

Western Pacific District News



Edition 36/3 - Summer 2021

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From the desk of District Apostle Schulte



Dear brothers and sisters

Another year has come and gone; they seem to go by so quickly. We can now reflect over the year that has ended and consider what has taken place during this time period. We all will have a personal account of what we experienced during the year 2021.

As individuals the year will take on a different significance depending on what has happened during 'our' year. For example, time periods during which wars have affected our countries have gone down in history. The years 2020 and 2021 – and maybe even more to come – will certainly go down in history due to the Covid19 pandemic.

Special events such as birth dates of loved ones, wedding days and so on will define particular years. Even years when we have had to live through personal sorrow will be etched into our personal history.

Unfortunately with this past year, as with history, we cannot change a thing!

As with reflecting over the year that has come to an end, we are able to think about the new year and consider what the future may hold, and of course what we would like to happen. The difference here is that while we can't change what has taken place in the past, we may be able to have some influence over 'our' year that is to come.

If we take some time to consider what we would like to happen and what is most important in our lives, it might influence how we go about living our new year. Things we

can ask ourselves, such as: What do I want in regards to my health? What do I want in my family life? What do I want in regards to my financial security? Most importantly though, what do I want in regards to my relationship with Christ? With our understanding of the gospel message and by utilising the gift of the Holy Spirit, we will be able to consider such questions regarding our future with a clearer perspective. After all, CHRIST is OUR FUTURE !

Our motto for 2022 is **"TOGETHER IN CHRIST"**. Togetherness is a fundamental characteristic of Christian life.

We know that during these times it appears that plans are made to be broken! However, we would like to advise that we are planning for our Chief Apostle to visit our Western Pacific District in May 2022. Unfortunately we are unable to simply repeat his original itinerary for 2021 but now it is planned for him to hold a divine service in Sydney, Australia on 1st May 2022 and then visit Papua New Guinea the following week. Further details will be advised as they are finalised.

Together with my fellow Apostles I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your loved ones a happy, safe and blessed Christmas and New Year.

With loving greetings

Peter Schulte

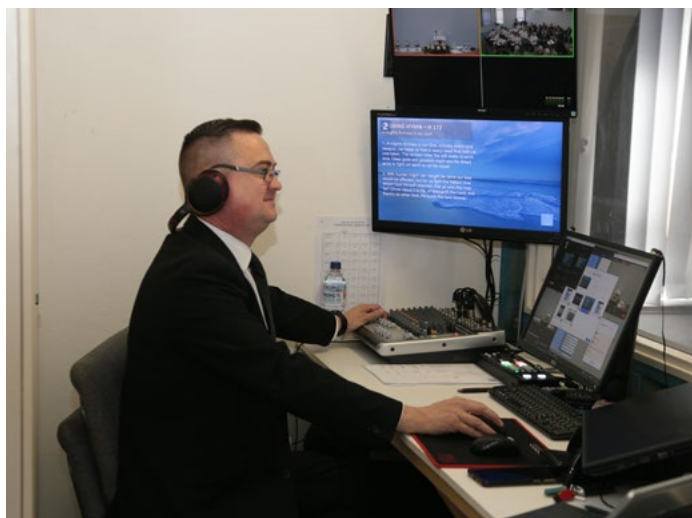
District Apostle visit to Western Australia

After continued border closures and snap lockdowns, it was finally possible for District Apostle Peter Schulte to make his way to Perth in November. The last time he was able to undertake this journey was in December 2019 so there was great anticipation for this weekend.

With numerous family visits and a divine service for ministers and wives scheduled on the Saturday, the District Apostle had a full day ahead of him. The divine service for ministers and wives took place in Rockingham and we were blessed to have another interstate visitor in the form of Apostle Lodewick, who could connect online to share in and contribute to the serving in the divine service.

Sunday morning started with a divine service in Beckenham at 9:00am, where the congregations of Koondoola, Rivervale, Beckenham, as well as those connected via Zoom and YouTube, were able to participate. During this service, the District Apostle also celebrated Holy Sealing.

From there, the District Apostle travelled to Rockingham to conduct a second divine service for the congregations of Rockingham and Bunbury. Following these services, which of course included some time for fellowship with one another, the much prayed for visit had come to a conclusion. The weekend was filled with blessed memories, powerful sermons, faith affirming fellowship opportunities and divine joy and we look forward to the next visit from our District Apostle to beautiful Western Australia.



50th Jubilee celebrations

On Sunday 26 September District Apostle Schulte celebrated the 50th anniversary of the New Apostolic Church in Japan.

As travel between countries was still not allowed, the service was conducted via audio visual transmission from the Mackay church. On this occasion, the District Apostle used a bible text from Matthew 24: 40-41 "Then two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left."

The District Apostle called upon the Apostle Lodewick in Melbourne - who is responsible for Japan - to serve along. Members of Japan, who were able to, gathered in the Tama church, and others linked in to the transmission. The retired District Apostle Hebeisen, who cared for Japan for many years, also connected to the transmission from Canada. During the service, Holy communion for the departed was celebrated.

There are two church buildings in Japan, in Tama and Matsuyama, and many members are spread out through out Japan. When they can attend with no restrictions, the commute is by train which takes most a few hours in travel time.

On 14 November the Seven Hills (NSW) congregation celebrated the 50th jubilee of the establishment of the congregation.

It was a very blessed occasion with the service being conducted by Apostle Trevor Williams and transmitted from the Kingston congregation in Queensland, to the Seven Hills congregation in Queensland.

The text word the Apostle used for the celebration service was taken from Isaiah 56:7 "Even them I will bring to My holy mountain, And make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices Will be accepted on My altar; For My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations".

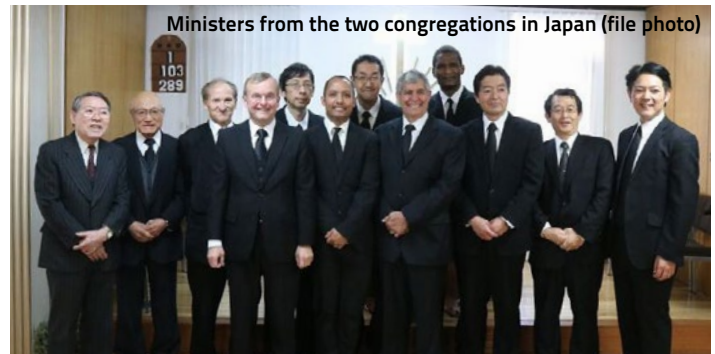
After the divine service, the congregation celebrated with fellowship and a slice of cake.



Congregation in Tama, Japan (file photo)



Priest Kadohira with the youngest member in the congregation



Ministers from the two congregations in Japan (file photo)



Congregation in Seven Hills



Orchestra in Seven Hills



Transmission from Kingston (Qld)



Celebration cake

Senior's weekend in Gladstone, Qld

The last weekend in October saw the senior members of Queensland come together in Gladstone for the weekend. Around 40 people attended the event.

The activities on Saturday afternoon were held at the CQ University campus and commenced at 2pm. Members and friends enjoyed walks around the marina, board games, tea/coffee and there was even ice-cream if one knew where to look. Due to the weather being a bit warm most decided to remain in the air-conditioning and use the time for a catch up. It was impressive to see the stamina of the senior members, who kept conversations going over the next few hours.

Later in the afternoon a selection of funny videos were shown and lucky door prizes were given out. The day finished with dinner for all before we parted company for the night.

On Sunday the District Apostle conducted a divine service in the Gladstone church. There were three musical items presented by the local musicians, and the senior's choir assisted for the rest of the service. After service all went for lunch at a local hotel. The weekend raffle was drawn here with the winner taking home a \$100 Bunnings voucher. Three other prizes were also won by the group. With lunch completed, the seniors then set their compass towards home, having all enjoyed a wonderful weekend together.



Retirements in South Korea

Earlier this year, District Apostle Schulte conducted a divine service for South Korea via audio visual transmission. He had hoped to travel there in person, but the pandemic caused a change of plans. During the divine service, Bishop Dong il Yang was placed into retirement. Also retired during the service were District Evangelist Han, and Priest Lee.

Bishop Yang served in the ministry since being ordained as a deacon in 1975. He was ordained as bishop in 2008, and has lead the work of God in South Korea since that time. District Elder Yook Lee has now been commissioned to take over this leadership role.

In the District Apostle's absence, District Elder Lee carried out the retirements of these three faithful brothers.



Bishop Yang & District Elder Lee



District Elder Lee carries out the retirements



Bishop Yang, District Ev Han, Pr Lee & their wives

2022 motto: Together in Christ



The Chief Apostle has announced the motto for 2022, and he will explain this further in his New Year's address. Each year, the various districts around the globe are invited to design a logo for this theme. In previous years, the logos for the Western Pacific district have been designed by members in South Korea, Papua New Guinea and Australia. This time, the task fell to our members in Samoa.

There are a number of elements represented in the logo that they have designed:

- **The small oblong shapes** on the top and bottom represent grave stones (the dead), and **the four shapes of people** represent the living (living and dead; Together in Christ)
- **The three crosses** represent the Trinity
- **The four green triangular shapes** signify that "I will lift up my eyes to the hills - from whence comes my help? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven & earth." (Psalms 121:1-2)
- **The long orange spear shapes** in between the circles represent the long boats that are found in the Pacific Islands. These boats are used to move productively forward, and the people in the boats row in absolute unison. These spears also symbolise courage and fight for the good.

Promoting faith in Coffs Harbour, NSW

After numerous conversations, a partnership to promote working together in the Orara Valley (in the Coffs Harbour hinterland) enables New Apostolic church services to be held at St Paul's Anglican Church, in the rural village of Coramba.

The services will take place on the third Sunday of each month (with the flexibility of increasing the frequency). This is in addition to the Anglican service held there on the second Sunday of each month.

The aim is to increase activity in the historic church in the village with the objective to promote and maintain faith within the local community with all welcome to attend all services. This arrangement is in place until Easter 2022.

In a very moving occasion on Sunday 14th November, Priest Erhard Sickinger and The Venerable Zoe Everingham, Anglican Archdeacon of the South, Grafton Diocese, Interim Minister of The Orara Valley Anglicans, signed a Memorandum of Understanding between the Orara Valley Anglican Transitional Ministry District and the New Apostolic Church in front of the gathered congregation. As well as addressing the practical aspects, the MOU encourages sensitivity and respect of theological differences.

The village of Coramba is 15km west of Coffs Harbour and one of the earliest settlements in the region. St Paul's Anglican Church was established in 1898 and is the oldest church in the region still in use today. Heritage listed, it is a typical example of early timber church construction of the surrounding area.



Sunday School activities

Whilst 2021 has been filled with both ups and downs, those in Western Australia have been fortunate to gather for fellowship with one another on a number of occasions.

This year the Sunday School and high school groups experienced a number of notable highlights. In February, due to the border restrictions and venue capacity limits, they had to conduct a hybrid Valedictory event. With only a select few being able to attend in person, it quickly became the hottest ticket in town!

They also enjoyed two exciting weekend trips this year; one to Bunbury (2hrs south of Perth) for the Sunday School group and one to Kalgoorlie (7hrs by train from Perth) for the high school group. Both trips were well attended. Trampolining, games and hijinks ensued in Bunbury whilst a MasterChef cooking competition and

a visit to the super pit were on the itinerary in Kalgoorlie. Divine services were held on both trips, providing a unique opportunity to tailor the word to these respective age groups.

In the middle of the year a Sunday School values workshop was held. The values selected were based on what key attributes a child of God should have. Children from across the district participated in activity stations each designed to explore the key values of kindness, respect, courage, and strength.

To close the year a district Bunnings sausage sizzle fundraiser was held to raise some much needed funds - not just for our Sunday School and high school groups, but also for the music and senior groups. The funds will go a long way towards helping to deliver an enriching pastoral care program in 2022 for each of these groups.



There have also been a number of Sunday School breakups, and we are pleased to bring you photos of some of the celebrations.



Around the Congregations:

1. A community family fun day was held in the grounds of the Morayfield (Qld) church
2. Appointment of Pr Freddie Mollentze as rector of Rockingham (WA)
3. Father's Day in Ascot Park (SA)
4. View of the congregation in White River (Sol Is) during an AVT service conducted by Apostle Lodewick
5. Father's Day in Buranda (Qld)
6. Apostle Lodewick conducted a Sunday School service for the children in South Australia
7. A Christmas luncheon and fellowship afternoon was held in Caloundra (Qld)
8. Congregation in Mt Hagen (PNG)





Around the Congregations:

1. Mother's Day in Ascot Park (SA)
2. The Mlondani family came to Australia after living in a refugee camp in Tanzania for 20 years. They have now settled in Townsville and are valued members of the congregation
3. Retirement of Dcn Wayne Faithfull (3rd from left) in Bundaberg (Qld)
4. Thanksgiving lunch after service in Beckenham (WA)
- 5-6. Sisters in South Australia enjoyed a lovely afternoon of fellowship with high tea
7. A seniors service was conducted in Ascot Park (SA)
8. Father's Day in Beckenham (WA)

Celebrations

1. Br John & Sis Gloria Gielink received 50th wedding blessings in Beckenham (WA)
2. Ev (ir) Alf Tickner of Buranda (Qld) celebrated his 80th birthday
3. Sis Dorothy Bebandorf of Caloundra (Qld) celebrated her 92nd birthday
4. Holy Baptism of Lianna Johns in Beckenham (WA)
5. District Apostle (ir) Andrew Andersen of Redcliffe (Qld) celebrated his 70th birthday
6. Br Joachim & Sis Renate Koertge celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary, and Br Joachim's 80th birthday
7. Pr (ir) Gladwin & Sis Stella Du Plooy received 40th wedding blessings in Beckenham (WA)
8. Holy Baptism of Br Brendan Holt, and baby Rosianne Holt in Maidstone (Vic)
9. Br Charles & Sis Allyson Carey received 50th wedding blessings in Beckenham (WA)





Celebrations

1. Holy Sealing of Finn Sickinger in Hackham West (SA)
2. Holy Sealing of Zoe Saunders in Hallam (Vic)
3. Br Heinz & Sis Ingrid Mallon of Croydon (Vic) received blessings for their Platinum (70th) wedding anniversary
4. Sis Ingeborg Strenge of Hackham West (SA) celebrated her 75th birthday
5. Sis Margaret Schulte of Bundaberg (Qld) celebrated her 85th birthday
6. Sis Frieda Schirk of Newcastle (NSW) celebrated her 90th birthday
7. Dcn (ir) Karl-Heinz Strenge of Hackham West (SA) celebrated his 80th birthday
8. Sis Barbara Brennan of Croydon (Vic) celebrated her 90th birthday
9. Br Ye Myo Maung & Sis Samantha Frost received wedding blessings in Rivervale (WA)

For your Information

Chief Apostle Schneider's schedule:

Jan 2022	Feb 2022	Mar 2022
2: Gifhorn, Germany	6: København, Denmark	6: Linz, Austria
9: Calgary, Canada	27: Nairobi, Kenya	13: Colombo, Sri Lanka
16: Ostermundigen, Switzerland		20: Söllingen, Germany
23: Angola		27: Ghana

District Apostle Schulte's schedule:

Jan 2022	Feb 2022	Mar 2022
2: Buranda, Qld	6: Maryborough, Qld	6: Sydney, NSW
16: Townsville, Qld	20: Kingston, Qld	13: Colombo, Sri Lanka
	27: Nairobi, Kenya	27: Mackay, Qld

Upcoming Events:

Jan 2022	Feb 2022	Mar 2022
2: New Year's service		6: Service for departed

Ministerial Changes:

Name	Event	Ministry	Congregation
Pr Freddie Mollentz	Appointment	Rector	Rockingham, WA
Pr Eugene Smith	Confirmation	Priest	New Lynn, NZ
Dcn Avron Dennis	Ordination	Priest	Windsor, Qld
Dcn Benjamin Uys	Ordination	Priest	Darwin, NT
Dcn Wayne Faithfull	Retirement	-	Bundaberg, Qld

In Memoriam:

Sis Irene Schlotz of Geelong (Vic)	†	11/8/21
Br Reinhold Schaefer of Ascot Park (SA)	†	3/9/21
Sis Eleonore Muelot of Ascot Park (SA)	†	14/9/21
Br Alexander Anderson of Elizabeth (SA)	†	6/10/21
Sis Olga Meagher of Toowoomba (Qld)	†	24/10/21
Sis Olga De Mello of Hallam (Vic)	†	19/11/21
Sis Isle Kreinbihl of Rockingham	†	30/11/21
Br Gysbert Geleyens (Bert) of Christchurch	†	1/12/21
Br Joel Ruttenberg of Wellington	†	3/12/21
Pr (ir) Arthur Probst (John) of Bundabery (Qld)	†	5/12/21
Sis Avril Groenewald of Box Hill (Vic)	†	10/12/21
Br Boyd Scheuber of Toowoomba (Qld)	†	12/12/21



Contact Details:

New Apostolic Church

Office address
1A / 3 Deakin Street
Brendale QLD 4500 AUSTRALIA

Phone: +617 3480 0400
Website: www.nacwesternpacific.org

Postal address
PO Box 5903
Brendale BC QLD 4500 AUSTRALIA

Email
Photos: carley.love@newapostolic.org.au
Admin: nacho@newapostolic.org.au