

## ***Please return this form***

**To support and Encourage the Teaching of Special Religious Education (SRE) at Hornsby and Normanhurst High Schools.**

I wish to make a financial contribution to the work of the Normanhurst Christian Education Association which provides Christian Studies programs at Hornsby Girls' and Normanhurst Boys' High Schools.

Amount \$ ..... by

Cash       Mastercard       Visa       Cheque (payable to NCEA)

<b>Credit card donations</b>		
<b>Name on Credit Card</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Surname</b>
<b>Expiry Date</b>		/
<b>Credit Card Number</b>	XXXXXXXXXXXXXX	
<b>Signature</b>		

**For Direct Debit:** BSB 062-308 A/c 2804 5640 Christian Education Assoc. Inc. – Please advise the Treasurer at [glendaleport@yahoo.com](mailto:glendaleport@yahoo.com) to enable a receipt to be mailed to you.

Title	Surname	
First Name		
Email and Address		
Church	Phone	Date



(ABN 27 478 553 930)

**ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE**

Enquiries to the Treasurer - Mrs Glenys Porter – Phone 9489 3568

## CHURCHES LINKED TO THE ASSOCIATION

Chinese and Australian Baptist Church, Thornleigh  
Hornsby Uniting Church  
Wahroonga Anglican Church  
St Stephen's Anglican Church, Normanhurst  
Thornleigh Hillcrest Uniting Church  
Waitara Gospel Chapel

Northern Life Baptist Church, Hornsby  
Normanhurst Uniting Church  
St Peter's Anglican Church, Hornsby  
Thornleigh Community Baptist Church  
Wahroonga Presbyterian Church



No. 94 October 2023

## BULLETIN OF THE NORMANHURST CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

# What Authority?



In Term 2 students in Year 7 at Normanhurst Boys' High School looked at the life of Jesus, learning about key concepts, such as the truth of the Gospels, our need for repentance, and Jesus' claim to be God.

This last concept was a lesson on **authority**, where after seeing Jesus show his **authority over the natural world (through calming a storm)**, and the **supernatural world (through casting out demons)**, we looked at the healing of the paralyzed man in Luke 5:17-21. It was great to see the boys really grasping the concept that by

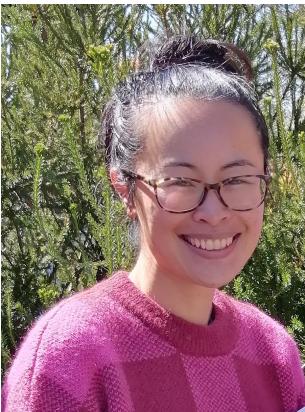
**claiming to have authority to forgive sins, Jesus made the big claim that he is in fact, God**, which he then demonstrated by doing the harder thing, and healing the paralyzed man. This unit culminated in Term 3 covering Jesus' arrest, execution, resurrection, and ascension.

These concepts were examined further in Year 8, by looking through the cultural lenses of guilt/innocence, shame/honor, and fear/power, introducing students to the concept of worldview. Year 9 students looked at the evidence for Christianity, especially the resurrection. While in Year 10 students began to observe religions through the perspective of worldview, seeing how different worldviews answer the questions; ‘What is the problem?’ and ‘What is the solution?’ Islam, Judaism, and Christianity are covered as religious worldviews, alongside Atheism as a non-religious worldview.

Please pray that these lessons will help the students see Jesus' authority as God, and how Christianity stands out as the one, true, authoritative, worldview.

**Tony Jones, SRE Teacher, NBHS**

## First Impressions!



**What are our first impressions of someone? How accurate are they?** Having passed halfway of their first year of high school, Year 7 students at Hornsby Girls' reflected on their first impressions of teachers, "They're not that strict!" and peers, "Generally, everyone's nice". **We then applied these questions to their first impressions of Jesus.** What three words do they associate with Jesus? Responses ranged from 'deceiving', 'gullible' and 'mysterious', to 'kind', 'holy' and 'friend.' **For some students, their impressions were limited to a stereotypical picture of a bearded man with flowing robes whilst others knew Jesus in a personal way.** In our subsequent lessons, students were challenged to examine their first impressions of Jesus by looking at what the Bible says about him. We explored topics including Jesus' family and childhood, Jesus' uniqueness as a teacher and his miracles.

Students were then invited to reflect on whether anything changed in their thinking about Jesus. One student wrote, "**The physical description has changed to some personality adjectives. I know more about him.**" It was encouraging to see many students beginning to shift from their preconceived ideas of Jesus to a more biblical view.

Dane Ortlund wrote in his book 'Deeper,' "Explore uncharted regions of who [Jesus] is. Resist the tendency... to whittle him down to our preconceived expectation of what he must be like. Let him surprise you. Let his fullness arrest you and buoy you along." **Please pray for this reality in the students' lives and mine.**

QR code – "Find out what happened at Kingdom."



Christine Chin, SRE Teacher HGHS

### PRAYER POINTS

#### Hornsby Girls'

- Thank God for positive relationships with staff and pray that staff will view SRE positively. Pray too for opportunities to have meaningful conversations.
- Pray for students who have received Bibles, that they will read them, developing regular Bible reading habits.
- Pray for students' engagement during lessons and that they all will see the relevance for God in their lives.

- Pray for Christian students having doubts, that they will come to a place of assurance and deeper trust in Jesus.
- Give thanks for the Christian group, 'Highlite' for the keen leaders and the consistent numbers attending. Pray that many students are strengthened in faith.

#### Normanhurst Boys'

- Pray for Year 7 to be confronted and challenged by Jesus' death and resurrection, and to consider what Jesus being God, means for them.
- Pray that Year 8 students would begin to read the Bible for themselves, seeing it as one big story. Pray that they will see how Jesus meets their every need.
- That as we think about the Meaning of Life and the book of Ecclesiastes, students in Year 9 would understand that God alone gives real meaning and purpose to our lives.
- Pray that Year 10 would recognize that the Christian worldview is the only one that truly explains life.
- Give thanks for the Year 11 'Connect' leaders taking over the role very well. Pray that they would grow in confidence and ability to faithfully lead and teach the other students who come along. Give thanks for the two new Year 9 students attending, and pray that more would also see the benefit of meeting with other Christians at school.

### FINANCIAL NEWS! – October 2023

We are very thankful to God for the generosity of supporters of NCEA. At the end of September \$90,000 had been received against the budget of \$120,000, leaving \$30,000 still to be donated by the end of 2023. Please pray that many will be enabled to respond with generosity to this need.

**Thank you to all of you who have so generously supported.**

The Australian Tax Office has endorsed the Normanhurst Christian Education RIGS(Religious Instruction In Government Schools in Australia) Fund as a tax deductible gift recipient. Our bank account details are identified over the page. However, receipts reflect the name Normanhurst Christian Education RIGS Fund. **Donations to support this ministry can be forwarded by cash, cheque, online direct debit, or credit card (see over page).**

**Glenys Porter,  
NCEA Treasurer, October 2023**