



Autumn 2019

[Pennant Hills & Cherrybrook Christian Education Association Inc.](#)

ABN 60 652 001 441



Erin Townsend

Erin grew up in the beautiful Dandenong Ranges in Victoria. After studying International Studies at Deakin University, she stayed on to do a two-year ministry apprenticeship with Christian Union. In 2015 Erin moved to Sydney to study a Bachelor of Divinity at Moore Theological College. While studying she met her husband Chris. They share a passion for gospel proclamation, Indonesia and

sweet treats (especially ice-cream). Erin is so excited to have the opportunity to share the gospel with high school students at Cherrybrook Technology High School. And she is so thankful for your support!

Erin has replaced Peter Murphy as the Christian Studies teacher at Cherrybrook Technology High. Below Erin reflects on her first term as a Christian Studies teacher.

Term One 2019

Praise God, he has brought me through my first term of SRE teaching at Cherrybrook Technology High School. This term has been both a challenge and a joy as I have settled in and begun to find my feet. Before the start of this term I was feeling quietly confident in my abilities to teach the Bible to high school students. Though I hadn't really done it before in this context, I've taught the Bible to young people for years and thought to myself 'How hard can it be?' However, as the term began my quiet confidence quickly faded away. As the term has gone on I have begun to realise something that seems blindingly obvious, teaching the Bible in a secular environment is really hard. And it's hard for a number of reasons. As the only SRE teacher in a school of 2,000 students and over 200 staff, it can feel very isolating. It's hard to not be working in a team with people I can go to for wisdom and advice, as well as people to share the particular struggles and joys that come with teaching SRE. Another difficulty is that students can drop out of SRE classes whenever their parents allow them to. This means that over the term my class sizes have gotten smaller

and smaller. As you can imagine this is quite discouraging as I want as many students as possible to hear the good news of Jesus.

Though there have been lots of challenges in my first term of teaching, there have also been some great joys. My thirteen year 8 classes have begun the year learning about the one big story that the Bible tells. It has been such a joy to share with them what this one big story is and how it all centres around Jesus. In the last few weeks of term we were able to hear the story of the Exodus in which God saved his people from slavery in Egypt. We then reflected on how Jesus saves people from slavery to sin through his death and resurrection. What a joy to be able to share with the kids that if they trust in Jesus they will be freed from sin and reconciled to God. Another joy has been getting to know the students. It's been wonderful to share in the excitement of students as they take big steps in their own walk with God, deciding to publicly declare their faith in various ways. I also have the great privilege and opportunity to answer students' deep questions about life and God. Many questions give me wonderful opportunities to share more and more of the good news of Jesus. Though term 1 has been filled with challenges, praise God that he is at work in the lives of many making himself known.

PHCCEA moves to Generate

Who is Generate Ministries?

Generate Ministries supports local Scripture Boards like ours. They provide professional services and advice. They are a Christian organisation that was set up by the Baptist Union of NSW, Presbyterian Youth NSW, Youthworks (Anglican) and Scripture Union

[Generate website](#)

To learn more about Generate and Special Religious Education across New South Wales you are encouraged to go to the Generate website. You can subscribe to the Generate monthly newsletter.

In the article below Gav Poole, Chairperson of the Association explains the move to Generate.



After a long period of consultation the PHCCEA began a service agreement with Generate, 1 October 2018. This article explains the resulting changes to our association.

The reason for the change

PHCCCEA has struggled for volunteer time. The most onerous of this being the Treasurer. Last year Elizabeth Bree informed us that she was moving away and therefore could not continue in her capacity as Treasurer and Public Officer. We tried to replace her, but many thought the role was too onerous. We needed to simplify the role.

In addition to this, the amount of compliance has increased, and we are constantly under the watchful eye of opponents who would have us cease our ministry. Generate would ensure that we meet Department of Education guidelines and policies in terms of authorisation, curriculum, communication and liaison with the schools. They also help to ensure we comply with corporate and employment legislation.

Employment

With the service agreement in place, we would no longer employ teachers as this function would be taken over by Generate. We asked the teachers whether they would like to join Generate. Regardless, we would pay out our obligations to them like Long Service Leave. Peter Murphy (CTHS Teacher) decided to leave and Graham Castle (PHHS Teacher) joined Generate.

We then employed a new teacher to replace Peter Murphy. Erin Townsend was the successful candidate has got off to a great start.

The teachers are now employed by Generate Ministries and we pay monthly invoices to cover the costs of the teachers, on-costs and other administration. This reduces the administrative burden on us considerably. Rather than approximately 10 monthly payments, we now make one.

Who pays?

We do! Generate Ministries does not raise the support for us. It is still our responsibility to recruit supporters and raise the finances which are now used to pay the Generate invoices.

Due to using the Fringe Benefit Tax Exemption legislation, which is available to Ministry employees, we were able to reduce the gross pay to our teachers while maintaining their net pay. The cost savings have enabled us to cover the administrative costs making the whole exercise cost neutral and maintain teacher conditions.

It has however been a tough year for us and our cash reserves were as low as I have ever seen them. This was due to realising the Long Service Leave debt and making an advanced payment to Generate Ministries. We have now done this and

are looking forward to building up some reserves once again. This will depend mostly on a generous response to our end of year appeal.

Making Gifts

Supporters continue to make gifts the way we have always done it. The different methods are at the end of this newsletter. The funds will go into our bank account so that we can pay the Generate invoices.

What is the next step?

The next step would to become a Generate Ministries subcommittee. This would enable us to close the incorporation and bank account. When and if this happens, gifts would be directed toward Generate Ministries on our behalf.

If this happens a local subcommittee will continue to support the teachers, liaise with the schools and raise finances.

After 12 months we will assess the success of the merge and any benefits of changing to a full Generate sub-committee.

But in the meantime, the incorporation and bank accounts remain in place.

We are grateful our churches, members and supporters. This is a wonderful ministry that brings together local churches of all denominations. The Lord oversees our affairs and has answered in wonderful ways throughout the transition.

Gav Poole

Financial Position

Our reserves are currently very low. The Association has launched its annual appeal which has a target of \$130,00 in one off gifts.

Options for making a gift:

- **Direct Deposit**

Account Name: PHCCEA

Bank: Commonwealth Bank, Pennant Hills

BSB: 062 225

Account Number: 0090 3146

Email the treasurer with your tax receipt information

treasurer@phccea.org.au

- **Cheques or Credit Card** information, using the form below, to be mailed to: Pennant Hills Cherrybrook Christian Education Assoc.

P.O. Box 346

Pennant Hills 1715

Please debit my visa/mastercard for \$
Card Number Exp Date/..... CVC
Name on Credit Card
Signature

Gifts over \$2 are tax deductible.