



From Rod Yager, Association Secretary.....

Back in March, I attended an event held at Parliament House to celebrate Special Religious Education. 300 people gathered from across the state to recognise the contribution Special Religious Education makes to our community. The event provided an opportunity to acknowledge the contributions of a range of SRE teachers: the most remarkable, to my mind, being that of Maureen Power, a spritely woman in her 90's who has been teaching SRE continuously for over 75 years. We were also able to hear a couple of recent SRE students speak about the impact SRE classes have had on their lives. One of these was Tom Yanko, who attended Cherrybrook Technology High School, and it was moving to hear him talk with passion and enthusiasm about the things he had learned and the example he had been shown by Peter Murphy and others during his High School years.

It was also heartening to hear from the politicians who spoke. The education minister, Mr Piccoli, spoke of the importance of ensuring quality time for SRE classes, and described himself as an active advocate for SRE in public schools, with an intention to support and strengthen SRE. The opposition shadow minister, Carmel Tebbutt, whose 11 year-old child attends SRE classes, echoed this support, assuring us that Labor's strong support of ethics classes in no way diminished our support of SRE in public schools, noting that many parents will not choose public schools unless they can get the religious instruction of their choice. Senior officials from the Education department also spoke, emphasising the important role SRE plays in schools, as it contributes to the moral and cultural development of students, fosters a sense of belonging, builds relationships with the community and allows schools to better cater for the rich diversity of their students.

But, as much as we delight in being able to serve our community in this way, this is not why we teach Christian Studies in our local high schools.

Our motivation comes from the fact that we know that "*faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.*" (Romans 10:17). We know, from our own experience, the transforming power of the Gospel, and this compels us to make the most of the opportunity we have been provided to share the message of salvation through Jesus Christ with the more than 3,000 students who attend Christian Studies classes at Pennant Hills High School and Cherrybrook Technology High School each fortnight.

The continuation of this work is only possible through the continuing support of those who understand its importance. Please continue to pray daily for our teachers, Peter and Graham, for the students in their classes and for the many members of the wider school community who are impacted by the witness of the Christian Studies program. Please also pray for the provision of the financial resources needed for this life changing ministry, and prayerfully consider how you might be able to contribute, either through regular monthly giving or through a one-off contribution to our annual appeal. Your partnership with us in this work is greatly appreciated.

CELEBRATORY DINNER 25TH AUGUST

Following on from the successful dinner held in 2011, the Association is holding its Celebratory Dinner on 25th August. The venue will be Thornleigh Community Baptist Church. We would love to have you come along, to this community event, to hear more about the work of the association, meet other supporters, and, of course enjoy a terrific dinner. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$15 for school students.

To buy a ticket

- Your church representative for the association has tickets for sale
- Order on line at <http://www.trybooking.com/28138>
- Telephone the association's treasurer 0401 724 714

Seating will be in tables of 8. Encourage your friends to come as a group.

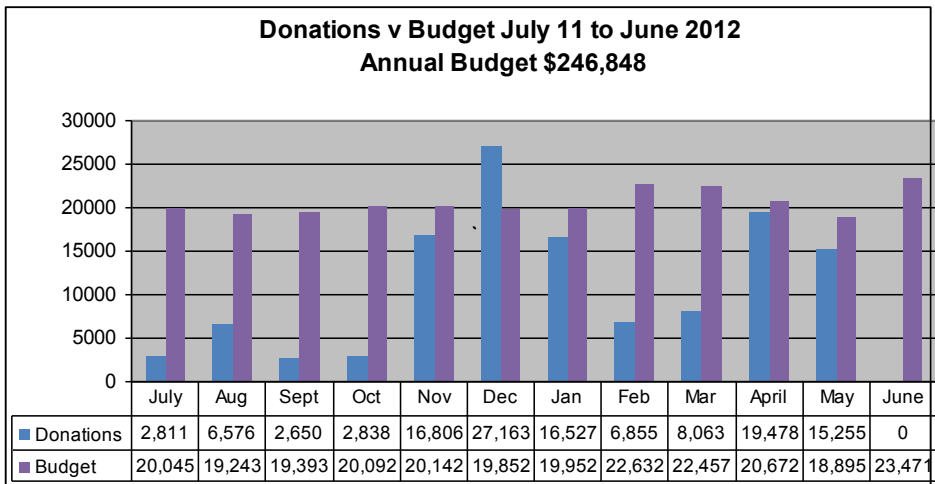
ASSOCIATION'S WEB SITE

Have a look at phceca.org.au

TREASURERS REPORT

As at the 20th of June 2012 we have received \$43,642 for our JUNE APPEAL, our Target is \$140,000. Please be in prayer for our financial situation for the remainder of the year to December 2012.

The Budget for 2012/2013 is \$219,735, which accounts for one full time teacher at each school, Graham Castle at Pennant Hills High School and Peter Murphy at Cherrybrook Technology High.



Thank you for your prayers and financial support for this ministry in our local High Schools.

Please do not hesitate to contact me on treasurer@phccea.org.au if you have any questions.

Yours in Christ
Elizabeth Morrison

PRAYER POINTS

- Give thanks for the opportunity we have to have SRE in our local state primary and high schools.
- Give thanks for the volunteers who assist our teachers each week.
- Pray for our teachers, Graham Castle and Peter Murphy, as they respond to the day to day situations in the classroom.
- Pray for the students who are hearing God's word.

How can I help SUPPORT.....

Special Religious Education in our local High Schools?

Financial Support:

- Become a Pledge Partner and contribute \$50 per month, or \$..... per month, or
- Make a One Off Donation.

All donations \$2 and over to PHCCEA are tax deductible. You will need to provide your address so we can send you a receipt.

Three options for making payments

- Payments can be direct deposited:
Pennant Hills & Cherrybrook Christian Education Assoc.inc.
Commonwealth Bank BSB: 062-225 Account Number: 0090 3146
- Cheques can be sent to the address below.
- Complete and mail the credit card slip to the address below.

Please debit my visa/mastercard for \$..... once off/monthly
Starting from(date)
Card Number _____ EXPIRY __ / __
Cardholder Name: _____
Signature: _____

Prayer partner

- I would like to become a PHCCEA Prayer partner. Please email me monthly prayer points or urgent prayer points if needed.

Quarterly Newsletter

- I am interested in receiving PHCCEA quarterly newsletter by email.
My email address is.....

Skills:

- I have skills eg marketing/administration/webpage design/
publication/ other that I would be
happy to contribute to PHCCEA on an occasional basis for advice or
short projects as needed.

Name:.....

Address:.....

Phone Number/s.....

Email address:.....\

Church:.....

Please give this completed form to the PHCCEA contact in your church, or send it to: "PHCCEA" PO Box 346, Pennant Hills NSW 1715 or email information to: secretary@phccea.org.au