

Western Pacific District News



Edition 36/1 - Autumn 2021

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From the desk of District Apostle Schulte



Dear brothers and sisters

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 restrictions, the western world has utilised the use of online divine services. These online services have been very well supported and received. I must also admit that the online services are convenient, but our concern now is that we don't allow convenience to control our method of worship.

In John 4:20-24 we can read Jesus' conversation with the Samaritan woman where he said, "true worshippers will worship the father in spirit and truth". We could assume from Jesus' counsel to the Samaritan woman that it was not necessary to attend divine services in the temple! However, Jesus had actually drawn attention to the superficial manner in which the Jews worshipped in the temple. He suggested that man should worship God in absolute sincerity. Therefore, the proper worship of God is not purely a formal act but consists of a human being's complete devotion to God.

As we understand it today, this is only completely possible with physical attendance in the divine service. Our Catechism describes the divine service in the following manner:

Believers sanctify the Sunday by worshipping God in divine service, believingly accepting His word, receiving forgiveness of sins in a repentant attitude, and worthily partaking of Christ's body and blood in the sacrament of Holy Communion. In so doing, believers commemorate Christ's sacrifice and act of redemption, celebrate the Lord's resurrection, and direct their eyes to His return. By attending the divine service,

believers show their gratitude for Jesus' acts of salvation. This also brings to expression their longing for God's word and the sacrament. (CNAC 5.3.4.5)

It is no secret that personal contribution is the success of any organisation. If we give the gift of our personal contribution to our congregation, it will help us all to experience the feeling the Psalmist expressed "Lord I have loved the habitation of your house and the place where your glory dwells" (Psalm 26:8).

The online service is to complement our physical gathering in our churches not replace the physical gathering.

Together with my fellow Apostles, I send you greetings for a blessed and peaceful Easter period, and hope that you can experience fellowship with your family and congregations - whether in the natural sense, or via online connection.

With loving greetings

Peter Schulte

25th Jubilee in Hobart, Tasmania

In 1951 Brother Gunter Karras arrived in Tasmania from Berlin, Germany and settled in a township about 250km from Hobart. Several years later, in 1955, Sister Helga Riewoldt and her son arrived in Hobart from Berlin to join her husband.

Contact between Brother Karras and Sister Riewoldt was established, and arrangements were made to hold monthly meetings in Sister Riewoldt's home where a circular from Apostle De Lisen was read and the dispatched communion wafers were partaken of. On 5 December 1957 Apostle De Lisen visited Hobart to conduct the first divine service and celebrate Holy Communion with the congregation.

In 1958 Brother Karras and his family moved to Hobart. Eventually a meeting place was found in a community hall where services were conducted both on Sunday morning and Sunday evening.

In 1960 Brother Karras' wife and daughter were sealed and he was placed into the deacon ministry. In 1963 the congregation was boosted in number with the arrival of Priest Rudi Mattes and his family from Perth, Western Australia. Several years later Brother Heinze Kunz and his family arrived in Hobart from Berlin, and he was entrusted with organ and choir responsibilities.

In 1978 Priest Roger Brooks and his family arrived in Hobart from Adelaide, South Australia. Priest Brooks was given the responsibility of rectorship for the congregation. Since that time the congregation has been supported by a number of rectors: Priest William Williams, District Evangelist Ulrich Duenzl, District Evangelist Trevor Hearn and Evangelist Ian Stopforth. Priest Greg Selley is the current rector of the Hobart congregation.

After attending services in a number of different locations for over 30 years, District Apostle Rosentreter secured a church building from another denomination. Some work was necessary to make it suitable for the needs of the congregation, and on 2 December 1995 the building was dedicated by Apostle Schmidt.

On the weekend of 5-6 December 2020, District Apostle Schulte was able to take advantage of the reopened interstate borders to travel to Hobart and celebrate the 25th anniversary of the church dedication with the congregation. He used the bible text out of Luke 18, a portion of the 8th verse: ***"Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?"***

The congregation enjoyed fellowship lunch after the divine service and many memories of the past were shared.



District Apostle visit to Melbourne, Victoria

On the weekend of 6-7 March District Apostle Schulte had the opportunity to travel to Melbourne, Victoria. Upon arriving on Saturday, he conducted a ministers and wives service in Box Hill, which was followed by a COVID-safe fellowship.

On Sunday morning the Croydon and Springvale congregations combined and the District Apostle held the service of intercession for the departed. The opportunity to have fellowship - in line with COVID restrictions - was a great blessing for those gathered.

Following this, the District Apostle travelled to Maidstone where he conducted an afternoon service for the members of that region. The service also included Holy Sealing. At the conclusion of this service, the members gathered for the opening of a time capsule which was sealed in 2010 as part of the 50th anniversary celebrations of the congregation, which was known at that time as Braybrook. Celebrations for the 60th anniversary, which took place in 2020, were put on hold until now as a result of COVID restrictions.



Youth service in Auckland, NZ



The Auckland youth, together with those connected in congregations across New Zealand, celebrated their closing youth event on Sunday, 6 December 2020 at Generator, an event space in the Auckland CBD.

Apostle Williams conducted this divine service via audio visual transmission from Australia and used Acts 2:36 as the bible text: *"Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."*

The youth were encouraged to keep their faith strong despite all circumstances. Jesus remains Lord and Christ no matter what.



District Elder Ernst Graf, as well as Priest Sebastian Eckardt, assisted during the divine service. Musical items were rendered from Auckland, Christchurch and Kingston congregations.

The divine service was followed by a Christmas brunch fellowship. This was followed by a short presentation from Sister Teresa Nagel of the Wellington congregation on the topic of mental wellbeing, with tips for our young people on how to deal with anxiety. It was a great conclusion to the day, and the year.



Insight: Getting to know our newest Apostles

During the divine service conducted by our Chief Apostle in Christchurch in 2019, the ordination of two new Apostles took place. Apostle Patrick Silabe and Apostle Lucas Supok work together with Apostles Allan Pouru and Aimol Wasimbai in Papua New Guinea.

Visiting the brothers and sisters in this region can be very difficult due to the remoteness of many congregations. Some congregations are only accessible by sea or air transport, and others have no access via roads and therefore involve a 5-6 hour trek walking up mountains and following streams in order to visit our loving brothers and sisters.

Most of the church building are makeshift buildings. However, it is encouraging to see that the brothers and sisters are willing to put in hours of hard labour to help build semi-permanent church buildings. The local congregation of Apostle Silabe has already taken the lead in this initiative, and the building was dedicated by District Apostle Andersen (ir) in 2017. A second church building was dedicated by Apostle Pouru for the congregation in Sililim congregation in Boana district, Morobe province. Three more will be dedicated later this year or early in 2022. We welcome the opportunity to get to know our new Apostles a little better.

Apostle Patrick Silabe

Apostle Silabe comes from Sadau village, Boana district in Lae, Morobe province. He grew up in Lae's Busu settlement where his parents had resettled for employment opportunities. His father is a priest and serves the Busu congregation. His parents were baptised and sealed in 1982 when the New Apostolic Church missionary first arrived in Lae. Two years later they married and had six children.

Apostle Silabe is the eldest in his family and was born on 16 June 1985. He was baptised in 1985, and sealed in 1986 by (then) Apostle Bert Woll, from Canada. He completed grade six in 1999 and became a Sunday School teacher in 2001. While teaching Sunday School he also attended confirmation classes and received the confirmation blessing in 2003.

He was ordained as deacon by Apostle Allan Pouru on 25 September 2005. In 2006 he married his wife and they had three children and also adopted another son. Sadly, their youngest child has passed away.

During that time, the Apostle received the following ministries:

2005 - Deacon	2016 - District Evangelist
2007 - Priest	2018 - District Elder
2009 - Evangelist	

There are many challenges in the working area of the Apostle. He was mentored by the late Apostle Zuhuke Hungito who advised him well in how to work closely with the brothers and sisters. Having experienced the various ministry levels, the Apostle writes that differences in the power of each ministry are evident, and he prays often to ask our Heavenly Father for His wisdom.

Apostle Lucas Supok

Apostle Supok was born to New Apostolic parents on 15 October 1977 and was raised in Emul village, Drekikier district in the East Sepik province. He has two brothers and three sisters.

He was baptised in 1980 and sealed in 1984 by (then) Apostle Bert Woll. He completed his education to grade six level in 1990, and in 2000 he married his wife Martina. Together they have six children; three boys and three girls.

Apostle Supok's father served as a priest, after being introduced to the New Apostolic faith by Apostle Wasimbai

The Apostle was previously ordained into the following ministries:

1998 - Deacon	2010 - District Evangelist
2000 - Priest	2015 - District Elder
2008 - Evangelist	

Ordination into the Apostle ministry



Apostles Wasimbai, Silabe, and Supok



Apostle Silabe, Apostle Pouru, D/Elder Hoffmann, District Apostle Andersen (ir), Apostle Supok



NACare: Latest news



Over many years of visits by our ministers to the Solomon Islands, a need has been identified in the early childhood sector. Due to the limited availability of appropriate establishments, many families do not have the opportunity to send their children in the 4-6 year age group to a learning facility. Consequently, the ability for children to develop their cognitive and language skills, enjoy social interactions with other children and prepare for future education is reduced.



For the last few years, NACare representatives have spent time researching the feasibility of assisting to address this challenge, by supporting the operation of an early learning centre in Honiara. After visiting a number of similar facilities, obtaining approval from the mayor of the city, and identifying a suitable site, this project has now progressed to the next stage.

A qualified teacher, with previous experience running an early childhood centre, was employed in 2019 to commence staff training, in order to assist a number of teachers in obtaining the necessary certification to work in this field. This process took around twelve months to complete.

The New Apostolic Church building in White River was identified as a suitable location from which to operate the early childhood program. Appropriate renovations were made to the building in order to provide suitable spaces for the children, teachers, and storage requirements.



Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the launch of the program was delayed. In the meantime, work continued to ensure all training was completed, resources were procured, and educational programs were finalised.

At the beginning of 2021 two qualified female teachers - one with a diploma of teaching in early childcare education and one with primary school teaching experience - and two female teacher aides were appointed to work in the facility. Registrations were opened and filled quickly; by mid February 40 children from within the community, and belonging to various denominations, were registered in the program.

Funding of this program will ensure that successful outcomes continue into the future, and provide a positive start for many young children. We welcome your support for this project, and donations can be made by visiting our NACare website: nacare.org.au



Tauranga, NZ



Redcliffe, Qld



Kingston, Qld



Aupik, East Sepik, PNG

Confirmation 2021

Dear confirmands,

Today the congregation celebrates - and you are the subject of our joy. We thank you for making the decision to follow the Lord Jesus Christ. We are absolutely convinced that you have made the right decision!

Like all the baptised, you will now take up the mission to fight against evil by doing good. We are happy that we can count on your help in this noble task. Do not be afraid: it is not beyond your strength.

"But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one" (2 Thessalonians 3: 3).

I dedicate this beautiful promise to you for your confirmation. Keep it in your heart like a precious treasure. Permit me to add a little personal advice: if you want to be happy in the congregation, do not be content to merely look on with your eyes and listen with your ears. Allow yourself to be guided by the love that God has poured into you. The love of God is never wrong!

Wishing you a great blessing on this festive day, along with many joys in the Church, I extend to you, dear confirmands, my heartfelt greetings.

Jean-Luc Schneider



Springvale, Vic



Seven Hills, NSW



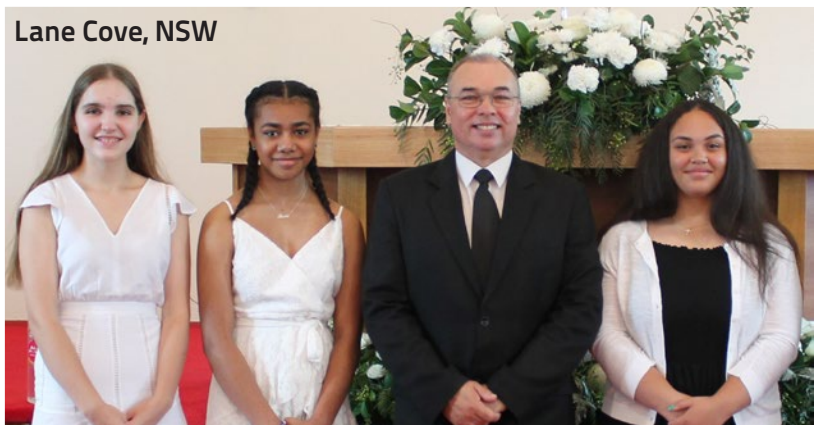
Box Hill, Vic



Albury, NSW



Mackay, Qld



Lane Cove, NSW



North Shore, NZ



Newcastle, NSW



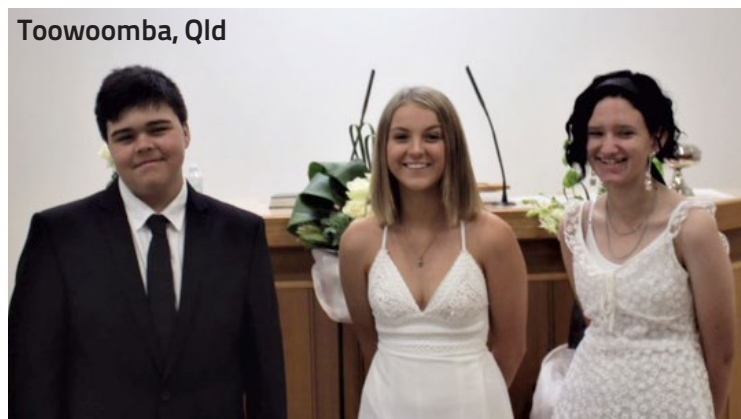
Drury, Howick and New Plymouth, NZ



Perth, WA



Albury, NSW



Toowoomba, Qld



New Lynn, NZ



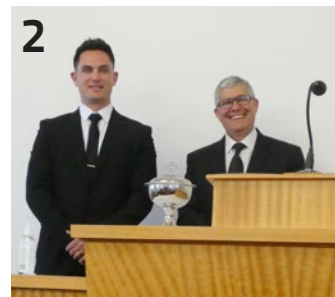
Geraldton, WA

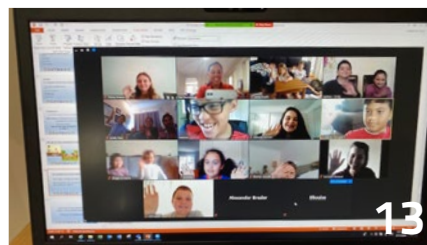


Christchurch, NZ

Around the Congregations:

1. Hamilton (NZ) congregation celebrated the season with their annual "A Hamilton Christmas" event, which featured specially prepared booklets and an afternoon of carol singing and festive presentations
2. Confirmation of Pr Shawn West for Ascot Park (SA) congregation
3. Nativity play in Christchurch (NZ)
4. Sunday School activity for Howick / South Auckland (NZ) children
5. Retirement of Pr Francois Tshiaba and Ev Michael Barwick in Ascot Park (SA)
6. Sunday School breakup event in New Plymouth (NZ)
7. A Sunday School outing took place for children and families in South Australia
8. Seniors from Howick / South Auckland (NZ) enjoyed their annual Christmas breakfast
9. A ministers workshop on the topic of liturgy took place in New Lynn (NZ), and was transmitted around New Zealand
10. Valedictory in Beckenham (WA)
11. Patea (NZ) Sunday School breakup
12. Tauranga (NZ) congregation





Around the Congregations:

1. Ap Wasimbai conducted a divine service at Kawanga in Drekikier, Sepik (PNG)
2. Confirmation of Pr John Duenzl for the Newcastle (NSW) congregation
3. Retirement of Dcn Frank Appleton in Kingston (Qld)
- 4-5. Ev Charles Lesi Soto visited members in the Western province of Honiara (Solomon Is)
6. Confirmation of Pr Sascha Becker for the Maidstone (Vic) congregation
7. Fellowship BBQ in Hamilton (NZ)
8. Valedictory in New Lynn (NZ)
9. Retirement of Pr Cornelius Human in Redcliffe (Qld)
10. District service conducted by Apostle Wasimbai at Kawanga in Sepik (PNG)
11. Congregational fellowship for the retirement of Ev Michael Barwick (SA)
12. Confirmation of Pr Jacob Sickinger for Hackham West (SA)
13. Interactive combined Sunday School lesson online in New South Wales
14. Christchurch (NZ) Big Day Out event
15. New Lynn (NZ) nativity play

Around the Congregations:

1. Youth in South Australia enjoyed an evening of fellowship
2. Confirmation of Pr Jacob Olefse for the Seven Hills (NSW) congregation
3. The children at Yekimbole (PNG) greeting Apostle Wasimbai
- 4-5. Howick / South Auckland (NZ) members enjoyed Christmas fellowship together
6. District service conducted by Apostle Wasimbai at Yambonokor, Sepik (PNG)
7. Leumeah (NSW) congregation made a donation of food and vouchers to "We Are Community" for the homeless
8. Mt Hagen (PNG) choir sing during departed service
9. Fellowship for the youth after a youth service in Beverly Hills (NSW)
10. Dcn Terrance Botha and Dcn Mervin Hammond were placed into retirement in Rockingham (WA)
- 11-13. District service held in Auckland (NZ)
14. Ministers from Yangoru Saussia district, East Sepik (PNG) attended a meeting conducted by Apostle Wasimbai
15. Members gather after a divine service in Yangisoku, Maprik (PNG) held by Apostle Wasimbai





Celebrations:

1. Adoption of Sis Linsay De Jager in North Shore (NZ)
2. Dcn (ir) Gary & Sis Edith Heine received 60th wedding blessings in Kingston (Qld)
3. Pr Neville & Sis Merle Meyer received 25th wedding blessings in Geraldton (WA)
4. Adoption of Sis Amelia Edwards in Mackay (Qld)
5. Br Daniel & Sis Christina Bothma of New Lynn (NZ) received 65th wedding blessings
6. Holy Baptism of Luna Jones in Hallam (Vic)
7. Holy Baptism of Frankie van der Poel in Hallam (Vic)
8. Holy Baptism of La-Dreeya Jones in North Shore (NZ)
9. Holy Baptism of Harper Smith in New Lynn (NZ)
10. Holy Sealing of Cooper MacKrell in Redcliffe (Qld)
11. Dcn (ir) Bill & Sis Avril Smith received 50th anniversary blessings in Toowoomba (Qld)
12. Holy Baptism of Kayla Colling in Koondoola (WA)
13. Holy Baptism of Lauren Carelse in Hallam (Vic)

Celebrations

1. Holy Baptism of Neve Kelly in Hallam (Vic)
2. Br Bob Marshall of Buranda (Qld) celebrated his 85th birthday
3. Holy Baptism of Ava van Wyk in Howick (NZ)
4. Br Cliff & Sis Maureen Adams received Golden wedding blessings in Caloundra (Qld)
5. Holy Baptism of Sandile Ncube in Koondoola (WA)
6. Holy Baptism of Phoenix Vangelatos in Gosford (NSW)
7. Br Trevor & Sis Imelda Carr received Golden wedding blessings in Howick (NZ)
8. Holy Sealing of Jack Vogler in Mackay (Qld)
9. Holy Baptism of Rebecca and Naomi Mulamba in Newcastle (NSW)
10. Br Hendrik & Sis Jeanette Els received Golden wedding blessings in New Lynn (NZ)
11. Holy Sealing of Sis Amelia Edwards and Hunter Probst in Mackay (Qld)
12. Holy Baptism of Lewis Scheun in Howick (NZ)
13. Sis Helga Kohl of Newcastle (NSW) celebrated her 80th birthday





Celebrations

1. Sis Susanna Probst of Mackay (Qld) celebrated her 70th birthday
2. Sis Sylvia Smith of Geelong (Vic) celebrated her 90th birthday
3. Br Enrico & Sis Erica Bevie of Hamilton (NZ) received Silver wedding blessings
4. Br & Sis Loyce received Silver wedding blessings in Rockingham (WA)
5. Holy Sealing of Alexander Geldenhuys in Maidstone (Vic)
6. Holy Sealing of Mia Hilder in Mackay (Qld)
7. Holy Sealing in Hallam (Vic)
8. District/Ev Shaun & Sis Catherine van Wyngaard of Drury (NZ) received Silver wedding blessings
9. Ev (ir) Bernie & Sis Patricia Sickinger of Silkstone (Qld) received Golden wedding blessings
10. Br Sean & Sis Carien du Preez received Silver wedding blessings in Whangarei (NZ)
11. Br Ryan Faux & Sis Kathleen Hess received wedding blessings in Mackay (Qld)
12. Holy Sealing of Br Ryan Faux in Mackay (Qld)
13. Sis Colleen Johnson of Lane Cove (NSW) celebrated her 80th birthday,

For your Information

Chief Apostle Schneider's schedule:

Due to the ongoing uncertainty surrounding the coronavirus pandemic, the Chief Apostle's schedule is not available at this time.

District Apostle Schulte's schedule:

Due to the ongoing uncertainty surrounding the coronavirus pandemic, the District Apostle's schedule is not available at this time.

Upcoming Events:

Apr 2021	May 2021	June 2021
2: Good Friday	2: Transmission service with Chief Apostle	
4: Easter Sunday	13: Ascension Day	
	23: Pentecost	

Ministerial Changes:

Name	Event	Ministry	Congregation
Pr Roberto Gilles (Ezequiel)	Appointment	Rector	Leumeah, NSW
Pr Deon Abrahams	Appointment	Rector	New Lynn, NZ
Pr Ewan-Xan Macaskill	Appointment	Rector	Drury, NZ
Pr Nicolaas Wright (Nico)	Confirmation	Priest	Tauranga, NZ
Deacon Evert Jordaan	Confirmation	Deacon	Invercargill, NZ
Pr Sascha Becker	Confirmation	Priest	Maidstone, Vic
Pr Jacob Sickinger	Confirmation	Priest	Hackham West, SA
Pr Clayton Mann	Confirmation	Priest	Drury, NZ
Pr John Duenzl	Confirmation	Priest	Newcastle, NSW
Pr Shawn West	Confirmation	Priest	Ascot Park, SA
Dcn Edward Fredericks	Ordination	Priest	Maryborough, Qld
Pr Cornelius Human	Retirement	-	Redcliffe, Qld
Ev Graham Van Etten	Retirement	-	Leumeah, NSW
Pr Francois Tshiaba	Retirement	-	Ascot Park, SA
Pr Michael Barwick	Retirement	-	Hackham West, SA
Pr Gladwin Du Plooy	Retirement	-	Beckenham, WA
Dcn Mervin Hammond	Retirement	-	Rockingham, WA
Dcn Terrance Botha	Retirement	-	Rockingham, WA
Ev Denver Davids	Retirement	-	New Lynn, NZ

In Memoriam:

Sis Erica Ross of Caloundra (Qld)	†	18/11/20
Sis Joyce Westman of Buranda (Qld)	†	2/12/20
Sis Geraldine Anthony of Beckenham (WA)	†	10/12/20
Sis Norma Adams of Springvale (Vic)	†	6/1/21
Br Erhard Hoffmann of Buranda (Qld)	†	13/2/21
Sis Laura Fleck of Box Hill (Vic)	†	21/2/21
Sis Sandra Brant of Ashmore	†	4/3/21



Update your details:

Correspondence is regularly sent from the Admin Office to members, which requires contact details to be up to date. If your details change, please assist us by logging into the members website and providing the most current information. Please click on this link and follow the steps, or alternately contact your rector for assistance: [Updating your details](#)

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