



A Word from our President, Doug Walladge.....

I'M EXCITED!!

I'm excited as I think of the potential of the upcoming Convention. The focus is on being together as God's people, and so I am looking forward to people coming so that they can be a blessing to one another.

The early feedback from the review points to people wanting to reconnect. Convention will be a great opportunity for that because there will be time for small group exchange and praying together.

We have a number of people from our churches contributing to Convention on both Friday night and throughout Saturday.

On Friday night we celebrate together in worship – a time to praise our God, give thanks and be inspired.

Some of the Saturday contributions will remind us of our heritage. Some will help us to look forward. There will also be biblical reflections to ground us and inspire us, so on Saturday bring your Bible. We will induct our new President, Alan Young, and our new staff member, Scott Combridge (CEO [Interim]) on Saturday afternoon before sharing Communion together.

My excitement is tempered with sadness because I realise that for some of our rural areas, November is a busy time and people can't get away. We will miss those people and the important input that they can make.

Our theme for Convention is an important one for where we are in our life together. FAITH HOPE LOVE. It reminds us we are grounded in faith, to live with hope, and to act with love. And there is a lot more that will be inspired by that theme, which I look forward to hearing about after people have shared and prayed together.

I would draw your attention also to the CareWorks AGM on the Thursday night, 16th November. Mark Henley is worth hearing. It has been my privilege to serve ex-officio on the CareWorks Board during my term as President. I commend to you Geoff Payne and the team at CareWorks.

I hope you are also excited, and have already marked 16-18th November in your diary so we can be blessed by your presence and contribution.



SCOTT COMMENCES WORK AT STATE OFFICE

It is with much pleasure that we let you know that Scott Combridge starts work in the new role State Board created for this season. The focus of this role is to provide

leadership during the transition that we will experience as a result of the review process. The role is for two years because by then, we should have a good sense of the direction God wants us to take. It won't all be over in two years, but the general direction should be clear.

We welcome Scott, and ask for your support and prayers for him as we together seek the way forward.

THANK YOU MARK

We say thank you to Mark Riessen who has been Acting State Minister for September and October, taking on extra duties on top of his busy workload in Mission and Ministry.



National Youth Ministry Convention

Every 2 years several hundred youth ministry practitioners from across Australia gather together for 3 days to grow in their professional capacity, and in their personal faith. This year it took place at Seaworld Resort on the Gold Coast, from October 9 – 11, and was directed by our very own Carl Milne.

Each day there was a range of electives offered to delegates, ranging from engaging students in schools, basic theology, biblical storytelling, leadership development, understanding trends in Australian youth culture, and supporting at-risk young people. Each night saw everyone gather for worship and to hear from one of the keynote speakers.

This year we took a group of 11 leaders from Churches of Christ here in SA, and were able to greatly subsidise their airfares and conference fee thanks to the generosity of Christian Projects and the Christian Operations Trust.

Over tea each night, as a team we talked about what we were learning, what God was saying to us, and what a highlight had been from that

day. The sense of shared journeying, and being able to encourage each other, and pray together was really significant, and our intent is to keep connecting and exploring what we 'do' with what we have learnt and experienced at NYMC.

I'm greatly encouraged by the calibre and passion of these leaders, and their desire to use what God has shown them, and what they've learnt through their NYMC experience to serve their church communities.

Adrian Blenkinsop



Christmas Appeal

Once again, CareWorks is inviting our Churches

to prayerfully consider supporting the Christmas Hamper project. These hampers will be distributed to people experiencing Financial Hardship and/or Domestic Violence.

Last year, CareWorks distributed 300 hampers and thousands of gifts. This is made possible by the generosity of our people, and with your support we can once again express love and compassion to others who do not have the resources many of us do. These gifts are so gratefully received.

More details will be available in the November CWConnect newsletter, but in the meantime, your

Church could be planning to have a tree or a box to receive gifts of toys for children.



Good News for the Poor.
A theology of disadvantage.

Wednesday November 1, 12.30 pm

Greg Elsdon will guide us as we consider God's grace and the suffering people face.

If you can't be there...

You will be able to participate in a webcast of these presentations. Contact the CareWorks Office to find out how.

Venue: The CareWorks Studio

114 Henley Beach Road, Torrensville

Catering: BYO lunch—tea/ coffee provided

Please pray for:

- The CareWorks Board that they might have wisdom and grace as they shape the future of CareWorks
- Those with the responsibility of organising the AGM
- The volunteer Emergency Relief assessors as they support people from the community who carry heavy loads
- The children in schools who are supported through Christian Pastoral Support Workers, and the Wellbeing Classroom, and the Churches who in turn support these ministries

CHURCHES OF CHRIST CONVENTION NOVEMBER 16-18

November 16

CareWorks



CareWorks SA

114 Henley Beach Road
PO Box 306 Torrensville SA 5031
(08) 8234 5802 • admin@cwsa.org.au

6.45pm (with refreshments)

Celebration and AGM

Western Communities Church of Christ – Mile End
(Danby Street, Torrensville)

Guest Speaker:

Mark Henley—Manager Advocacy,
Uniting Communities and Energy Advocate, Uniting Care Australia



Friday November 17th 7:30pm

Marion Church of Christ

(Cnr Marion Rd & Alawoona Ave, Mitchell Park)



Guest speaker

Adrian Blenkinsop

**Youth Ministry Coach for
Churches of Christ SA & NT**

Adrian Blenkinsop works as a specialist in the field of youth culture and faith formation. He regularly speaks at conferences in Australia and overseas, supporting and equipping youth influencers to engage young people with scripture in order to see them grow into life-long followers of Christ. Adrian currently works for a US-based bible agency (OneHope), as well as a Youth Ministry Coach with Churches of Christ here in SA.

MC: Mark Riessen

Celebrating stories from SouthPoint,
Elizabeth and Youth Vision

Praise & Worship led by
SouthPoint Church of Christ



**Churches
of Christ**
in South Australia
and Northern Territory

Saturday November 18th

Marion Church of Christ

Registration opens at 8:45am

*Input, inspiration, fellowship
Bring your Bible.*

*There will opportunities to listen to scripture and
reflect on it, and to pray together.*

*All are welcome. Come so others can benefit
by your presence.*

Session 1: Faith

Churches of Christ, a story of faith – Tabor
Churches of Christ Study Centre students

Reflection on Faith – Ian Schneider
Group discussion & prayer

Morning tea

Session 2: Hope

Where is the Conference review taking us? –
Trevor Gordge & Leanne Sanders

Reflection on Hope – Julie Simpson
Group discussion & prayer

Lunch

Session 3: AGM

Session 4: Love

Reflection on Love – Tanya Nokes
Induction of new President
Induction of Interim CEO
Communion – Doug Walladge

Please note that for
catering purposes,
you must register for
the day. See the
website or contact
State Office on
8443 7572



Thanks for Supporting SWS

Thank you to everyone who took part in the Safe Water September Challenge. Over \$100,000 has been raised with around 380 individuals and 40 church teams taking up the challenge. Well done!



Vanuatu Emergency Update: Returning Home

More than 2,000 evacuees are now back on Ambae exactly one month after the Vanuatu government ordered the total evacuation of over 11,000 people on September 23 for fear of a major volcanic eruption.

Mayble Wilbur, the Education Officer for Conference of Churches of Christ in Vanuatu (CCCV), advised that people are being returned by ship (which only travels during the day) taking them to the west side of the island. People then need to make their own way to the villages. A number of drivers returned so they will be able to drive the trucks to take people home. "We heard from the people returned already on Ambae that all the dogs were waiting for them on the wharf where they left. They were all very happy to see their dogs! The cattle and pigs were gone; chickens were dead unfortunately." (*Santo Ambae Disaster Support Community Facebook*)

CCCV has been taking calls from people who have returned. The main issue has been about the lack of water, as it has been dry and the water has been contaminated.

"The Chairman of the Disaster Committee of West Ambae told us that the water in their well, water tanks and creeks are acid affected. They can still use the water from the well for the cooking but cannot drink it. There is no drinking water." (*Santo Ambae Disaster Support Community Facebook*)
The people are requesting the government to

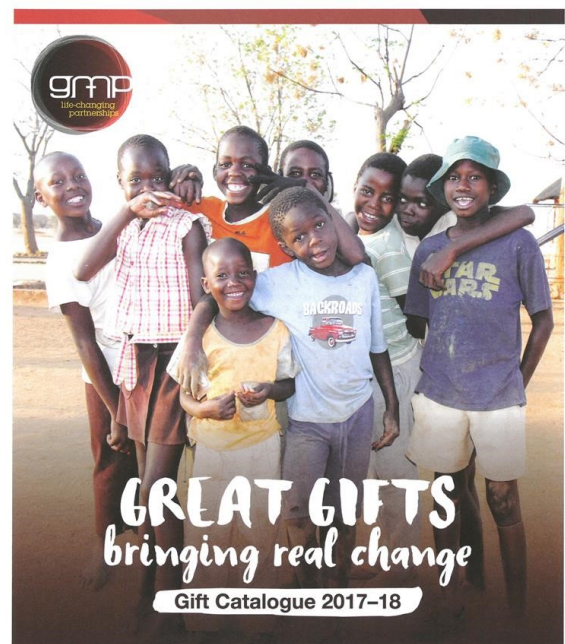
help. The Committee has been giving food and water to the people as they are leaving. Other CCCV staffs were at the wharf handing out water and food to the people returning.

It has been raining for the last two days in Santo and also in Ambae, so that may help in washing off some of the volcanic ash. There hasn't been any news about the state of the villages and gardens, but news should be through shortly from families who have just returned.

You can follow live updates via facebook [@SantoAmbaeCommunity](https://www.facebook.com/SantoAmbaeCommunity)
Please continue to pray and give to the Vanuatu emergency www.gmp.org.au/what-we-do/projects/vanuatu/vanuatu-emergency-appeal, thank you!

As people return home and schools are reopened the priority will be on safe water, re-establishing gardens and providing education and health services.

Donations over \$2 are tax deductible.



Praying for one another

It is a good thing when you can pray for someone. It not only calls on God to be active in their situation, but it has an effect on us, the ones praying. This month let's join together in praying for our church family in:

Victor Harbor, Waikerie, West Lakes United, Western Communities, Whyalla.