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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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☐ Cash ☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa ☐ Cheque (payable to NCEA)

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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](mailto:glendaleport@yahoo.com) to enable a receipt to be mailed to you.

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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	



### Who is Jesus Really?



The Christmas account in the Bible, is a wonderful way to engage Year 7 students at the end of the year. As the general excitement of school finishing mixes with the anticipation of Christmas Day, I take the boys back to the very first Christmas.

**What did the first Christmas really look like?**

I show them this painting of the nativity scene, and ask them what they think might be wrong with it? We strip back all the artistic license used to compress the various parts of the story into one image, removing the angels, the wise men, the halos, and the unnaturally interested looking animals, leaving us with a scene that appears a lot less like a fairytale!

What this picture does not include however, are the shepherds to whom the angels did appear, announcing that they would find a baby, not with a glow around his head, but simply wrapped in cloth, lying in a feeding trough. **Importantly, the shepherds are told that this ordinary looking baby would be the promised Messiah, God's promised King, and Saviour.** Luke tells us in 2:17 that, "When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had



been told them about this child." The nativity scene is not one of religious fantasy, but the real, simple, and humble entry of God, into the needy world of humankind.

**Please pray that the students at NBHS would recognise Jesus, not as religious fantasy, but as the Saviour, King, and Lord of all.**

**Tony Jones, SRE Teacher NBHS**

## Significant Links in the Chain of Faith!

A person's faith journey can be described as a chain, with each link representing something or someone that moves them along in their faith. This could be a conversation, a period of wrestling with an emotion, an experience, or the discovery of new information.

**SRE is one of the links, and I believe it is a significant one. At the start of 2025, SRE will be a link for 69% of Year 7, 65% of Year 8, 50% of Year 9 and 27% of Year 10 students.** In Term 1, students will explore what makes the Bible special, the rescue story of Exodus, Jesus' encounters with different people, and the role of faith in everyday life.

**Another link is the 'Clubs Expo,'** where our Christian lunchtime group, 'Highlite,' handed out gospel tracts, and shared with staff and students what happens at the lunchtime meetings, boldly identifying themselves as Christians. A personal highlight was when two sisters took Bibles from the stand – even if it was motivated by FOMO! (*Fear of missing out.*)

**Attending the 'Meet the Teacher Year 7 Night' was the most recent link,** creating the opportunity for me to introduce myself to parents and promote

SRE. I have been encouraged, by the goodness of God in the many ways, He pursues students.



SCAN the QR CODE for my video message.



Please pray for more links in the chain of faith to be created, leading many more students to place their trust in Jesus. **Christine Chin, SRE Teacher HGHS**

## PRAYER POINTS

### **Hornsby Girls'**

- Praise God for the opportunities to teach and share the gospel through SRE classes, 'Highlite,' and conversations with staff and students.
- Pray that many Years 7 to 10 students will come to SRE classes, and that there will be no class disruptions with timetable changes or assessment clashes. Pray that Year 9 students will remain in SRE, despite feeling the pressure to study during SRE time.
- Pray that many students will grow in their knowledge and faith in Jesus, and that Christian students will be bold in sharing their faith, and caring for their non-Christian friends.

### **Normanhurst Boys'**

- Please pray for wisdom for Tony in how best to trim down lessons this year, as Normanhurst Boys,' has changed from five 64-minute periods a day, to six 55-minute periods. Pray too for Tony to look to engage more in spiritual conversations, with other staff members.
- Pray that Year 7 students will complete Term 1 having a clear understanding of the gospel, and that Year 8 will begin to see how the whole Bible fits together.
- Pray that Year 9 students will be challenged to consider the basis of their beliefs, and to recognize that Christianity stands up to scrutiny.
- Pray for Tony to connect well with Year 10 students, so that their final year of SRE, would effectively engage them with God's Word.
- Pray for the Christian lunchtime group, 'Connect,' that the leaders would be keen to serve well, and that the new Year 7 students would come along, finding it a welcoming and encouraging place for them to grow in their faith.

## FINANCIAL NEWS! – Autumn 2025

**We give great praise and thanks to God for generous donors! We finished 2024 with a surplus of \$15,000, which is a most helpful start to 2025, with a budget of \$153,000. Please pray that God will supply the finances needed.**

### **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, March 2025**