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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.

Amount \$ by

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

Title	Surname	
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Post to: **Normanhurst Christian Education Association Inc.**
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 | |



No. 95 March 2024

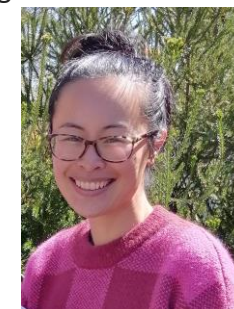
BULLETIN OF THE NORMANHURST CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

105. 19. 18. 60%. 25. 25%. 17



Let me introduce you to my Year 7 classes at **Hornsby Girls' High School**, in numbers. **105** is the number of Year 7 students currently enrolled in SRE. **19** call themselves Christian. **18** students did not attend SRE in primary school. **60%** describe themselves as non-Christian. **25** students belong to another religion, like Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, and Sikhism. **25%** do not believe in the God described in the Bible. **17** students think Jesus probably never existed.

I cannot think of many other opportunities in our society like this – where young people who do not yet trust Jesus as Lord, voluntarily come to explore the basics of the Christian faith from the Bible and to discuss purpose, values and worldviews. It is a blessing that public high schools continue to provide timetabled lessons within the busyness of a school day to allow for this! I am feeling excited but also overwhelmed by having such a range of students with different beliefs and exposure to religion. This term, we will be looking at an introduction to the Bible and I am hoping we will have good discussion around why people read sacred texts. I am looking forward to what God is going to do and believe 100% that He has graciously placed each student in SRE for a reason. **Please pray for me for wisdom in preparing lessons that find common ground . Pray also that lessons help students of other faiths to feel valued , and able to contribute in meaningful ways.**



Christine Chin, SRE Teacher HGHS

A Surprising Question!

"What really happens when people sell their soul to the Devil?"



This was a surprising question I received in a Year 9 class recently, at **Normanhurst Boys' High School**. It highlights the genuine curiosity that students have about how we should understand the reality of a spiritual world. Usually, the reference to selling your soul to the Devil is something that people joke about, as though the Devil is not real and can therefore be laughed about. But what

would this mean for the rest of the spiritual world? What would this do to our understanding of God?

We were able to have a good discussion in class about the fact that the spiritual realm is real, since God is real. And the Devil does not care if we worship him or not, so long as we do not worship God. Perhaps the most important thing to remember however, is that whilst the Devil is real, we need not fear him, as sin, death, and the Devil have been defeated by Jesus on the cross.

Thank you for your support of this important ministry that allows teenagers to ask questions about religious truth. **Please pray that students would perceive that the spiritual realm is real, but would understand that when we trust in Jesus, we need not fear evil any more.**

Tony Jones, SRE Teacher, NBHS



PRAYER POINTS

Normanhurst Boys'

- Pray that Year 7 students will read the Bibles they receive, and pray that I can get to know them quickly, and clearly communicate the gospel.
- Pray that Year 8 students would grasp how the whole Bible is one big story, that points to Jesus.
- Pray that Year 9 students would see the truth of Jesus' death and resurrection as an historical event, and seriously consider the claims of Jesus, for themselves.

- Pray that Year 10 students would see clearly, how the Christian worldview stands out against all other worldviews.
- Give thanks for the leaders of the Friday Christian lunchtime group, 'Connect' and pray that all students who attend, will be strengthened in their faith, through studying Romans.

Hornsby Girls'

- Give thanks for the large number of Year 7 students who have opted in to SRE classes, and pray for wisdom in engaging with students from so many different backgrounds.
- Give thanks for the good relationships with Year 8 students established in 2023, and pray that those relationships will be strengthened, as we explore the book of Exodus, and discover truths about God.
- Pray for creative ideas in establishing positive relationships and engagement with smaller Year 9 classes, and pray that students will make personal connections with what they learn about Jesus and the Bible.
- Give thanks for the Thursday Christian lunchtime group, 'Highlite' and pray that the students will be keen to invite their friends, boldly living out their Christian faith, at school.

FINANCIAL NEWS! – March 2024

It was most encouraging to see the increased giving again last year! **We are so thankful to God that 2023 ended with a surplus of \$5,405!** Due to the increase in teacher salaries, in line with teachers in NSW Government schools, **the budget for 2024 is \$146,000.**

Thank you to all of you who have so generously supported, and please pray that God would provide for the financial needs of NCEA in 2024!

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, March 2024**