

6 "Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their forefathers to give them. 7 Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. 8 Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. 9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:6-9 NIV)

Recent events, including fires and floods, really challenged our community. Ahead of the current great toilet paper crisis, two attributes stood out. Strength and courage in dealing with adversity. They are not just to be called upon in times of distress. God instructed Joshua to be strong and courageous, - *very* courageous. With strength and courage, he was to ensure that *all* of God's law was central to everything that he did. God's word was to be at the forefront of all that Joshua said and did. The instruction is to do everything written in God's law, not just the bits that suit or are easy to administer. With strength and courage, he must follow the path the Lord has called him to follow. Joshua, like us, could go forward with strength and courage because he had the assurance that the LORD would be with him wherever he went. When we go forward with strength and courage to make disciples we have the assurance from the Great Commission "Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matt 28:20)

### **Points from the Committee**

Need for prayer about declining enrolments in some SRE classes

AGM on 31 March – all representatives are encouraged to attend. The Agenda include a Special Resolution to adopt a new Constitution which includes among other things the terms for a Clergy Council to support the ministry of THREE16.

A Teachers' Retreat was held for the THREE16 teachers on 24 January to start the year with prayer and reflection.

### **Points from the Teachers**

#### **Vincentia High: Abner Zandstra**

##### **Praise God for:**

Lots of favour with deputy principal at the school. Increased attendance in Year 7 through Opt out rather than opt in.

One Year 7 class has great attendance - a wonderful class to teach! A few students not on the role are keen to come. Pray that parents would sign a permission slip.

##### **Pray for:**

Year 9-10 students to request enrolment.

Two Year 7 boys who are both very keen to learn more about God, but very restless in class. Pray that God would make them feel safe and confident in class so they wouldn't try and prove themselves to other students

Keys for SRE teacher to access classrooms

A few kids attended SRE for the first few lessons and said they really loved it. But they had already been opted out it just hadn't been put in the system. They have automatically been opted out. Pray that God would bring the right students who want to learn back to Scripture and that parents would sign the permission slip.

#### **Nowra High: Lee Dobson**

##### **Praise God that:**

1st Term has had some highlights of some Year 7 and 8 classes taking a real interest in the class content and showing the freedom to ask legitimate questions and make comments.

A comprehensive survey of all classes has provided authentic and honest responses - positive and negative. It has also shown a quiet faith among some surprising students.

##### **Pray for:**

A couple of Year 9 classes are particularly challenging. Pray for the Holy Spirit to calm their spirits and give me the wisdom I need to best teach them.

Term 2 is rapidly approaching. Pray for discernment and guidance to connect with and guide these still 'new' classes.

## **Nowra High: Andrew Perry**

### **Please Pray:**

For a year 9 boy who is struggling to continue support a friend of his. Pray for strength and wisdom for him

That the Year 7 students will continue to bring back their Scripture notes,

That those doing Scripture in year 7 will enjoy their small classes and invite their friends to bring in notes to come along as well

That the timetabler will be able to tighten up our timetables

For wisdom and creativity in dealing with disruptive students

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## **Shoalhaven High: Cameron Condon**

### **Praise God for:**

Great start to the year. We're trying a new Teaching Model, implementing with Year 7, this year. It has had a positive impact across the grade so far.

Have some senior boys interested in starting a specific Bible Study. Just organising a day and time to suit.

When some other schools were flooded early in the year, teachers came over to SHS. The principal got very good feedback from the principals of the teachers who came.

### **Pray for:**

Peace amongst the students; there has been a number of fights and altercations so far this year. Some new families in our school this year that relocated because they lost everything in the fires, over the holidays. Pray for comfort, successful integration into the school, replacement of all that they lost.

God to continue to strengthen me physically, spiritually, emotionally & mentally.

## **Shoalhaven High: Peter Shepherd**

### **Praise God for:**

The relatively smooth start to the school year. The large numbers of students who continue to have the chance to hear God's word at Shoalhaven High.

### **Pray for:**

Us to be able to handle the logistics required to effectively minister to large numbers of students at a time.

Us all to be able to handle those difficult classes that pop up from time to time without getting too discouraged.

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## **Shoalhaven High: Narelle Lancaster**

### **Praise God for:**

All support students doing Scripture unless a note is brought in.

The classes which are running really well.

Cameron Condon being able to teach when I was sick.

### **Pray for:**

Good health

Continued, wonderful support from staff and executive.

Me to complete my Morling Theological College course well.

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## **Bomaderry High: Amelia McLellan**

### **Praise God for-**

His sustaining power through the difficult start to the year.

Positive relationships and experiences with the Year 7 and 8 students that I am teaching.

SALT (Scripture at Lunchtime) this term with a few regulars, some old faces returning and a couple of Year 7 students coming to try it out. I'm very thankful for Simon Chaplin from Berry Anglican coming on board to help out also!

Some more room in my timetable this year with more time to work on planning 'My School, My Responsibility.' It is shaping up to be a jam packed day exploring the topic of 'Church'.

### **Pray for -**

The executive team, especially our Principal, Ian Morris, in the aftermath of significant flood damage. We have lost a whole block (I am located here!) for most of the year as repairs are done. We have to relocate a number of faculties and many classes as a result. So much still needs to be done before we can function properly.

Smooth and effective procedures to support my work as the Scripture teacher and for student participation in the program.

A positive relationship between myself and the Year Advisors as Scripture and Guidance classes are timetabled together.

God to enable me to an encouraging witness of his grace to both students and staff alike. Pray that I can have gospel conversations with members of staff.