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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.

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PO Box 2061, NORMANHURST, NSW 2076

(ABN 27 478 553 930)

ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

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



For more information go to <https://ncea.net.au>

CHURCHES LINKED TO THE ASSOCIATION

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



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BULLETIN OF THE NORMANHURST CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Bible Truth and Reliability?



One thing I love about being an SRE teacher, is that I can open the Bible and discuss it with the students! At Normanhurst Boys' High School, students spend a lot of time in Years 7 and 8 looking at the story of Jesus, and the story of the whole Bible. **In Year 9, students examine: 'How reliable is the Bible as an historical document?' Is the Bible worth reading? Is the Bible true and**

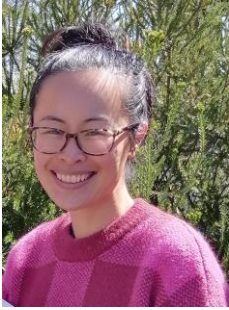
trustworthy? Is the Bible today consistent with what was originally written?

Firstly, although no original New Testament manuscripts exist anymore, we can say that Jesus was a real person who lived 2000 years ago; that he went around preaching and teaching, and doing amazing things that people said were miracles; that he was arrested, tried before Pontius Pilate, and executed; that not long after, his closest followers began to teach that he had risen from the dead. But, what if the record of what happened according to his disciples, got changed? Well despite there being many 'variations' in the available manuscripts, they do not affect the meaning in any significant way. In class, students are challenged to find 20 'variations' in a piece of text, and they quickly identify 15 of them that are spelling errors, and other words that do not make sense in context. They also find differences of little significance, such as substituting the word 'males', for 'boys'. Proportionately they can see that only



1% of the variations in the New Testament manuscripts have any meaningful difference, and I show how these are usually included in Bible footnotes. **Please pray for the students to understand that the Bible is worth reading as a true and reliable document, which points them to the wonderful news of what Jesus has done. Tony Jones SRE Teacher NBHS**

The Astounding Claims of Jesus!



This term, **Year 8** at Hornsby Girls' High School, is exploring **Jesus' "I am" claims**, from the gospel of John.

Our first lesson began by looking at some audacious claims made by politicians during their election campaigns and how such claims tend to divide people. I proposed that Jesus made even bigger claims about himself when he said he was the bread of life, the light of the world and the good shepherd. We agreed how controversial it would be if

someone was to make claims like that today!

Having considered Jesus' miracle of feeding the 5000, students were asked to rewrite Jesus' claim in John 6:35 - **"I am the bread that gives life! No one who comes to me will ever be hungry. No-one who has faith in me will ever be thirsty."**

I was greatly encouraged to read this response from a student who is a Muslim: **"Jesus is saying that he is all that the people need, that whoever worships him won't need anything else and they will have all they need in him as their Lord and Saviour."**

Despite having different beliefs, she was able to recognise the truth in Jesus' claim! Students will be encouraged to consider their personal responses to Jesus and to ponder how his controversial claims prompted people to label him as either 'mad,' 'bad,' or 'god.' **Please pray that God's spirit will move students, including this student, to recognise Jesus as who he truly is - God.**



Scan the QR Code to hear more!

Christine Chin, SRE Teacher HGHS

PRAYER POINTS

Hornsby Girls'

- Pray that Year 7 students will continue to have an interest in SRE, and that positive relationships will be established.
- Pray that Year 9 students would appreciate exploring their convictions, through delving into the lives of people like Daniel, Paul, and Thomas.
- Pray Year 10 students are challenged helpfully by the question, 'What would Jesus say to the high achiever?', with positive relationships built.
- Give thanks that the Wednesday Christian lunchtime group 'Highlite,' is going well, and pray that students grow in their faith in Jesus.

Normanhurst Boys'

- Pray that Year 7 students are engaged and ask insightful questions, as the story of Jesus' life challenges them to consider their own response.
- Pray that Year 8 students will grow in their understanding of the whole Bible and see how everything points to Jesus, the Serpent Crusher.
- Pray for Year 10 students as they consider the typical Australian worldview, comparing it with the main religious worldviews, and the Biblical worldview. Pray that they will be convinced of the truth and reliability of the Biblical worldview.
- Give thanks for the Friday Christian lunchtime group, 'Connect,' and for the growth in numbers attending. Give thanks for the commitment of the leaders, in preparing the studies in Romans each week.

END OF FINANCIAL YEAR NEWS! – June 2024

The budget for 2024 is \$146,000 of which \$33,000 has been received by the end of May! Please pray that many will be enabled to respond to this need, with generosity.

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, June 2024**

**SAVE THE DATE AND PLAN TO COME!
❖ NCEA PRAYER MORNING TEA**

SATURDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER 2024 -10AM TO 11.30AM.

Wahroonga Anglican Church, Pearces Corner, Wahroonga