

North NSW Conference

# Financial Report

---

August 2020  
Russell Halliday

Seventh-day  
Adventist Church™

*North New South Wales*





**Russell Halliday**  
Chief Financial Officer

Seventh-day Adventist Church –  
North New South Wales Conference

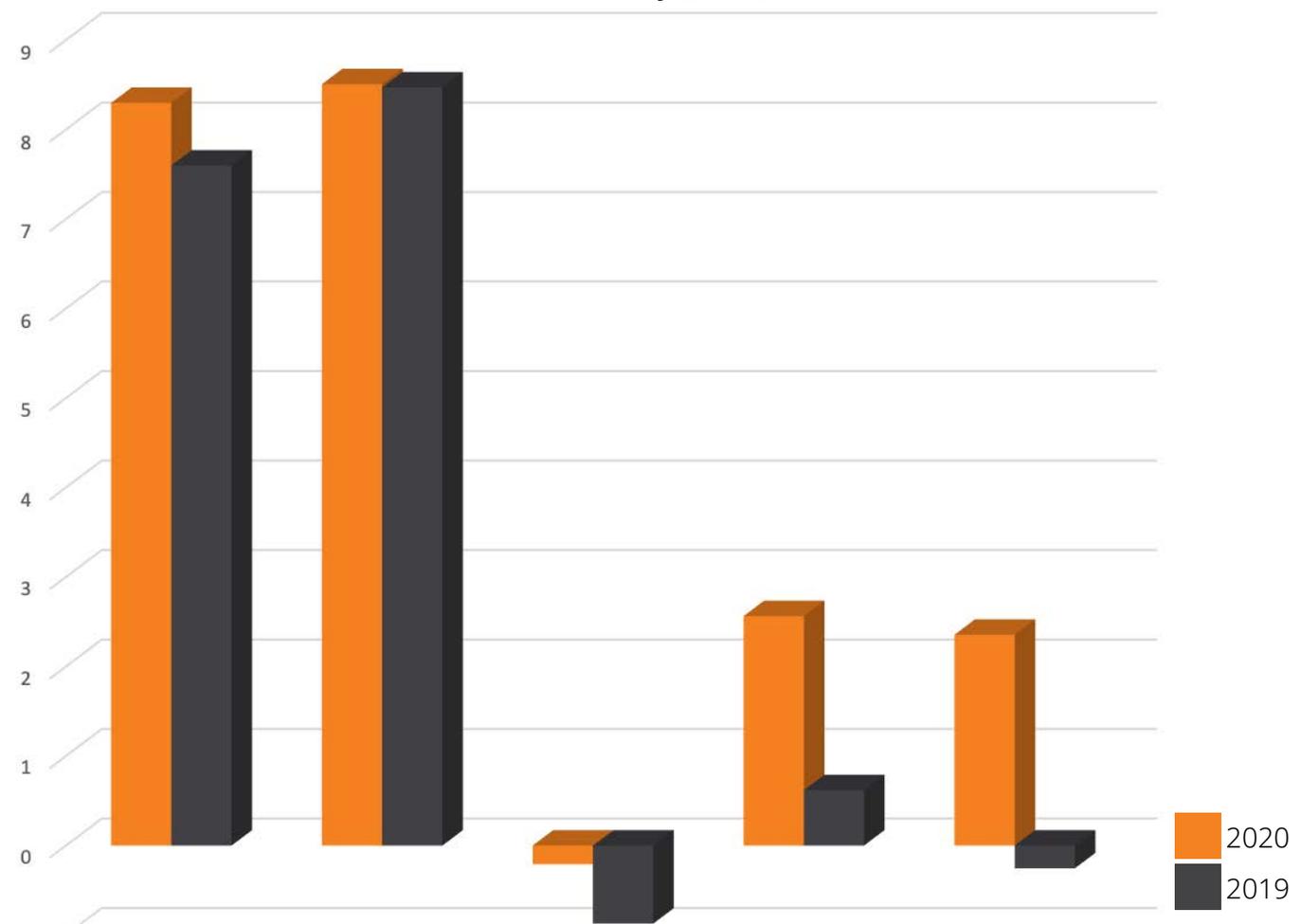
Wow, what a roller coaster of a year this turning out to be. We are hearing that there are many sections of the world church that are struggling financially through the Covid pandemic and inevitable negative economic impacts that will follow for years to come. We also understand that many of our North NSW church members are and will struggle as government support is progressively wound back over coming months and unemployment levels rise.

What we would like to do is pause right now, and thank God for His many daily blessings. We wish to sincerely thank our members who continue to faithfully return tithes and offerings to support mission within our conference.

### January – July 2020 Summary

The July 2020 financial statements disclose a surplus of \$2.3m. This is a \$2.6m improvement on the same period in 2019. An analysis of the January to July results reveals the following;

**Financial Summary (Jan – Jul 2020 \$m)**



	<i>Tithe (Retained by NNSW)</i>	<i>Tithe Related Expenses</i>	<i>Surplus (Deficit) from Tithe Related</i>	<i>Non Tithe Items</i>	<i>Surplus (Deficit)</i>
<b>2020</b>	8.298	8.507	(0.209)	2.564	2.355
<b>2019</b>	7.598	8.471	(0.873)	0.619	(0.254)

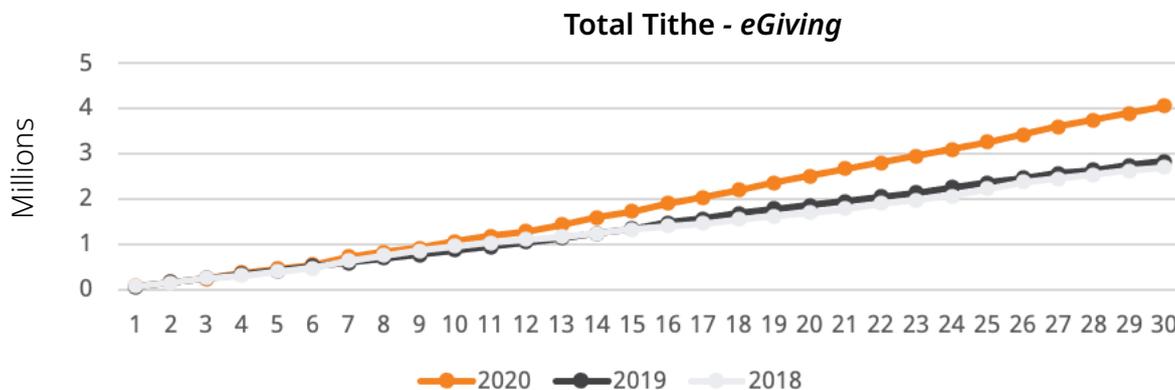


## Tithe

On the back of a surge in lump sum tithe receipts in June and July 2020 (up 31% and 17% respectively on the same month last year) our January to July tithe is tracking 9% above the corresponding period in 2019.

Seven of our top ten tithe paying churches in North NSW have recorded an increase in year to date tithe on the same period last year.

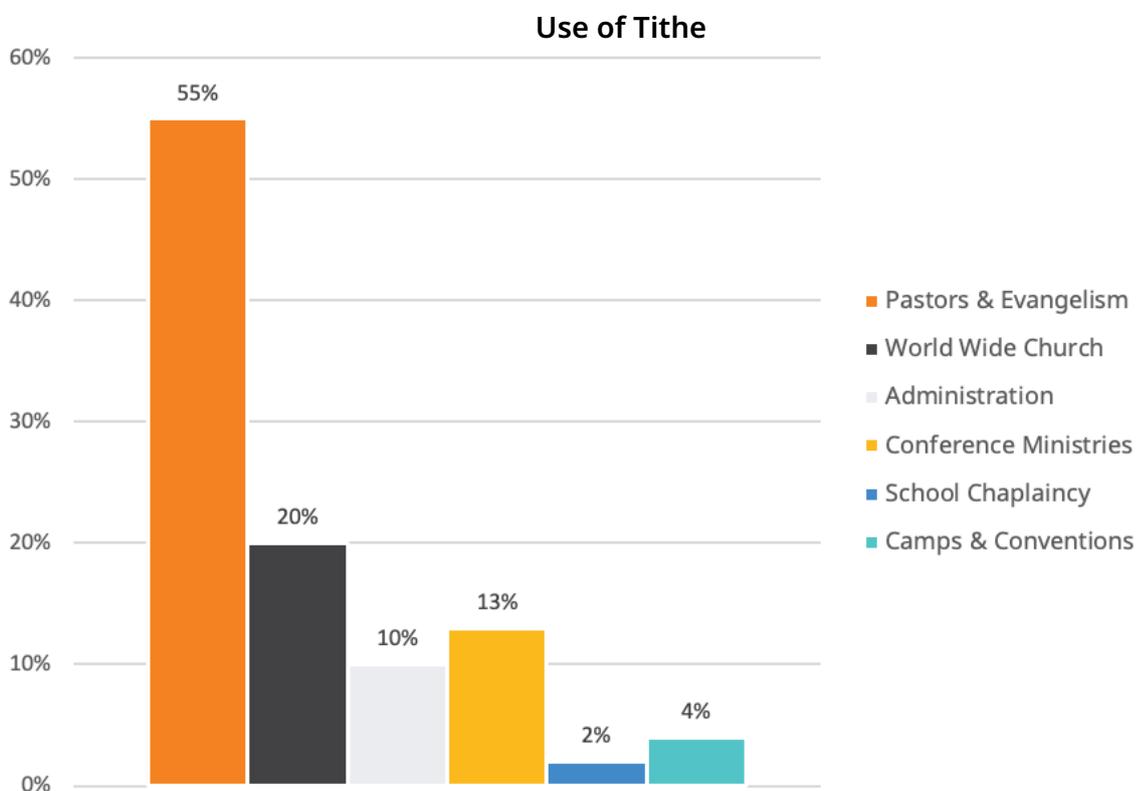
Not surprisingly, a significant shift has occurred this year in the increased use of electronic methods of giving such as eGiving ([www.egiving.org.au](http://www.egiving.org.au)). We have experienced a 43% increase in eGiving tithe receipts this year compared with the previous year as illustrated in the chart below;



The average number of eGiving donors appears to have now stabilised at around 533 per week throughout the Covid period compared with 306 per week for the equivalent period last year.

## Tithe Related Expenditure

Tithe related expenditure is tracking \$35k higher than the same period last year. Savings from cost reduction strategies are being offset by Covid related decline in campground revenues. A breakup of our tithe related expenditure in 2020 appears in the chart below;



Note that the percentages above add to 104% indicating that we have spent 100% of tithe received on mission and the additional tithe related expenditure has been funded from non tithe sources such as big camp appeal.



## Big Camp Appeal

We can report that, despite Covid concerns causing the cancellation of the physical big camp event this year, North NSW members still contributed \$349k to help spread the gospel. Whilst this is down \$194k on the 2019 big camp appeal which raised \$543k, we believe that given the unique circumstances, this is still an amazing result and give all the glory to God.

Examples of projects that will benefit from this year's appeal are bible workers support in local churches, Faith FM breakfast show, Adventist Community Service projects in local churches, Centres of Influence, children and young adult initiatives.

If you would like to make a donation to big camp appeal please do so through [www.egiving.org.au](http://www.egiving.org.au)

## Legacy Income

We have been blessed this year with \$567k from deceased estates for evangelism compared with zero for the same period last year. We have also received some significant tithe bequests which have been included in our year to date tithe numbers.

We pause to thank God for the many church members who contribute through their life and also make generous provision in their will to support mission. If you would like details on how to contribute to the church in your will, do not hesitate to contact Pr Rodney Woods on [RodneyWoods@adventist.org.au](mailto:RodneyWoods@adventist.org.au)

## Government Grants

Given the severe economic impact of the Covid shutdown on business and not for profit organisations, the federal government has made available a range of support grants subject to certain eligibility criteria. The North NSW conference has become eligible for the Cash Boost and Jobkeeper grant schemes and to date we have received \$1.6m from these sources.

These short term economic stimulus grants do not come with any adverse conditions with respect to freedom of conscience or religion and have been a great blessing in assisting us and many other Australian conferences in retaining our workforce throughout this phase of the pandemic. Local church paid staff performing roles such as cleaning, grounds and admin have also benefited from the grants. We pause to pray for wisdom and strength for our leaders at all levels of Government in Australia as they grapple with conflicting challenges around public health and the economy.

Finally, may Gods will be accomplished in your life as you continue to faithfully serve Him through giving.

## More Information

For more information on church finances in 2020 refer to the following series of reports.

*April 2020* <https://nsw.adventist.org.au/news/financial-report-april-2020/>

*June 2020* <https://nsw.adventist.org.au/news/financial-report-june-2020/>

*July 2020* <https://nsw.adventist.org.au/news/financial-report-july-2020/>

