

# WONGA PARK & MERNDA REFORMED CHURCH NEWSLETTER

*29 March 2026*



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

3 April: Good Friday Service 10:00am  
Lord's Supper

5 April: Easter Sunday service 10:00am

7 April: Prayer meeting 7:30pm

2 May: Working Bee

20 June: State conference Fundraiser: Movie night



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dates for upcoming services:

29 March 4:00 pm

12 April 4:00pm

26 April 4:00pm

10 May 4:00pm

24 May: NO SERVICE

7 June: 4:00pm

PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR THE MERNDA CONGREGATION THAT THE LORD WILL DO MIGHTY THINGS THROUGH THEM IN THAT REGION.

# VISITING OR NEW TO WONGA PARK OR MERENDA REFORMED CHURCH?

Jenna, our community engagement worker, would love to meet you and answer any questions you have about our Wonga Park church community.

Feel free to contact her on 0403650398.

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## Growth Groups

If you would like to join one of these groups or find out more, please see either Jenna or Chris.

Rob and Jenna - Tuesday nights 8pm online

Wendy ladies group Thursdays 10am @ church

Chris and Sarah Wednesday fortnightly 8pm

Adri and Alister: Wednesday nights 7:30pm. in person

Herman Linde: Monday nights, 8pm online.



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Dandenong Reformed Church is extending their invitation to

Easter Choir Presentation

on

Sunday 29 March

at 6:00pm



The Wise Women of Wonga invites you to:

Ladies Stations of the Cross  
on  
Thursday 2 April  
10:00 - 12:00

Come and enjoy reflective readings of the death and resurrection of our Saviour.

Morning Tea will be provided

If you have questions, please feel free to contact Wendy or Jenna.

Wonga Park Christian Reformed Church  
Young Adults

@WONGA\_PARKCRCYA  
Follow Us

# EVENT SCHEDULE



 Date & Time:  
**25 January, 2026**  
AT 1:00PM

**SOCIAL**

MEET AT WONGA PARK  
CHRISTIAN REFORMED  
CHURCH

 Date & Time:  
**4 February, 2026**  
AT 7:30PM

**BIBLESTUDY**

70-72 ENNISMORE  
CRESCENT, PARK ORHCARDS

 Date & Time:  
**18 February, 2026**  
AT 7:30PM

**BIBLESTUDY**

70-72 ENNISMORE  
CRESCENT, PARK ORHCARDS

 Date & Time:  
**4 March, 2026**  
AT 7:30PM

**BIBLESTUDY**

70-72 ENNISMORE  
CRESCENT, PARK ORHCARDS

 Date & Time:  
**18 March, 2026**  
AT 7:30PM

**BIBLESTUDY**

70-72 ENNISMORE  
CRESCENT, PARK ORHCARDS

 Date & Time:  
**1 April, 2026**  
AT 7:30PM

**BIBLESTUDY**

70-72 ENNISMORE  
CRESCENT, PARK ORHCARDS

 Date & Time:  
**15 April, 2026**  
AT 7:30PM

**BIBLESTUDY**

70-72 ENNISMORE  
CRESCENT, PARK ORHCARDS

 Date & Time:  
**24 April, 2026**  
AT 7:30PM

**SOCIAL**

OZ TENPIN CHIRNSIDE PARK



IF YOU'D LIKE TO JOIN OUR YOUNG ADULTS GROUP OR COME ALONG TO ONE OF OUR SOCIAL EVENTS, WE'D LOVE TO HAVE YOU! SIMPLY CHAT TO INGE, MICHAEL, OR CASSIE AT CHURCH, OR SEND US A DM VIA OUR INSTAGRAM PAGE.



# TERM 1

# SUPERDASH

2026



## SOCIAL NIGHT

7:30 PM @ Wonga Park CRC



## BIBLE STUDY

Juniors: Bible Timeline

Seniors: Book of Acts

7:30 PM @ Wonga Park CRC



## STATE YOUTH SERVICE

4 PM @ Casey CRC

Sunday\*



## BIBLE STUDY

Juniors: Bible Timeline

Seniors: Book of Acts

7:30 PM @ Wonga Park CRC



## BIBLE STUDY

Juniors: Bible Timeline

Seniors: Book of Acts

7:30 PM @ Wonga Park CRC



## BIBLE STUDY

Juniors: Bible Timeline

Seniors: Testimony Writing

7:30 PM @ Wonga Park CRC

FOR MORE INFORMATION SPEAK TO YOUR YOUTH LEADERS

WONGA PARK CRC PRESENTS

# MOVIE NIGHT

## FUNDRAISER



**SATURDAY**  
**20 JUNE**

**6 PM**

**AT WONGA PARK CRC**

**REGISTER HERE**

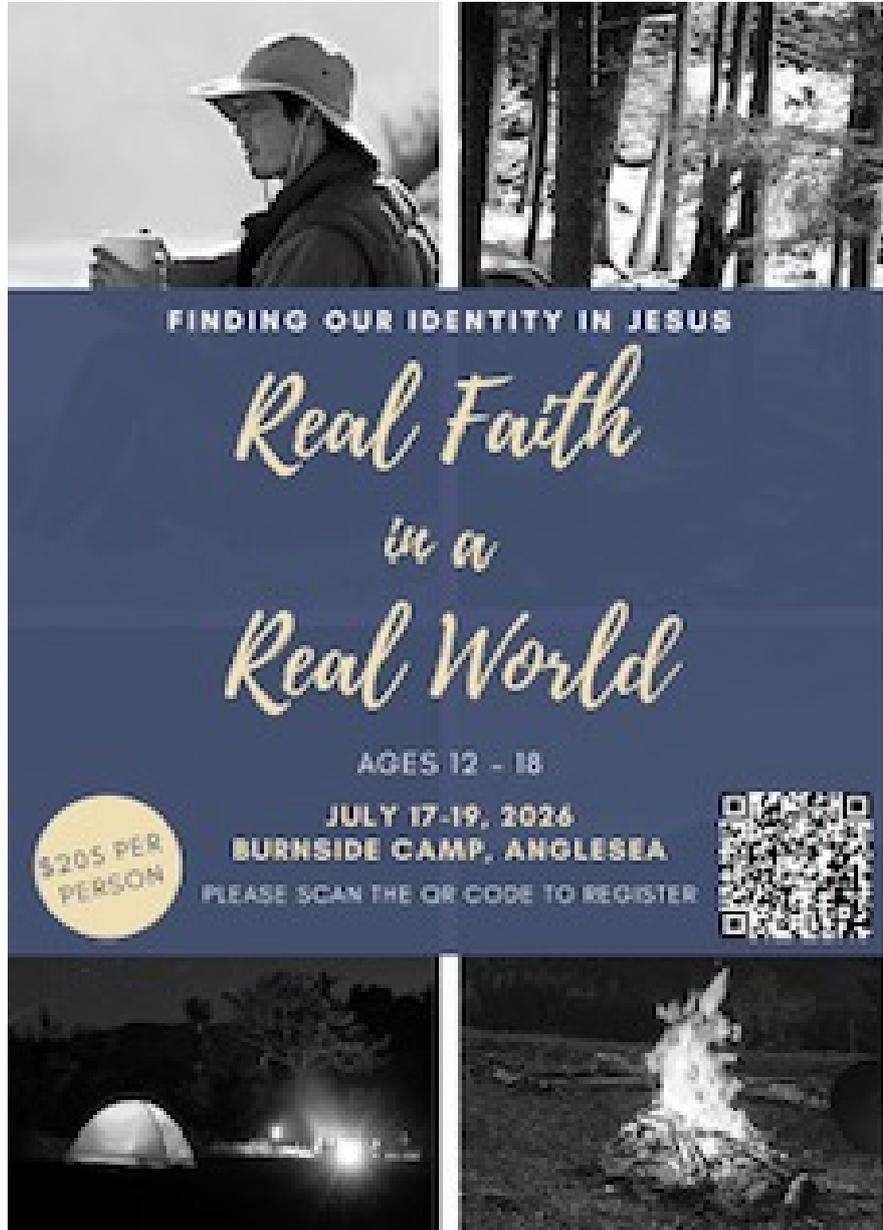


**PURPOSE**

All funds raised will help support our youth and young adults attending the upcoming CRCA Convention in WA (Jan 2027).



# STATE YOUTH CAMP



FINDING OUR IDENTITY IN JESUS

*Real Faith  
in a  
Real World*

AGES 12 - 18

JULY 17-19, 2024  
BURNSIDE CAMP, ANGLESEA

PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER

\$205 PER PERSON



If you have any queries or questions, please reach out to Kasha.

# NEWS FROM DARWIN

Dear Wonga Park church family,

As some of you know, I've recently moved up to Darwin for a teaching position at a Christian school. I've just finished a five-week teaching placement and am now working as a Teaching Assistant. The hope is that by Semester 2 I'll receive early registration and be able to teach two days a week while finishing my studies.

In the two months I've been here, it has rained almost constantly, and I'm learning how isolated Darwin is as a city. While we have not been affected by the rain, the communities of Katherine and Daly River have been hugely impacted, and many people have had to evacuate their homes. As I am writing this, it is raining steadily and there is more rain to come. Please pray for these communities and those currently displaced by the flooding. When I first arrived, I did a little bit of 'church hopping,' but now I've committed to attending a close relative to the reformed church. The Presbyterians. They are a small congregation but similarly to Wonga, they are very welcoming.

During the past week I have repeatedly come across a C.S. Lewis quote - perhaps a gentle prompting - that has convicted me in the busyness of the move and placement. He speaks of the need to fix our eyes on the eternal.

"It would seem that our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased." I would love for you to pray this for both Wonga Park, the Presbyterian Church up here (who are currently without a minister), and for me personally that we would be able to set our hearts more fully on the eternal.

Thank you,

Tash



# PRAYER POINTS

## *Personal prayer points*

Father, thank you for your assurance that you will never turn away anyone who humbly comes to you in prayer.

As we go into the coming week let us daily pray;

That there will be unity amongst God's people so that the world may see that we belong to Jesus.

"I pray not only for these, but also for those who believe in me through their word. May they all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I am in you." (John 17:20-21 CSB)

Give praise and thanks to our Lord Jesus for his willingness to go to the cross so that we may be saved from eternal separation from our heavenly Father.

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## *Congregational prayer points*

Please pray for Natasha Hibma (Justin's sister) who has asked for prayer for her studies and teaching in the Northern Territory. Please pray also for the church she's joined which is currently without a minister.

Please continue to pray for Martin Van der Merwe's mother who is not doing well, pray that her suffering will soon be over.

Please pray for Maralin Miller as she is having some procedures done, pray that they will achieve the desired results. Pray for healing for her and for Steve.

Please pray for Lydia Opperman as she is still in a lot of pain after a nasty fall.

Please continue to pray for the Mernda congregation that the Lord will do mighty things through them in that region.

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## *Local & International prayer points*

Please pray for the northern parts of our country that have been devastated with floods, pray for all those affected especially those who have lost homes and livelihoods.

Please pray for our nation that this Easter many will be confronted with the incredible gift given us through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus.

Please pray for the nations of this world that there will be a great humbling of nations before God and that the world leaders will genuinely seek peace.

Please pray for our brothers and sisters who have converted from Islam.

Ariana and her family live in Central Asia, safe from the immediate violence of Afghanistan and the Taliban. But they live as refugees, without legal status, and if they are deported home, they will be killed.

“My brother called me. He said, ‘I heard you betrayed your religion and became a Christian. If you’re under pressure, I will come and save you. But if not, I am willing to sell the carpet under my feet to come and kill you myself.’” It’s a threat that haunts Ariana\* most days.

She loves her husband and children and embraces her in-laws as if they were her own parents. They are all the family she has now. Though her brother is far away, his threat is real. He tried to kill her before when she chose her own husband. He’ll try again, now he knows she’s chosen her own faith.

In Central Asia, where they fled to find safety, Afghans are being deported back to Afghanistan in large numbers—back to a grim punishment for seeking a better life. If Ariana’s family are deported, they all face certain death. Growing up, Ariana was not allowed to go to school, work, choose a husband, or even leave home without a male guardian. Since the Taliban returned to power in Afghanistan in 2021, life for women has become incredibly restricted.

Ariana never planned to leave Islam, but she fell in love with a man. She chose him, and he loved her just as deeply—a highly controversial decision in a society that arranges marriages for their daughters. “My brother came to the door of the house with a big knife, wanting to kill me because all [the] people [in our tribe] had found out,” Ariana says heavily.

Her family were furious and forced them to marry to preserve their honour. And then, they cut her off. Ariana was still happy. She adored her husband. But after a series of attacks that led to her brother-in-law’s brutal murder, they found themselves on the run. Ariana escaped Afghanistan with her husband and in-laws, and once in the relative safety of Central Asia, they revealed a shocking secret: they were Christians. They gently shared their faith with Ariana, and she gave her life to Christ.

“I saw how much oppression and pressure Muslim women lived under, and it helped me see that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life,” she says with the conviction of a free woman. “Christian women in Afghanistan are some of the most marginalised people in the world,” an Open Doors’ local partner explains. “Even refugee women who follow Jesus are significantly vulnerable. They must keep their faith secret as they remain in danger for deciding to leave Islam.”

Even in Central Asia, Ariana’s faith is regarded suspiciously. Landlords refuse to rent her family a home. Her children are at risk and if she ever mentions Jesus, she could be deported and executed back in Afghanistan. “That’s our biggest fear, being sent back, especially since everyone knows that we have become Christians,” Ariana shares. “We are afraid for our children because our children are the next generation of Christians.” Ariana shares God’s Word with other refugee women. Some are Christian, some are Muslim, but they all draw strength from the Bible. “They tell me, ‘When you come, we feel at peace,’” says Ariana. “I know it’s not me because I am nobody. It is the presence of God that brings peace in these hard times.”

Across the world, Christian women like Ariana are targeted for their faith and gender. Many are subject to domestic violence, trafficking, and systemic abuse. They are intensely vulnerable, and their suffering is often hidden. Open Doors works hard to ensure every persecuted woman is seen, valued, and empowered to stand strong in persecution. Thank you for your support. We couldn’t do it without you.

“God’s children will always face persecution and suffering,” Ariana says thoughtfully. “But nothing can separate us from the love of God. He is always with us. This is what encourages us and gives us strength for the hardships we face.”

# OUR GIVING, AN ACT OF WORSHIP

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In our Church we have two offerings every Sunday. The first goes toward the ministry of this congregation. The second offering goes toward various Christian causes. This week our second offering is for the Reformed Theologic College.

If you would like to support the work of you can do so by in Church giving - simply add your offering to the bag at the back of Church or by bank transfer -

BSB 063-167. A/C 1015-8356

If using bank transfer please indicate whether it is for the first offering "Sun1" or second offering "Sun 2" in the reference line. Or you can give online via our Church app

<https://wpcrc.org.au/give>

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## SERMON DETAIL

*29 March 2026*

SERMON TOPIC:	Jesus drives out religious consumerism
BIBLE TEXT:	Matthew 21:1-17
PREACHER:	Chris Pretorius
ELDER ON DUTY:	Peter Williams

OFFERINGS:	
1ST COLLECTION:	The work of the Church
2ND COLLECTION:	Reformed Theologic College



# HELPING HANDS

	29 March	3 April	5 April
Preacher	Chris Pretorius	Chris Pretorius	Chris Pretorius
Elder on Duty	Peter W	Martin	Peter W
Prayer Leader	Herman L	Martin	Janette
Music Leader	Neil	Mia	Nelleke
Children's Talk	Janette	Joseph	Nicky
Bible Reader	Adri	Stephen	Mila
Welcoming	Ina	tbc	tbc
Sound	Nicholas	James	Nicolas
Visuals	Isaac	Salme	Ene
Broadcasting	James	Christo	James
Sunday School	Brendina, Ilze, Lize S	No Sunday School	No Sunday School
Coffee	Michael Hayes & Ka-men Kam	Herman & Lynette Dyer	Michelle & Charnise Horn



# BIRTHDAYS

Betsie de Bruyn	27 March
Francios Bezuidenhout	27 March
Joy van Veen	1 April
Harry Berends	4 April
Lynette Pretorius	14 April
Alyssa Ting	16 April
Nina Theron	16 April
Lydia Opperman	17 April



## Who Should I Contact?

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Pastor:	Chris Pretorius	<a href="mailto:pastor@wpcrc.org.au">pastor@wpcrc.org.au</a>
Chairman of Session:	Peter Williams	<a href="mailto:session@wpcrc.org.au">session@wpcrc.org.au</a>
Community Engagement:	Jenna Miller	<a href="mailto:jenna@wpcrc.org.au">jenna@wpcrc.org.au</a>
Church Administration:	Chris Pretorius	<a href="mailto:admin@wpcrc.org.au">admin@wpcrc.org.au</a>
Deacons:	Leana van Gent	<a href="mailto:deacons@wpcrc.org.au">deacons@wpcrc.org.au</a>
Music Ministry:	Mia Van Wyk	<a href="mailto:miavwyk@gmail.com">miavwyk@gmail.com</a>
Sound & Visuals:	Michael van der Merwe	<a href="mailto:vdmichael02@gmail.com">vdmichael02@gmail.com</a>
Children's Talk:	Janette Fernando	<a href="mailto:janettefernando@iprimus.com.au">janettefernando@iprimus.com.au</a>
Sunday School:	Ilze Kellerman	<a href="mailto:admin@wpcrc.org.au">admin@wpcrc.org.au</a>
Youth Group:	Kasha Schubert	<a href="mailto:youth@wpcrc.org.au">youth@wpcrc.org.au</a>
Young Adults:	Michael van der Merwe	<a href="mailto:vdmichael02@gmail.com">vdmichael02@gmail.com</a>
Growth Groups:	Chris Pretorius	<a href="mailto:pastor@wpcrc.org.au">pastor@wpcrc.org.au</a>
Prayer Chain:	Herman Linde	<a href="mailto:herman.linde@live.com.au">herman.linde@live.com.au</a>
Facilities & Maintenance:	Riaan Bergh	<a href="mailto:deacons@wpcrc.org.au">deacons@wpcrc.org.au</a>
Newsletter:	Leana van Gent	<a href="mailto:newsletter@wpcrc.org.au">newsletter@wpcrc.org.au</a>

\* To contact telephonically please refer to the directory in the Church app