

AKA: Sapphire City Schools Ministry

North West Chaplaincy



TERM 2 - 2019

NEWS

WHERE ARE WE AT?

School chaplaincy in the North West continues to flourish. God is at work in this ministry; and our schools and community are being blessed because of this work.

We are thankful that the government continues to fund this program. This year funding was just rolled over to the current schools, but next year we are expecting that it will be open to new schools to enter the program.

We have added to the schools under our banner by taking on the two public schools at Warialda. We now have our chaplains in 12 schools throughout the region.

We have seen some changes in our board, Roxanne Shumack, has moved away after being part of our ministry for 15 years. Her contributions to the ministry have been greatly valued over the years. Evelyn Hoey, deputy principal at Ross Hill has also stepped aside, as work commitments made demands on her time. Paul Hattingh was our representative from the Minister's Fellowship, but has now stepped aside and Daniel Avenell from the Anglican Church now fills that role. Glenn Deas is our current chair and Lyn Appleby continues on as the paid Administrator, with the support of the rest of the board, Andrew Kerr, Jill Dick, Elizabeth Wiedemann, David Newstead and Brett Brown.

West of Inverell

Ian McIntosh (Bill) has been chaplain in Warialda for over 10 years, working at both the Primary and High School; this year these schools have decided to come under the North West Chaplaincy banner for assistance with administration. Bill was already working for us at Delungra, so we were only too willing to help out with two of his other schools. Bill along with his wife and children live in Warialda and are part of the wider community, which allows him to build strong relationships and be effective in many ways. At school, Bill is very hands on, helping in class, especially with music and being a listening ear for anyone who is struggling.

PRAY

Please be in prayer for our chaplains as they face the challenges of being the hands and feet of Jesus in our schools.

- Fran Bell** at Inverell High
- Amelia Paton** at Macintyre High
- Peter Wiedemann** at Macintyre High
- Tineke Dekkers** at Ross Hill
- Michael Boota** at Tingha
- Doug Johnston** at Bundarra
- Bill McIntosh** at Delungra and Warialda Primary & High
- Michele Lawson** at Glen Innes High & Primary
- Ron Webel** at Glen Innes High & Primary and Red Range
- Rachel Pender** at Yetman

Welcome to Tingha, Michael!

Michael Boota arrived in Tingha last year as a qualified teachers' aide and was appointed to be chaplain at the school to replace Kylie Wiedemann who resigned from the position. Kylie is still on staff as a casual teacher.

We were delighted to be able to choose Michael for the work, as there is a very high Aboriginal population at the school. Michael worships at the Tingha Christian Fellowship and is married to a Tingha girl. He is able to share at church what it is like being a chaplain, while of course maintaining confidentiality. He comes from the Woodenbong/Beaudesert area, but the family has moved to Tingha permanently and are happy there.

Principal Melinda Partridge is very pleased to have Michael, and this year the school has been able to give him extra hours to support pupils' learning. He works well with Preston Connors, the Aboriginal Education Assistant. Mostly Michael works in the Kindergarten/Year 1 class. He says that enjoys this role and the kids accept him well, calling him "Uncle Michael".

Michael did not originally come from Tingha, but he has not found it difficult to fit in. In fact he quotes the verse from the Bible about a prophet not being honoured at home to apply to his situation. He finds he is better accepted in Tingha than he was previously. He also enjoys the acceptance of the staff and the way he is able to join into conversations. His daughter is enrolled at the school, and although she found it a bit hard to get used to having Dad on staff, she is OK with this now.

Michael is aware that he is a male role model (the teaching staff are all female) and sees his main task as looking after the emotional well-being of the students. We hope that in time, students and staff will entrust him to also support them spiritually when necessary. Although no Tingha students lost their homes during the February bushfire, the school was appreciative of extra support for their students at this very unsettling time.



SUPPORT CHAPLAINCY

We appreciate the many people who regularly give donations to North West Chaplaincy, these donations are vital to our work. You can also support us by shopping at IGA and scanning a community benefits card OR linking your Regional Australia Bank account in the community partnership program.

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