

# Chaplain Reports

Bunbury Regional YouthCARE Council

Term 2, 2025



# Hayden Cannon - College Row School & South Bunbury Education Support Centre

**Chaplaincy Highlights:** Every day is a highlight being able to work with the kids as well as such amazing staff at both my schools. Running my parents' morning tea now at both schools and hearing from the parents at how much they value the time together and getting to meet other parents and share. Being thanked for my time and presence with students that are having a hard day and being able to help and support these kids is always a highlight.

**Prayer Requests:** Struggling families with NDIS and support, staff dealing with injuries and stress. Please also pray for my colleague whose brother died this weekend.

Serving Opportunities: I am looking at running a morning tea for staff at South Bunbury ESC Answered Prayers: Parent morning tea at South Bunbury ESC had parents wanting more social time and friends for their son as they all don't get out much and its hard in Ed Support and during our morning tea their son was invited to a birthday party by another student. Also getting bread for breakfast club through 'Feed it Forward'.



#### **Geoff Harrison – Treendale Primary School**

Term 2 started with a former student taking her life on the first day back at school for the students. Most of the students were not affected; however, some of the staff were greatly impacted. Many of the staff's children went to school with this student, and there were ripples through the families of the staff. This required several weeks of focusing on the fallout. During this time, I was still seeing students. Unfortunately, this was not the end of

the story. The 15-year-old student who died in the car crash near Harvey was also in that year at our school, and I spent a lot of time with this student over years five and six. This has also significantly affected the staff, and we still have the funeral to come. I'm sorry that this report is not a positive one. It's hard to be positive about this report; however, I am grateful that the second death was not a suicide. That is the only positive I can take from this term report.

**Prayer Requests:** Please pray for the families of the two girls, staff of TPS, friends and the Chaplain (Yes, me).

**Serving Opportunities:** We still need of someone to collect our order from Foodbank each week and bring it to our school.

Needs: Prayer for all our students, that we can be there for them before tragedy hits.



#### **Emily Brough - Dalyellup College**

**Chaplaincy Highlights:** Partnerships with other organisations to support our kids, both financially and through projects and initiatives.

**Prayer Requests:** For Hadassah as she settles into her role on the days I'm not at school. **Serving Opportunities:** Breakfast club Tuesday or Thursday mornings. There is also opportunity to come in as a mentoring volunteer to be a mentor to some of our students

who need a little extra care and attention. If someone is able to do a collection from bakers delight one closing time and bring it to school the next morning - I currently do a pick up on a Sunday night, however as we have gotten busier, they don't always have enough on a Sunday and having a pick up on a second day in the week would be helpful - even if it's once a month or once a fortnight that would help a heap!

**Needs:** We're well supplied at the moment thanks to many generous donations this year! Thankyou! **Answered Prayers:** We now have a chaplain 5 days a week at school with Hadassah starting in her role a few weeks ago!



#### **Karen Nelson- Maidens Park Primary School**

Chaplaincy Highlights: The highlight for me has been the recess and lunchtime gatherings in my office with our beautiful students. Each day I have many students approaching me, asking to spend time together in the Chaplains office. We have morning tea or lunch together and discuss random subjects. The students are so amazing, extremely well behaved and very respectful of the space. I love these times and so do the kids! I've had up

to 11 in my office and even though it's a small space, there has never been a problem. The staff are aware and pleased this is happening. It's usually a different group of kids each day as well as a few of my regulars. **Prayer Requests:** I am feeling more tired than usual and have had some very long days. Teachers have also requested classroom support, which has been fine but combined with my case load of one-on-one appointments I am struggling with feeling unusually tired. Please pray for extra strength and energy on my workdays (and non-workdays:-))

**Needs:** I have been requesting cheese slices and butter/ margarine for my toasties (for Thursday and Friday Breakfast Club) from the school. So far, I've had limited supply so would appreciate donations if anyone feels led.

**Answered Prayers:** The Year 6 class just returned from camp and already 3 students have approached me and thanked us for the generous financial support from some of our individuals in the YC council. They were able to enjoy some special activities that would not have been possible without the support they received. I prayed throughout the week that this would be a blessing to them all and by all accounts it sounds like it was. It was also good that the teachers informed the students of the gift to each of them from YouthCARE.



## Joanne Campbell - Parkfield Primary School

**Chaplaincy Highlights:** The wonderful connections, inclusivity and relationships that are evident in all school wanders around Parkfield Primary School - before, during and after school.

**Prayer Requests:** Protection, provision and hope for our students, staff, families and our whole Parkfield community impacted by sickness, cancer, grief, loss and hardship - there

are many.

**Serving Opportunities:** Volunteers for our school Hands Up for Kids run reading assistance program. **Needs:** A spare Table tennis set for the Chaplain Coner Room (to go on a big desk) if you have one not being used.



### Yolanda Steenkamp - Dalyellup Primary School & Tuart Forest Primary School

Chaplaincy Highlights: Relationships have been strengthened over this term. It is a blessing how some students (hungry for change) embrace guidance, implement change, and experience the positive reward of their actions. The hope they experience about their future is indescribable. There is also excitement about the new SWELL (Strategies for Wellbeing) program. It will help many students simultaneously, which will ease some time

pressures.

**Prayer Requests:** Please pray for the successful implementation of the SWELL program. Please pray for the Lord's presence and wisdom to fill the schools.

Needs: 8 x pillow inserts (45cm x 45cm) for the emotional pillowcases.

**Answered Prayers:** The improvement of relationships and students' openness to talk about the things on their hearts.



# Emma Strong - Capel Primary School & South Bunbury Primary School

Chaplaincy Highlights: Have been asked to be involved with some students who are very complex; I feel honoured to be asked, and I got to talk about Chaplaincy to the Bunbury CWA.

**Prayer Requests:** For the increasing number of students who have to deal with legal issues. It can be very difficult for these students to remain calm in school. May I be a support

somehow, to the students, the parents and the staff; For staff as they deal with some very heightened students all day every day, they feel like they're walking on eggshells; For me as I do PD on Peer Skills (last week) and Wellbeing (week 1 Term 3), whilst also 'keeping up' with all that's happening at my schools, including delivering programs.

**Serving Opportunities:** Any community members who are willing to help with Breakfast at SBPS, any day of the week, 8am – 9am. Or even if you are happy to do a shift occasionally when someone is away. (WWCC is required).



# Carmen Kowal - Bunbury Primary School & River Valley Primary School

**Chaplaincy Highlights:** Setting up and maintaining a community garden with students, and a Mother's Day afternoon tea.

**Prayer Requests:** Two staff family members going through cancer treatment, two staff who recently lost their dad. For God's will to deliver the right programs & activities in schools. **Needs:** Quick board games e.g. Guess Who, Connect 4, Diary of wimpy kid cheese touch,

Bubble sticks.

**Answered Prayers:** Our school received some photos of two students who have gone back to Egypt to visit, looking safe and having good time.



#### Philip Leenman - Newton Moore Senior High School

Chaplaincy Highlights: Term 2 has been a busy term, while only at NMSHS 3 days a week the same number of mentoring groups and small groups continue along with the other pastoral care needs. This term the Year 10s were presented with Teen Mental Health First Aid over a three-week period assisting them in how to care for each other better and what to do to gain support for their friends who may be struggling with MH issues. Lots of Career activities have taken place across the school including incursions and excursions. I have

had the opportunity for some engaging conversations over spiritual things initiated by students which reminds us all that the Holy Spirit is moving in all arenas, and His Kingdom advances all the time.

**Prayer Requests:** Please continue to pray for families as they struggle with the rising cost of everything, increased anxiety over finding a new house to rent when their circumstances change. Please pray for the spirit of poverty, the spirit of abuse and the spirit of division to be broken over the Bunbury area. Please continue to pray for His grace for me in my role as well.

**Needs:** More prayer! Thanks for more black shorts provided to the school through the Bunbury Council, via Dee Gladden, much appreciated by the school.



#### Ian Lewis - Newton Moore Senior High School

Chaplaincy Highlights: It has been an honour to serve as Chaplain within the Student Services team at Newton Moore Senior High School. The dedication and compassion demonstrated by the staff towards students facing life's many challenges is truly commendable. Their ongoing commitment includes providing daily sandwiches and fruit at recess and lunch to support students in need. As a new chaplain, I was deeply encouraged

when a student shared how much they enjoy the group session I facilitate and expressed a desire to participate again next term.

**Prayer Requests:** Please pray for the students at Newton Moore Senior High School, many of whom are navigating significant personal challenges outside of their school environment.

**Needs:** Newton Moore Senior High School would greatly appreciate donations of black shorts to support students in need of school-appropriate attire.

**Answered Prayers:** I am truly grateful for the prayers offered at the recent Bunbury Regional YouthCARE meeting and by Rita and Lib Piparo from my local church. Their support has been a great source of strength and encouragement in my chaplaincy ministry.



# Simone Wainwright - Newton Moore Education Support Centre

Chaplaincy Highlights: We held our first parent and caregiver Cuppa & Connect Group recently; the session was well received, and it was heartening to see everyone coming together, chatting and supporting one another in a safe space. Later this term, we'll be welcoming a guest speaker from an outside agency who will talk about boundaries, consent, and safety.

**Prayer Requests:** Can I please request that you pray for staff, facing challenges with illness, and stress, and for our parents and caregivers facing challenges in seeking support for themselves and their families.

**Needs:** Student well-being has asked for donations of any old Lego, as well as coloured pencils and textas for the students to use at recess and lunchtime please.

**Answered Prayers:** Parents and Caregivers willing to come together and share as a group.



# Jonathan Pettitt - Glen Huon Primary School & Dardanup Primary School

**Chaplaincy Highlights:** Ahila's Kindness Day was a great day with a variety of activities based about doing random acts of kindness, with every class engaged to creative ways to bless others.

**Prayer Requests:** A couple of students whose dad is in jail facing a manslaughter charge. Several families going through changes/break ups and/or blending. Cold and Flu season

and staff being out. Kids already getting tired and emotional as we go deeper into the term. A year 4 boys with mental health issues that are causing disruptions. A year 3 boy who is really struggling with family changes.



# Nena McKenzie - Carey Park Primary School

**Chaplaincy Highlights:** Staff members don't always seek me out and so it is in those chance conversations with a staff member who really needs to be heard that I am left a little shocked by the providence of God and grateful for being His instrument.

**Prayer Requests:** For the children that live with the uncertainty of where they are going to spend the night or if their family is going to be able to find their next rental. Please pray that

this accommodation shortage comes to an end soon. Please pray for the staff members who work very hard within the school and cope with their own health issues and/or family matters. May I also ask for your prayers. I have submitted a proposal to the school administration, offering activities that I believe will benefit the students at lunchtime and parents at the end of the day, when they are waiting to pick up their children. In wanting to be a shining light for Christ, I understand that my plans are not necessarily His. I also pray for wisdom.

**Needs:** These are likely to arise in the future, depending on the decisions of the school administration, regarding my proposals (mentioned above).

Answered Prayers: I am grateful for the exclusive meeting areas, that have become available for my use.



#### Mark Gibb - River Valley Primary School

**Chaplaincy Highlights:** This term highlights for me have been teaching some of the students a little bit of guitar and having students that previously wouldn't acknowledge me, come and chat with me.

**Prayer Requests:** Prayer for Principal, teaching staff and education assistants, as they are dealing with some hard issues.

Needs: Old guitars would be handy please.

**Answered Prayers:** Some Families that had been on a long wait list to get their child assessed for ADHD or Autism, have had their appointments pushed forward and have received diagnoses earlier, which is a relief for them.