be able to make a large commitment to offering. The region of our demographics chart around age 40 is an abyss; we have very few who are often the backbone of church giving, reaching that age of higher earnings and the point where they start to get ahead on the home loan and so on.

***R: Is there any way out?***

J: The size of the problem is about \$30,000. Incremental increases in income from the cafe and fete won’t cover that. But—and this is not to tell people how much to give, just to demonstrate that the problem is manageable—in a congregation of around 150 members, if we say 100 are regular givers—then it works out to \$300 per giver per year, or less than a dollar per day. So if everyone can give a bit extra according to their means, we can make this sustainable.

***R: You mentioned our children’s program. What’s happening there?***

J: After Lauren stepped down in the middle of this year to pursue her studies, we have tried (unsuccessfully) to recruit a replacement, and in the meantime volunteers have been covering the Messy Music playgroup, Messy Church and Sunday Vine Kids programs as best they can. Even with the challenge of budget, Church Council expressed an intent to keep these programs going through volunteers and/or a paid position. We’ll continue to work on it, and if anyone can help or knows someone who might be interested, either in volunteering or employment, please let us know.

**R: Is everyone else on Church Council continuing?**

J: Ruth is stepping down from the Christian Education Chairperson role, and we welcome Bec Wallace into that position. We thank Ruth, who came very highly qualified for the position, for her oversight of our children's ministry and adult education activities since 2017. Denise, who has been on Council since 2014 (but not as long as Jacquie, currently the longest serving, since 2011), has flagged that 2026 will be her last year but would welcome any offers to have someone take over her role as Secretary at any time.

**R: What was your favourite part of the role?**

J: I don't have favourites. But I do look back with nostalgia on the COVID times when I could spend a day each week making videos of questionable quality for the announcements. Did you know I won an Oscar for that?

**R: Who is taking over as Chair?**

J: Well, that is for the congregation to determine at the Half Yearly Meeting, so without pre-empting how the congregation will vote, Luke Wachtel is the single candidate standing for nomination and I fully endorse his candidacy. Luke is stepping up to take on the challenge of this role at a time in his life when he has a young family and a busy job; after testing the role for 6 months or 12 months or however long it works out to be, we need to be mindful of and respect that he may have to make the choice not to continue. We also need to respect that he will do things his own way which will be different to what we have become used to for the last 10 years. But with prayerful support, and direct support through volunteering to help with tasks that might have otherwise been left with the Chair, let us hope that Luke can fill the role for long enough to leave his mark. It is clear that, being half my age for a start, his approach will be different to mine, and I hope we can all get behind him. I'm very grateful to Luke for stepping in at this time.

**R: Are you going anywhere?**

J: No, I'm still here, and continuing in roles on the Communications Team, Finance Team, Fete Team and Call team, and will continue to manage the manse through to completion. I'm stepping off Church Council to give Luke some space, but am able to provide support if needed.

**R: Do you want to thank anybody else before you sign off?**

J: Well of course, but it would be a long list. I'll just mention Greg, as we started our roles at the same time and had to find our feet together. I think it's fair to say that we had complementary skills, and that worked well. We have also had a fairly consistent core at Church Council, and I'd guess over the 10 years around 20 or so people have been involved. So I'd like to thank all of those people for their support and their contributions. I'd also like to thank the person who laughed at my joke during the announcements, and all the others in the congregation who have offered me encouragement over the years.

**R: Thank you for sharing with Life in the Vine.**

J: Rosalie, the pleasure has been all mine.

**"...I'd like to thank all of those people for their support and their contributions."**





## NEWS FROM GGLPS

BY WILL WALLACE

PRINCIPAL

*"MARY REMEMBERED ALL THESE THINGS AND THOUGHT DEEPLY ABOUT THEM" LUKE 2:19*

As we reflect on the semester that has been, we are reminded of Mary's example in treasuring precious moments and pondering their deeper meaning. Our school community has been blessed with many such moments worth remembering and celebrating.

Term 3 concluded beautifully with our Special Persons Afternoon, where grandparents and special visitors joined us for scones, tea, and coffee prepared by Jenny and our wonderful café team. The joy on faces young and old reminded us of the blessing of intergenerational connection within our school family.

Our partnership with Eisugakkan School in Japan flourished, with Japanese students experiencing Australian homestays thanks to our generous hosting families. The overnight camp at AFL Max brought our Year 5 and 6 students together with our international visitors, creating memories that transcended language barriers. Later in the semester, our Year 2 students enjoyed their own AFL Max adventure, strengthening friendships and making their own treasured memories.

Book Week was a particular highlight, with costume parades and read-around activities bringing stories to life throughout our school. It was wonderful to witness our entire staff community engaging enthusiastically, modelling the joy of reading and imagination for our students.

We gathered as a community to celebrate new life, hosting a baby shower for Emma following the birth of Isla to Emma Wachtel and Luke. These moments of shared joy strengthen the bonds that make our school more than a learning community—we are truly a family.



Special Persons Afternoon



Eisugakkan Visit



Book Week Jayne - We Will Miss You!  
Happy Retirement!

**“Our school community has been blessed with many such moments worth remembering and celebrating.”**

Our students participated in SACSA Netball Gala Days and attended Connected Schools worship at Endeavour College, while Year 6 students worked diligently preparing for their Exhibition. We were also blessed to host an information session with Mark Le Messurier on supporting children with anxiety, providing valuable practical strategies for families navigating these important challenges.

A deeply meaningful highlight was hosting our partners from Asaroka, PNG, in September. The visit strengthened our missionary partnership, and having our staff teams pray together as we farewelled them was a moving reminder of our shared faith and purpose beyond borders.

Joel Schiller and Will Wallace represented our Golden Grove Lutheran community at the Tea Tree Gully Council Prayer Breakfast, strengthening connections within our broader community.

Our International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme evaluation visit in August brought overwhelmingly positive feedback. Evaluators were impressed with our school culture, environment, and learning approaches—a testament to the dedication of our staff and the engaged partnership of our families.

We were thrilled with some outstanding achievements by Henry Kumela at this year's Oliphant Science Awards. Henry has made us all incredibly proud with his exceptional success, achieving both first place in his category (Models and Inventions), as well as first place in the Rowe's Scientific Regional Science and Engineering Award. Henry's achievements demonstrate his curiosity, creativity, and dedication to scientific inquiry. We celebrate Henry's success and look forward to seeing where his scientific journey takes him next. Well done, Henry – you are an inspiration to your fellow students!

As we approach the end of 2025, our school family enters a season of transition marked by gratitude and hope. It is with mixed emotions that we share Mrs. Jayne Zadow's decision to retire, concluding a remarkable career spanning over four decades in Lutheran education.

Since joining Golden Grove Lutheran Primary School in 2018 and becoming Director of PYP, Teaching and Learning shortly thereafter, Jayne has provided passionate leadership and unwavering commitment to excellence. Under her thoughtful guidance, our Primary Years Programme has flourished, earning numerous commendations in our 2020 external review and again receiving overwhelmingly positive feedback in this year's evaluation. Her meticulous preparation and dedication to maintaining the highest educational standards have been exemplary.

Jayne's journey in Lutheran education began in 1983 at Hermannsburg Lutheran School in the Northern Territory and continued through significant tenures at St. Mark's Mt Barker and St. Michael's Hahndorf, where she touched countless lives. Beyond the classroom, she has served with distinction on the Board of Lutheran Schools Association (now Lutheran Education SA NT WA) and on the Boards of Crossways Lutheran School in Ceduna and Lobethal Lutheran School, where she also served as Board Chair. Her strong Christian faith continues to shine through her active service on the Church Council at her local Lutheran church in Lobethal.

We treasure Jayne's caring and conscientious approach toward each child and family, her genuine interest in their growth, and the warm, supportive learning environment she has helped cultivate. Her familiar smile greeting families at the school gates each morning and afternoon has brought comfort and connection to so many. As she prepares to enjoy retirement alongside her husband Rob and cherish more time with her extended family, she carries with her our deepest gratitude and very best wishes for a retirement filled with joy and new adventures.

We also farewell Cloe Richardson as she takes up a new role at St Michael's Lutheran School in Hahndorf. As a Hahndorf local whose children attend St Michael's, this move represents a wonderful opportunity for Cloe and her family, and we wish her every blessing in this next chapter. Cloe has been a wonderful educator at Golden Grove Lutheran for over a decade, most recently teaching art specialist lessons across Foundation to Year 6. The numerous art displays that we have enjoyed have been testament to Cloe's passion for the subject and capacity to teach the breadth and depth of the curriculum in such an engaging manner. Cloe was instrumental in beginning our Glow Week initiative with Lauren Hall in recent years, which has now become a distinctive feature of our school calendar as well as both a wonderful opportunity for student learning and growth, and community engagement.

Looking toward 2026, we're thrilled to welcome Rachel Saunders as our new Director of PYP, Teaching and Learning. Rachel brings exceptional credentials to our leading IB PYP World School. Currently serving as Upper Primary Leader and PYP Co-ordinator at Concordia College, she has demonstrated proven senior leadership as Acting Deputy Principal at multiple institutions. Her international expertise includes serving as PYP Co-ordinator at Clearwater Bay School in Hong Kong, providing valuable global educational insights.

Rachel is a graduate of Lutheran Education Australia's Leadership Development Programme and holds extensive qualifications including a Bachelor of Teaching, Graduate Diploma of Theology in Education, and Postgraduate Certificate in Business (Educational Enterprise). She actively contributes to education through her role on the SA/NT PYP Network Executive Committee and as an International Baccalaureate Asia Pacific Workshop Leader.

Through an extensive recruitment process conducted by Hender Consulting, Rachel emerged as the standout candidate from an exceptional field of national and international applicants. The announcement has been met with overwhelmingly positive feedback from our community, and we're excited about the innovation and growth Rachel will bring as we continue preparing students to be confident, active global citizens. Welcome to the Golden Grove family, Rachel!

As we reflect on another outstanding fete and the community that it enhanced, we do so with 222 students enrolled and strong enrolments projected for 2026. Our Early Learning Centre project continues to progress thoughtfully as we work towards an opening in early 2027, and we were delighted to receive a 2026 Master Plan Grant from SAIS BGA to support our future planning.

Like Mary, we treasure these collected memories—not just as isolated moments, but as evidence of God's faithfulness and the fruit of a community committed to nurturing children in faith, learning, and love.







## LAUREN GETS MARRIED

ON 4 OCTOBER 2025, THE WEDDING OF LAUREN NEUMANN & MARK HALL WAS HELD AT WATERSHED CAFE, SALISBURY.

Golden Grove Lutheran Community congratulate Lauren and Mark on their nuptials and extend warm wishes for a lifetime of love, joy and many, many memories!





# HOUSE WANTS A PASTOR EPISODE 5

BY JON SCHUTZ



The Kitchen, Then Still A Work In Progress



Just Prior To Handover

**“One day we didn’t have a house, and the next...we did”**



Mark Reckons This Is Going To Work Out OK

Soon after the previous episode was published in April, we reached the lockup stage, after which there was very little visible progress. Then suddenly, we had a house.

There’s no easing into it; the builder doesn’t say “Look, we’ll just try you on a bedroom or two for a bit, then gently add some other rooms when you feel at peace to move on”. One day we didn’t have a house, and the next—handover day, Sept 26—we did.

Just as suddenly, we had a tenant. Not a pastor as we had planned, but no doubt there will be a later chapter for that.

The story of how we abruptly acquired a tenant is not mine to tell, but the Almighty decided that if He could create a universe in seven days then it should be within our given talents to ready a brand new house for a tenant within five. Challenge accepted—140m of stormwater pipe, a clothesline, letterbox, window blinds, a dishwasher and at least 24 aching limbs later, the removalist truck pulled up. Regrettably, the driveway needed some finessing so the removalist truck couldn’t pull up in the actual driveway, but fortunately this time close enough was good enough.



The Phone Has Been Running Off The Hook

Since moving-in day, the occasional working bee has seen completion of installation of the rainwater tank and pump, NBN, WIFI, security cameras, doorbell, weeding, and finessing of said driveway. It will be finessed properly with concrete shortly. Still on the agenda is the garden shed, fencing, a bit more retaining, some trees, landscaping, lighting and curtains. Stand vigilant at your email inbox waiting for the next working bee invitation!

It's not quite finished, but I would like to extend a big thank you to all those who have helped in various ways to bring us to the point where the new manse can be lived in. It's been a bit of work for us all, but also a great achievement.



Daniel Needs A Plumber, Calling 1800-DENISE Now

Roger's Just Finished Digging All Those Trenches, Now Heading Out The Front For More (At Least That's What It Looks Like)



Lining Up For Duty



Found The Right Tool To Fix The Excavator



No Longer A Tankless Job!



End Of A [Cam]era - Surveillance Comes Down



The First And Last Pictures Taken From The Surveillance Camera, 19 Months Apart





# ONCE WERE LEADERS IN LUTHERAN SCHOOLS (OWLS)

ARTICLE ADAPTED FROM LUTHERAN  
EDUCATION SA, NT & WA (LESNW) NEWS  
POST 16 SEPTEMBER 2025<sup>1</sup>

BY WILL WALLACE

<sup>1</sup> <https://lesnw.edu.au/2025-owls/>



Rainer Mayer & Will Wallace

On Friday 12 September 2025, Golden Grove Lutheran Primary School and Cafe Connect had the incredible honor of welcoming our OWLS group (Once Were Leaders in Lutheran Schools) – the retired principals, educational leaders, and their partners who helped shape many of our Lutheran learning communities across Australia, including our second Principal at Golden Grove Lutheran, Rainer Mayer (1995-2007) and teacher Brian Wilson (1995-1997).



Gary Robertson & James Salisbury

These remarkable individuals didn't just lead schools; they planted seeds of faith, learning, and character that continue to flourish in our learning communities today. These early Lutheran leaders made tremendous sacrifices to establish and grow our schools, often with limited resources but unlimited vision for serving families and communities.

**“These remarkable individuals didn't just lead schools; they planted seeds...”**

As we stand on the shoulders of these giants, we're reminded that a society grows great when old men and women plant trees whose shade they will never see. The dedication, wisdom, and faithful service of our OWLS created the strong foundation upon which we continue to build.

A culture needs to absorb the legacy of those who have gone before, and yet also point towards the future. Our job is to continue this legacy and make it grow every time we have the opportunity.



Thank you to our visiting OWLS for your enduring legacy of leadership, your ongoing encouragement, and for showing us what it means to serve with purpose and passion. Your impact echoes through every classroom, every student life influenced, and every family served.

The torch has been passed, and we are honored to carry it forward.



## ASAROKA TEACHERS VISIT

BY DANIEL DUTSCHKE  
ON BEHALF OF FRIENDS OF ASAROKA



“...we had been working hard preparing for them, to ensure that the teachers returned home with many ‘Collected Memories’.”

We were privileged and blessed to have 7 teachers from Asaroka Lutheran Secondary School visit us in September 16-25th. They asked us last year if it would be ok if they came to visit us and we gave them a clear answer of ‘absolutely’. We knew this would be a difficult thing to do for them due to costs, but they started planning with vigour and enthusiasm. After many hurdles, setbacks and date changes, they arrived at Adelaide Airport late on Tuesday night, for them into a big unknown! Only Joppie had been here before and the others had never been out of PNG, so it was very daunting but also new and exciting for them.

At this end, we had been working hard preparing for them, to ensure that the teachers returned home with many ‘Collected Memories’. We had to remain flexible with the dates and plan appropriate events to give them balanced visits to our schools and experience some of where and how we live, while always being sensitive to their way of life.

As always, our wonderful congregation pulled hard together and we had all we needed: Billets, Drivers, Food Providers, Tag-A-Longs on excursions and money provided for entries, food and other things. We had a wonderful Sunday worship together with a lunch after where many conversations were shared.

These are the teachers that visited us and what they teach:

**Dan Siggab Pipon** – Religious Education/Personal

Development/Computer Studies

**Joppie Mikasimo** – English/Social Science

**Wendy Yasona** – Business Studies/Accounting/Social Science

**Alopiga Sinako** – Economics/Geography

**Aaron Mokute** – Social Science/History/Religious Education

**Atirikuve Nupalivi** – Science/Chemistry

**Robert Naifen Gezare** – Economics/Geography

School visits were also a focus and the teachers were blessed with tours of:

- Golden Grove Lutheran Primary School  
(*awesome tour by Will*)
- Faith Secondary School (Tanunda)
- Good Shepherd Para Vista
- Endeavour College (Mawson Lakes)
- Immanuel Primary School and Early Learning Centre  
(*Gawler, with lunch – thanks Daryl Trigg*)

They were clearly blown away by the facilities all these schools have, but we reminded them that its not the buildings or contents, but the teachers, and what they do and say that has the most influence on the young minds of the students they work with.

Other places of interest visited were:

- Barossa (Menglers Hill and History)
- David Heinze’s Farm – Much knowledge shared about Aus farm life, various crops and vineyards and the business side of farming. They learnt so much here.
- Wantok Place
- LLL
- Central Market
- Adelaide Oval
- Rundle Mall (yes, the Mall’s Balls!)
- Mt Lofty
- Mannum (some)
- Semaphore with Fish & Chips from Sotos
- Gorge Wildlife Park.
- Friedrich’s Farm – With the beautiful rolling landscape and mob of kangaroos. They also learned about how bushfires impact us. Many photos were taken here.
- We took them to visit Len and Claire Tscharke’s grave, as that was important for them.
- Yitpi Yartapuultiku (new Kaurna cultural centre at Port Adelaide). Willis, the head ranger gave a guided tour around the centre and gardens being established. They learned much, including that his grandfather was from PNG, and were able to fill in some knowledge gaps in his heritage!
- Our guests went to visit Allyson’s father in his ‘Retirement Living’ unit. Learning about how our parents do retirement was an eye opener as in PNG, they just live with you!





We tried not to load each day with too many activities as we knew this would tire them out. Having access to internet and Wi-Fi at our homes also allowed them to keep in close touch with their families back home. They said we also fed them too well!

Everything was a highlight as it was all very new to them, but they did love seeing the schools, learning about our farms and how we have wild animals just freely roaming the countryside! They noted how we do drive everywhere (instead of walking) and the big city was too busy for them! But they all collected many memories that they will keep and share with all their families, friends and students back home in PNG. They were very grateful for all we did for them and our hospitality. Please read the letter of thanks from the teachers on our website [GGLC.ORG.AU](http://GGLC.ORG.AU) in the section Ministries/Asaroka Partnership. Enjoy the photos there as well.

Our focus soon will be on organising a visit up to Asaroka, God willing during 2026. This will be anticipated to be possibly late July. Please prayerfully consider if you might be interested in joining us. Any questions welcomed.

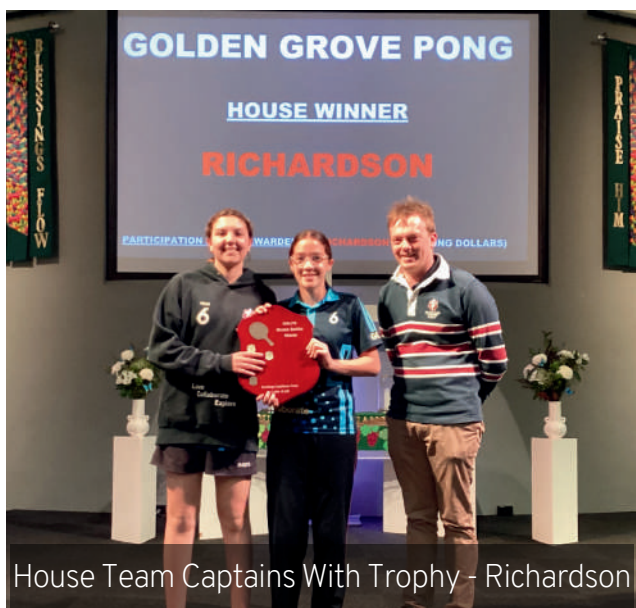


**“...they all collected many memories that they will keep and share with all their families, friends and students back home in PNG.”**



## PING PONG-A-THON

BY JOEL SCHILLER



House Team Captains With Trophy - Richardson



Youth Hearing From the Pong team

On August 15 and 16 our community fought for freedom by playing table tennis!

Freedom for those caught up in modern day slavery which impacts over 50 million people in the world today, that's enough to fill the MCG over 500 times!

We played for 24 hours beginning at 9:30 am on Friday, through to 9:30 am on Saturday. It was truly a whole community event.

In 2025 we raised over \$20,300 in the fight for freedom, which takes our total over the seven years we've run the event to \$87,000!

Next year we will be aiming to reach \$100,000!

Everyone deserves to live a life free from bondage and enslavement, as Luke 4:18 says Jesus came to set the captive free. Through Pong we can assist others who live in a very different reality by shining the light of Jesus into some very dark places in the world.

“In 2025 we raised over \$20,300 in the fight for freedom...”

# GOLDEN GROVE PONG

<b>2019</b>	<b>\$5,195</b>	
<b>2020</b>	<b>\$8,693</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>2021</b>	<b>\$10,337</b>	
<b>2022</b>	<b>\$14,500</b>	<b>\$87,849</b>
<b>2023</b>	<b>\$16,623</b>	
<b>2024</b>	<b>\$12,454</b>	
<b>2025*</b>	<b>\$20,177</b>	

\*SUBJECT TO CHANGE - DONATIONS STILL OPEN

Lives Restored

50



Slavery takes many forms including human trafficking, sex trafficking and bonded labour. The funds raised help Pong partners who work on the ground to help with prevention, rescue, education and employment. It's something that doesn't just happen overseas, but it happens here in Australia too. One of the Pong partners is based here in Australia, looking to deal with slavery right in our backyard.

Christian Koelbach from International Justice Mission shared the following story. There are people desperate to get a job that see a job advertised overseas. They are promised the world but then they are taken and put into a call centre called KK Park in Myanmar. These people are trapped and forced to work extended hours and scam people, not by choice. This story ended with one person being freed from this bondage. The story gets us to think about the lives of people on the other end of scam calls, some may be caught in slavery.

If you are interested about the Ping Pong A Thon and want to find out more head to <https://pingpongathon.com> or checkout the recording with Christian Koelbach <https://bit.ly/PPATIJM>.

Also a special congratulations to our Pong Master winners Linden Huxtable and Theodore Newman.



## LIGHTS FOR SICK KIDS

Becoming an annual tradition, the Schiller family have again decorated their house for Christmas to raise money for Starlight.

Starlight knows that happiness matters to sick kids facing the pain, fear and stress of serious illness. Starlight helps sick kids be kids by bringing fun, joy and laughter into their lives, Starlight assists kids of all ages regardless of disability, injury or illness because what happens in childhood lasts a lifetime.

From one Starlight Wish granted more than 35 years ago, now Starlight creates over 4 million positive Starlight Experiences for seriously ill children across Australia each year.



Please come along to view the display and consider donating to help brighten the lives of sick kids in hospital.





# GOLDEN GROVE LUTHERAN COMMUNITY FETE

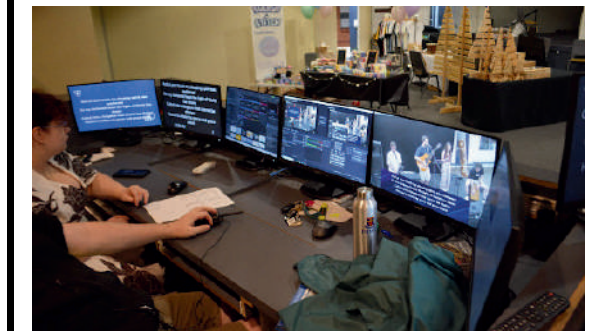
BY JOEL SCHILLER  
FETE DIRECTOR

## 2025 Community Fete

On Sunday October 19 we had 114 stallholders, over 110 volunteers and 1 massive fete with over 3,700 people in attendance.

While the day had a brief shower of rain, it didn't dampen any spirits. Our school families won big in our raffle, with one lucky student taking home a TRENT4RENT GeForce trampoline!

A massive thank you to our sponsors who made the day happen, and all the volunteers who gave up their time to help things run smoothly.





Keep up The good work!

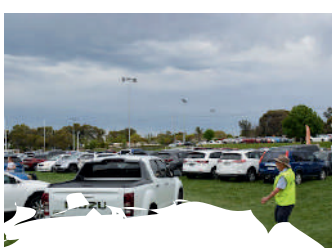


SEE YOU  
NEXT  
YEAR

FEEDBACK

Lots of  
happy people





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

Love being a part of a large community event - thank you!  
Good atmosphere!

FEEDBACK





## ARISE YOUTH

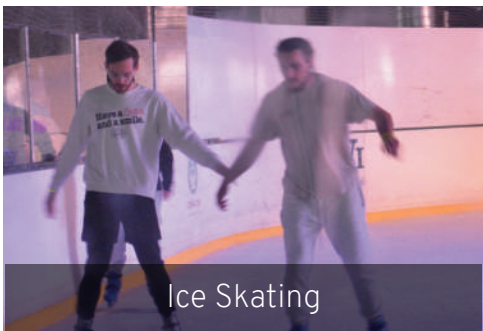
BY HAMISH EDGECOMB  
YOUTH MEMBER



Campfire Night



Elevate



Ice Skating

“...been exciting to see them come along...”

Hi, I'm Hamish, and I've been part of our youth group for a while now.

Since the start of Term 2, we've had a bunch of great events that have brought everyone together and made Friday nights something to look forward to. One of the biggest new things we introduced this year was Elevate. It's a fresh program where we hang out, play games, share food, and spend time talking about real-life topics that actually matter to us (during worship). Elevate has been a really fun way to connect with people I might not usually talk to, and it's helped build a stronger sense of community within the group.

Out of everything we've done this term, my favourite event would have to be Elevate. I liked it the most because it felt new, relaxed, and different from our usual routine. The mix of fun activities and meaningful conversations made the night enjoyable, and it gave everyone a chance to be themselves without any pressure.

I come along to youth because it's a place where I feel welcomed and supported. Every week I get to see friends, grow in my faith. The leaders create a positive environment where we can have fun, talk openly, and learn from each other. It's something I look forward to each week because it gives me a break from everything else going on in life and reminds me that I'm part of a community that actually cares.



Task Breaker



Laser Tag



Youth Alpha Meal



## FAMILY MINISTRIES

BY LAUREN NEUMANN HALL

**“...opportunity to reflect on the ‘collected memories’ from the past 3 years...”**

This second half of the year has been a large transitional phase for myself and the family.

As I have moved out of the family ministries role, it has been an opportunity to reflect on the ‘collected memories’ from the past 3 years (yes – it feels like much longer, and yet so much shorter at the same time).

I truly feel blessed to have been able to serve the community in this role and look forward to continuing to serve in other ways.

As I transition from a ‘Neumann’ to a ‘Hall’ I want thank each and every one of you for the kind words and well wishes that have come my way.

I wish to thank the volunteers who have support me and look forward to where this ministry will go in the years to come.





We have had our ups and downs as part of Vine Kids.

The latter part of the year has seen a decline in numbers, but then growth again as we welcomed a new family into our community.

It is lovely to see the smiling faces each week as we explore a new Bible story and share a craft as part of it.

It has been lovely to hear the children remember what we learn in previous weeks and connect this to what they are doing during the week.

We have continued with Godly Play once per month, sharing the Bible through stories and the allowance to be creative in any way they feel.



Last term, we connected with the theme 'Book an Adventure' which was the theme for Book Week.

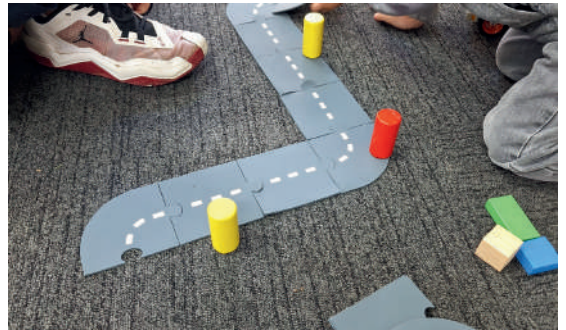
Each week we explored different settings from oceans to space and farms.

We included the imaginative and allowed children to explore a variety of activities to be creative and play.

We have continued to connect with Wynn Vale Kindy and run music sessions with them.

I wish to extend a huge thank you to Louise Paterson who has kindly stepped in to run the music sessions.

Every time I walk in there, the children and parents are happy and enjoying the time connecting with each other (and a decent coffee from the café).





## TIGHT LINES

GOLDEN GROVE AMATEUR FISHING

## 2025 CATCH UPDATE



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

As we reflect on the memories of the past year we give thanks to God for the many blessings received. Collected memories include the friendships created, fishing events shared and community fellowship.

### CADELL - Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April

27 members and friends ventured to Graeme Claxton Reserve at Cadell. The European Carp were biting all day in perfect weather for river fishing. An excellent total of 92 Carp were landed with a total weight of 33 kilograms.

Senior winner was Rosalie Hoklas with a 2.96 kg Carp (61 cm) and Junior winner was Zeke Jensen with a 1.3 kg Carp (46.5 cm). Large Carp were scarce as only one weighed over 2 kg. Highest numbers caught were Peter Van Loggem 17, Michael Woodley 10, Michael Goodchild 8 and Luke Jensen 7.

A BBQ sausage sizzle lunch, compliments of GGAF, was enjoyed by all. A number of members travelled to a Morgan Hotel for dinner.



Cadell Win for Rosalie

### NORMANVILLE - Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May

Strong northerly winds greeted 28 fishers to Normanville. Most fishers preferred south of the small jetty including a number who stayed for the weekend at the Beachside Caravan Park where the beach was more protected from the strong winds. Those fishing closer to the jetty and on the jetty were more successful later in the day as the winds eased a little.



Normanville Winner Lachlan with Salmon

39 legal fish were weighed in comprising 20 Mullet, 16 Salmon Trout, 1 Salmon & 2 Tommy Ruff.

Senior Winner was Lachlan Caldicott with a .55 kg Salmon (37 cm). Chris Simanis landed 8 Mullet and Keith Hasler, Zimmo and Michael Woodley all weighed in 6 fish.

All in all a successful event for the first visit by the Club to Normanville considering the strong winds endured.

The Normanville Hotel was a popular end to the day for a number of participants.



## TACKLE NIGHT - Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June



The Spot On Tackle Night attracted an excellent number of 36 in the Conference Room of the Golden Grove Lutheran Primary School, comprising GGAF members and Steve & Lyn Castle from Spot On.

Steve and Lyn provided demonstrations and fishing tips including all aspects of safety equipment including safety vests. Lures, baits and Shrimp nets for river fishing followed.



The second session was devoted to fish filleting in which Steve skilfully filleted a variety of fish including Flathead, Leatherjacket, Mulloway & Squid.

Thanks to Spot On for also providing a number of door prizes at the end of the evening. Thanks also to Peter Van Loggem for organising the camera setup for filleting demo and the fish that were filleted.



## GLOW WEEK ~ at GGLPS June 23-25

GGAF Committee members (Zimmo, Chris, Geoff & Graeme) presented, entertained and demonstrated fishing equipment, tips, casting, knots, rigs etc to 9 students on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 9am to 11am. Included was a trip to the nearby Wynn Vale Dam.

## LAKE BONNEY CARAVAN PARK (BARMERA) & MOOROOK - June 27-30

33 people attended the midyear fishing trip based at the Lake Bonney Caravan Park. This was a noncompetition weekend and therefore no points were awarded for any catch. Fine weather greeted fishers on the shores of Lake Bonney on Saturday. A number of large Carp were landed led by Leanne Caldicott with the 2 largest Carp catches of the day.

Saturday night BBQ at the caravan park was a highlight at the park's Camp Kitchen. Thanks to all the organisers and cooks for the meats, salads and dessert.

Moorook on the banks of the River Murray was the location for fishing on the Sunday. The Carp were biting constantly for those wetting their line. Over 50 would have been landed over the day with nearly all fishers having some success. Catch of the day was a 47cm Callop landed by Adrian Smith. Weather, fishing area and facilities were all ideal for this club event.

The Barmera Football Club on the Lake Bonney esplanade was the choice for dinner on Sunday evening.



## MOONTA BAY JETTY - Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> July

Cold, wet and windy conditions (described as “atrocious” by Chris Simanis) greeted 20 fishers at the Moonta Jetty. Only 3 actually ventured on to the jetty itself – well done Peter Van Loggem, Michael Goodchild and Keith Hasler. Peter had success and landed 3 Tommy Ruff and 2 Weedy Whiting – being Senior winner on the day.

A nearby café was the venue of choice for 17 of the attendees and Cornish pasties were popular for lunch. A few fans ventured to a local footy match and 13 went to the local Royal Hotel for tea.

## WEST LAKES - Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> August

On a very pleasant day 35 attended a family day at West Lakes. Casting practice and competition was conducted for Juniors on the lawns near the shoreline. Winner was Harrison Brice with a cast closest to target (73 cm). Harrison won a Rod & Reel Combo and all other participants received tackle & chocolate bars for their efforts.

We were unsure if any fish would be landed in view of previous algal bloom reports however the water clarity appeared to improve as the day progressed. Fish landed included several Bream and Mullet, however only 1 Bream was of legal length. Senior winner was new member Joshua Tonkin with a 30 cm 400 gm Bream. No Junior winner.

A BBQ lunch provided by the club was enjoyed by all.



Harrison at West Lakes

## ANNUAL CAMP at KINGSTON-ON-MURRAY CARAVAN PARK - 10-12 October

On Friday night 35 members enjoyed a meal at the Cobdogla & District Club (Cobby Club). The raffle was very successful as 5 GGAF members won prizes out of the 22 draws (prizes being meat, vegies or wine). Excellent attendance of 44 enjoyed fine weather for competition fishing on Saturday. Total fish catch was 88 comprising of 5 Callop and 83 European Carp. Total weight 53.7 Kg.

Junior winner was Dean Sweeney with a .81kg Carp (37.5 cm) and Senior winner was Peter Van Loggem with a 2.07kg Carp (53 cm). Peter landed the most fish on the day with 15 Carp, closely followed by Michael Goodchild with 13 comprising of 4 nice Callop (largest 40cm) and 9 Carp. Letty Sweeney landed a 35 cm Callop.

The Park's Camp Kitchen was the venue for the Saturday Night BBQ. Thanks to Mark Caldicott and Chris Simanis for organising the meats, salads and dessert and others who helped with the BBQ and preparing food. A surprise visit of a magician entertained all with his many tricks.



Letty Lands Callop



Annual Camp - Kingston On Murray



## COMMUNITY FETE - Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October

GGAF participated at the Community Fete with a stall in the GGLC carpark. The Fete was very successful with many GGAF members and public visiting the site. Thanks to Committee members Peter, Chris and Geoff for organising and manning the stall.

## ANNUAL PRESENTATION NIGHT Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> November

57 members and friends attended the Annual Presentation Night held in the Worship Centre. President Graeme Hoklas MC'd an informative and fun-filled program including Powerpoint presentations of each event, numerous door prizes and fishing quizzes.

Special recognition this year was given to Ian Zimmermann ("Zimmo"), who has advised that he will retire from the GGAF Committee at the end of 2025 after 24 years. Zimmo was the prime mover in the establishment of GGAF in 2002 and served as President in the first 10 years. His outstanding dedication and loyalty and service was acknowledged with a Photobook, Spot On Voucher and large Thankyou Card.

Prizes were presented to Senior and Junior competition winners of each event and Graeme thanked the 2025 Committee for their dedication in planning and attending events.

Membership this year totalled 71 including 12 Juniors. Steve & Lyn Castle from Spot On Fishing Tackle Shop were sincerely thanked for their ongoing support and sponsorship during the year along with GGLC and GGLPS for the use of facilities for meetings and events.

The 2025 Senior Champion trophy was presented to Peter Van Loggem and Junior Champion trophy to Letty Sweeney.

### Website:

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

Enquiries to Graeme Hoklas

0419 828 091 or [hoklasgr@gmail.com](mailto:hoklasgr@gmail.com)





GOLDEN GROVE LUTHERAN CHURCH



Rejoice!  
For Jesus Christ is born.  
May the joyous occasion  
of Jesus' birth bring you  
and your loved ones  
peace, happiness and many  
treasured memories!

Merry Christmas

AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

 **Christmas SERVICES**

Sunday December 21st - 6:30pm  
Salt Factory Carols

Wednesday December 24th - 7pm  
Christmas Eve Play  
Collected Memories

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

All Christmas Services Livestreamed  
on YouTube and Facebook

[gglc.org.au](http://gglc.org.au) [@gglic.lca](https://www.facebook.com/gglic.lca) [GGLC YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGGLC)

**Christmas Eve Play**  
7pm 24th December 2025  
GOLDEN GROVE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
21-23 Richardson Drive, Wynn Vale

**Christmas Day Service**  
(with Holy Communion)  
Thursday 25th Dec 9.30 am






**Memories**  
Play inspired by book: 'Mary's Treasure Box' by C W Kramlich



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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 [@gglic.lca](https://www.facebook.com/gglic.lca)  (08) 7200 0090  
 GGLC YouTube

Golden Grove Lutheran Church and the Lutheran Church of Australia (LCA) is committed to providing a safe church environment for children and young people. For more information please visit LCA Child Safety Standards for Congregations <https://www.lca.org.au/child-safety-standards/>