

# NZACS The Whiteboard



## FROM THE CHAIR

Kia ora NZACS Whānau,

This week, I met with a number of pastors from Churches from where many of our families worship. It was very good to restart this annual event that we once held before the disruption that COVID was interrupted so many good practices. There were about 14 in the room, representing about six different churches, and the conversation was going well. That is until one of the pastors made the comment that “You should stick to education and let us do the Church bits”. Hmmm. It was definitely one of those ‘think carefully before you next speak’ moments.

It was quite early in our conversation, so I took care with explaining the heart of Christian education. The idea that within the education space, we would be remis to not help students understand that behind science we can see and appreciate God’s intention and creative design. That we are compelled to unpack themes in literature from a Biblically informed narrative. And we would fail in making the most of every opportunity if we did not expose our students to the beauty of culture and wellness that God gifted us as seen through the study of social sciences.

I took some time to explain that, as any student walks into a Christian School, they look to the big people to see what it looks like to be a ‘Christian’. And when the students see us living an authentic life as Christian before them, they then let us speak into their lives beyond the curriculum.

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## FROM THE CHAIR continued...

I explained to him that the concept that all our students come from Christian homes who value the scripture and attend Church every Sunday is not a concept based in reality. That while most of our families are from Christian homes, increasingly more of those families are 'too busy' for Church.

After more questions, more discussions and more time, the same pastor spoke up again. "Shaun, I love what you are doing, just keep doing that".

While I was a bit taken back by his first response, the discussion was great. The pastors left with a better understanding (for some a MUCH better understanding) about what it is we do at school. We prayed for each other and the ministries that we have, and agreed to commit to praying together more frequently.

It may seem an odd question, but do the pastors of the churches your school serves understand what you do? And importantly, do you commit to praying together for each other?

Term two is going to be an amazing term. Your new students and staff will be more settled, and I pray that you will fully experience the goodness of God as you serve Him in this important mahi.

I am looking forward to seeing you at the NZACS conference at KingsWay School. Please get your registrations in, we are already well over 400 attendees!

On behalf of the Exec,

**Shaun Brooker**  
**Chairperson, NZ Association for Christian Schools**  
**Principal, Hamilton Christian School**



The **NZACS AGM** will be held at **KingsWay School** on **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June**.

At the AGM there will be **1 (one)** place on the **NZACS Executive** up for **election**.

The elected candidate will join Shaun Brooker, Gavin Clark, Craig Utting and Hazel Warnes on the Executive.

Nominations for this position close on **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2025**.

Information about the role of the Executive, the election process, and **nomination forms** are available on our [website](#).

Candidates nominated are encouraged to submit a brief biographical summary & photo to the [secretary](#) **by Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2025** for inclusion with the notes that will be sent to members ahead of the elections.

# Flourishing in the Classroom NZACS Teachers' Conference 2025



**NZACS TEACHER'S CONFERENCE 2025**

*Flourishing*  
IN THE  
**CLASSROOM**

PSALM 115:74

**Keynote Speakers**

 **Dr Lynn Swaner**  
CEO Cardus USA

 **Mark Steyn**  
CEO CEN Australia

 **Dan Paterson**  
Founder of Questioning Christianity

**START:** Thursday 26 June (6pm)  
**FINISH:** Saturday 28 June (12.15pm)  
**COST:** \$250  
**VENUE:** KingsWay School  
100 Jelas Road, Red Beach,  
Auckland

 **REGISTER HERE**



**30** days left to register

**56** days before the conference.

**500** expected delegates.

Over **30** workshops.

To register: Use the QR Code to register or the  
**Rego Link.**

Registrations close on:

**Friday 30th May 2025**

We have **limited billeting offers** to help save on accommodation costs and allow more teachers to attend. Please state on your registration form whether this interests you, or contact: [Cynthia.Venter@kingsway.school.nz](mailto:Cynthia.Venter@kingsway.school.nz)

If your school **yet to register** any teachers, someone will contact your school early this term to confirm the number of attendees.

A limited **PD support fund** is available to support schools with the **cost of registration** if, for financial reasons, they have not yet registered any teachers. Please [contact the secretary](#) for a **PD Support Application Form** if your school may benefit from this fund. Applications for assistance will close on **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May**.

Kind regards,  
The NZACS Conference Steering Committee & Executive



## SHOWCASING the Exec

*Each edition of The Whiteboard has a brief bio on an Executive member, to help you get to know those serving the Association.*

Hazel Warnes | Head of School | Bethlehem College Chapman

My husband Jeremy & I live with our sons Elijah and Israel in Rotorua, a city we love! Full of exquisite natural beauty & cultural richness, we are blessed to be part of this community. We love to walk the forest racks, spend lazy days on the lakes skiing & wakeboarding & generally enjoying making memories together. As a whānau, we have been involved with Chapman College since its foundation in 2010, & its subsequent becoming a 'satellite' of Bethlehem College in 2018. Our sons both attended Chapman & later Bethlehem College where they had the privilege of the investment & encouragement of kaimahi like you who are committed to Jesus. As Head of the BC Chapman Kura, I am blessed to serve our Bethlehem College Rotorua & Tauranga communities with wonderful faith-filled colleagues and now to serve a member of the Exec.

I was in Church one morning when a lady I didn't know came and spoke to me about going to a 'Promised Land'. Just a few weeks earlier, a wonderful godly mentor had shared with me that she believed my call to ministry was related to children. For some reason at the time, I thought there were more significant ministries to be part of as I was looking over the fence at other options such as law & medicine. A year later, God called me very clearly out of Auckland and into Christian Education in Tauranga where I knew no one. Who would have thought that I would be involved with what I would have 12 months earlier described as 'taking the salt out of the world and creating a holy huddle'? And who would have thought that when I spoke these words in my interview for a teaching position at Bethlehem College that the Interview panel would have seen past my lack of understanding of Christian Education & chosen me to journey a new ministry in Tauranga. Through pioneering with visionary leaders like Graham Preston & Marion Sanders, God grew me in ways that I could never have imagined. My gratitude for their love, faith, focus, devotion & their humility in passionately serving Jesus and staying on course through the spiritual battle that Kingdom ministry involves, has been deeply impacting in my life. I honour them for their tireless & unwavering love for discipling & equipping others to follow Him.



Years later, our Lord opened the door for the establishment of another Chrisitan kura in Rotorua and I was once again privileged to journey closely with Graham and Vicky Preston. To have had not one but two opportunities to see Christ-centred education founded has been a privilege I continue to marvel at. This wonderful generation of tamariki and rangatahi face huge challenges that are often tsunami sized. I believe passionately in Christ-centred education where the Truth can be known as we open God's Word and teach from a Christian Worldview, where our ākonga can KNOW the Truth that sets them free. When I read some of the educational rhetoric 'Every child matters', and 'No child left behind', I am freshly motivated to pursue the discipleship command that Jesus gave His disciples. Transformed lives is His work, it's the inner change, His fruit. Just like you, that's my prayer as we seek to humbly & authentically live as His followers, called to serve Him at such a time as this.

God in His grace, has allowed me to be part of His Kingdom purposes, of loving and equipping those entrusted to our care, of healing and justice neither through medicine or law, but by His might and His power at work in individual lives, in our kura communities and our nation. We still live in a 'Promised Land' where HE provides sufficient grace for each day, & where HIS presence, power & purposes prevail, How amazing, wonderful, good, and faithful is HE!



# The Pursuit of Christian Education: Overflow and the not so Inspiring Spanish Teacher

By Shaun Brooker

Principal, Hamilton Christian School

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*The NZACS Executive invites association members to contribute articles and reflections to **The Whiteboard** publication. The purpose of such articles is to promote thought and information for other association members. The thoughts and position of the contributions reflect the beliefs of the author and not necessarily the beliefs of the executive.*

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In my first few years of teaching, I taught Spanish. I was not a good Spanish teacher, and my students knew it. It was the kind of teaching where the teacher said things and students did activities, but learning was minimal.

I could not speak Spanish. I had never been to Spain or any Spanish-speaking countries. I did not know or understand the Spanish culture and I could not even name a football player from Spain. However, I had a book and a cassette that was provided by my school and the day before I taught a lesson, I positioned the tape to the correct 'count' on the tape deck and listened to the lesson I would lead the next day and go through the teaching guide. I was not an inspiring teacher of Spanish.

All things 'Spanish' occurred during the half-hour compulsory 'second language learning' time that my students were required to participate in. They were visually represented on a small corner classroom display with a few Spanish words and their English equivalents. I do not believe any of my students fell in love with the Spanish language or culture because of my feeble, uncharismatic attempt to 'do' the compulsory Spanish lessons.

It is easy to imagine a better Spanish teacher.

Imagine a teacher who LOVES the Spanish culture and language. Someone passionate and experienced with fiesta and siesta. Someone who oozes all that is Spanish. It is their overflow. It is a discharge from the heart, and not just a transaction from the brain. In their class, not only will they have a passion-driven half-hour compulsory lesson where the language is brought to life, but the whole class will be illuminated through a Spanish lens. English words with Spanish origins will be presented with pride, that they come from the great land of Spain and not only have an English meaning, but that they mean so much more in Spanish. Seasons of Fiesta will be brought to life in the class, and food will be an essential part of the Spanish saturated environment.

There is a significant difference between teaching something and bringing something to life in the classroom.

In Christian education, there are both inspiring and uninspiring Spanish teachers, but they are teaching something that has an eternal significance. All teachers, in fact, all 'big' people in Christian schools, model through action and word what it means to live sold out for Christ, what it means to be a Christian, and how the Bible, prayer, forgiveness and more are central to that journey.

A teacher in a Christian school does not need to hold a degree in divinity, but they need love and overflow all that it is to be Christian. As the inspiring Spanish teacher saturates their classroom with all things Spanish, the teacher in a Christian School must saturate their classroom with who God is, and His Word should always be on our tongue. All that we teach should be marinated in who He is and who He has created us to be.

So how does a teacher overflow? It begins with filling. Filling our lives with all He is. And there is no substitute for a Christian teacher spending time in prayer and His Word.

Here are some starter sentences that could help release the overflow of who God is and what we are learning in His Word to our students...

- Before we start today, I have to share this verse I read this morning with you all....
- Last night, when I was praying for this class, I had a real sense that...
- I have been thinking about [insert Biblical character name] recently and it reminds me to...
- Isn't it interesting that this is also what the Bible has been telling us for years?
- In our school, one of the Scriptures they memorise is John 3:30, 'He must increase, and I must decrease'... and I have been thinking about that lately...

In Christian education, our calling is not fulfilled in just telling our students about the goodness of God, but in modelling a life sold out to all He is and all He has called us to be. Overflow is the natural consequence of all we fill ourselves with. Overflow is authentic, intentional and spontaneous. Overflow reassures and models to students that prayer and the Scriptures are relevant and important. Overflow results in students wanting to mimic the teacher's behaviour.

There is a difference between a teacher who teaches in a Christian School and a Christian educator; overflow is a big part of that difference.

So, if overflow is important in Christian education and if overflow is a consequence of continuous filling, how are you filling your life with the goodness of God?

Blessings for your pursuit of authentic and intentional Christian Education.

Shaun



## LIFE ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

The NZACS Executive may nominate for free Life Associate Membership persons who have sacrificially served member schools. Typically, it is awarded to those who have served more than one school. If you know of someone who would be a suitable candidate, please contact the Executive via [secretary@nzacs.nz](mailto:secretary@nzacs.nz).

## ROBUST DISCUSSION

Do you (or does someone you know) have an area of passion or expertise that you would like to share, or around which you would like to encourage robust, helpful debate?

We are keen to have members contribute articles or viewpoints.

If you have a topic you would like to see some discussion around, or a viewpoint you would like to share, please contact: [secretary@nzacs.nz](mailto:secretary@nzacs.nz)

\$100 per article will be paid for selected articles. Selection is at the NZACS chairperson's discretion. The recommended article length is 600-700 words

## VACANCIES

A reminder to check the **VACANCIES PAGE** on our website.  
A number of positions need to be filled within our network.  
Please prayerfully pass these on.



## NZACS WEBSITE

sponsored by

[www.rocketspark.com/nz/](http://www.rocketspark.com/nz/)  
[www.creationfilms.com](http://www.creationfilms.com)



Check out our [NZACS FACEBOOK PAGE](#) to keep connected to our community, for conversation & discussion points, ideas & news and vacancies. Don't forget to Like, Follow & Share



## NZACS RESOURCES

Our **RESOURCES** site is up and running and we would love for you to make use of all that is available. Check it out! <https://www.resources.nzacs.nz/user/>

*[This is a password protected site, so please ensure you sign up to gain access, as this will be verified with your school/organisation.]*

### CATEGORIES

- Christian Teacher Development
- Inclusive Education – Classroom
- Leadership Development
- Service & Mission
- Bicultural Practice
- Student Wellbeing
- Curriculum
- NZACS – Conference Key Note Speakers
- University Courses
- Links to other Organisations



## Resources

**Resources for your staff, leaders & teachers**



# Media Resources

## Promotional Videos

Available for you to use in the promotion of Christian Education to your community and beyond. There are bite size social media clips, or longer length videos available to choose from.

### TEACHER VIDEO



<https://vimeo.com/648419275>

### STUDENT PROMO



<https://vimeo.com/651436170>



## Digital Brochure

### WELCOME TO CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Designed to encourage parents to think about key precepts underlying Christian Education.

## Other Resources



### INFOODLE APP

Have you seen the Infoodle APP?

This will give you quick access to the contacts of other Christian Schools, our latest newsletter, and other items – all from the comfort of your phone/device.

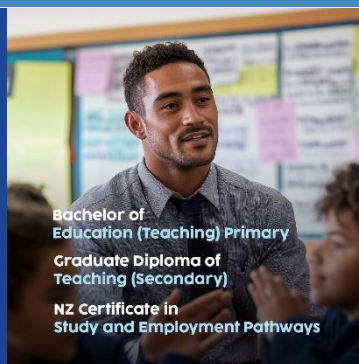
We can also send you push notifications of important events such as conferences, meetings, etc.

IT IS FREE! Download on the App Store or get it on Google Play.

Connect to [nzacs] New Zealand Association for Christian Schools



## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT







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AN EVENING WITH  
DR LYNN SWANER

## WHAT REALLY MATTERS IN SCHOOLS?



**Schools have always been busy places, but today's educators and students alike are under tremendous pressure.**

Educators of all kinds are invited to join us as we hear from Dr. Lynn Swaner, as she shares research-backed answers to questions around how we can genuinely contribute to the holistic flourishing of students and adults.

**25 June | 7-9pm**

**Laidlaw College  
Henderson Campus  
3 Smythe Road,  
Henderson**



**GET YOUR TICKETS  
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[www.laidlaw.ac.nz](http://www.laidlaw.ac.nz)

0800 999 777  



Shining Lights Trust and Big Book Publishing have some amazing resources available for schools. Check out their websites and get in touch, they'd love to help you be a shining light in your community.

Reasons for Faith – [WhyChristiansBelieve.nz](https://www.whychristiansbelieve.nz) | NZ Bicultural History – [BigBook.nz](https://www.bigbook.nz)

## Opportunities

### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

**NZACS: Teachers' Conference – Jun 26-28, 2025 | Auckland**

[Registration Link](#)

**NZACS: Leaders' Conference – 28-30 May, 2026 | Queenstown**

**Upcoming conferences available with our Partner Organisations**

<b>CEN: Christian Education National (Aus)</b>	Aug 20-22, 2025
Christian Schools Conference	Melbourne

<b>ACS: Associated Christian Schools (Aus)</b>	Jul 21-22
ACS Leadership Summit	Gold Coast

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to up-skill their staff in leadership development.  
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# NZACS SPONSORS Continued

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## BRONZE SPONSOR

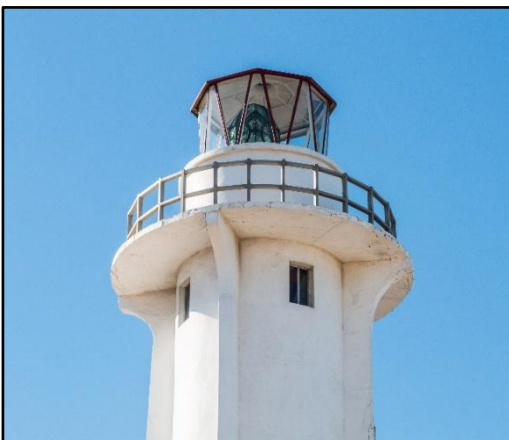


[www.educatedfurniture.co.nz](http://www.educatedfurniture.co.nz)

Educated Furniture has over 26 years' extensive furniture experience, providing the perfect balance of quality and value, along with innovative solutions for today's schools.

We cover all areas of the school; classroom, ILE, staffrooms, libraries and other specialist areas.

If you are aware of any businesses who would be interested in sponsoring NZACS, please contact the Executive via [secretary@nzacs.nz](mailto:secretary@nzacs.nz)



Jesus said:

"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

Matthew 5:14-16





## Term 2, 2025 PRAYER DIARY

### *Week starting Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April*

#### **NZACS 2025 TEACHERS' CONFERENCE TEAM**

##### **Praise Point:**

- Thank the Lord for the team at KingsWay School who are doing the mahi ahead of the teachers' conference.

##### **Prayer Requests:**

- Please pray for wisdom and strength for those involved in preparing for the conference – those on the ground at KingsWay School, as well as the keynote and workshop presenters – as they balance this work with their school leadership, teaching and family responsibilities.

### *Week starting Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May*

#### **RANGIORA NEW LIFE SCHOOL (Y1-13, 473 students)**

##### **Praise Point:**

- We thank God for the professional development opportunities our staff are engaged in, particularly in NCEA, literacy, and numeracy. We are seeing the fruit of these efforts as our students grow and excel across all levels.

##### **Prayer Requests:**

- Please pray for wisdom and provision as we navigate staffing needs and secure adequate teaching spaces to accommodate the recently granted roll increase of 100 students.
- Lift up in prayer the **Rite Journey** program, a character development initiative we are introducing this year for our Year 10 students. May it deeply impact their faith, identity, and personal growth.



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## *Week starting Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May*

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### **AMANA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL (MOSGIEL, Y1-13)**

#### **Praise Point:**

- New Principal Appointed - Mrs Jana Magens from Germany
- Onsite and Distance Learning with teacher support
- Thankful for local church communities and their support

#### **Prayer Request:**

- Prayer for new Principal, Mrs Jana Magens
- Prayer for new students/families both locally and via Distance Learning
- Prayer for staff and children



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## *Week starting Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May*

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### **TYNDALE PARK SCHOOL (Y1-13, 139 students)**

#### **Praise Point:**

- We are seeing clear signs of a caring culture at our school, where students are thriving academically and in their Christian character development
- We thank God for a successful Athletics Day, which brought together students, staff, parents, and friends of the school at Lloyd Ellesmere Park. It was an inspiring day filled with competition in various track and field events after several years of being unable to hold this event.

#### **Prayer Request:**

- Pray for God to send the right staff members to step into roles as our retiring staff transition
- Pray for God's guidance as we implement our restructured high school programme
- Pray that the right families, who are fully committed to our vision and mission, will join our school.





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## *Week starting Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May*

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### **RENEW SCHOOL (Y1-13, 214 students)**

#### **Praise Point:**

- The new families God has brought to the school.
- The staff members God has blessed us with for 2025 and beyond, as some faithful staff members answered God's call to new ministry opportunities at the end of 2024.
- The promise that God's Word shall not return to Him empty, but it shall accomplish that which He purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which He sent it (Isaiah 55:11). We can see God at work in our community, by the Holy Spirit, through His Word.

#### **Prayer Request:**

- With our proprietor for the resources to provide additional, and adapt, present teaching spaces for the students God has brought to our school.
- That our school will be a place where students will be transformed by the renewal of their minds, that by testing they may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect (Romans 12:2). We need wisdom and creativity to accomplish this with God's help in a complicated cultural moment.
- A few extra students for the year levels where we have spaces left.



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## *Week starting Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June*

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### **FAITH CITY SCHOOL (Y1-8, 156 students)**

#### **Praise Point:**

- Smooth transition of new staff.
- Upgrade of our buildings.
- A productive PTA team with positive initiatives as we look at upgrading our playground.
- Supportive whānau and successful school events.

#### **Prayer Request:**

- Staff & student well-being.



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## Week starting Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June

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### HILLVIEW CHRISTIAN SCHOOL (Y1-10, 535 students)

#### Praise Points:

- For our Heavenly Father continuing to be faithfully present.
- For being able to start our Pasifika Polyfest group and the blessed experience it was.
- For the generosity of our parents to provide new playgrounds.
- For the kindness of parents contributing towards our benevolent fund to help other parents who are struggling financially.

#### Prayer Requests:

- For us to be wise as we annually consider what we need to remove in our school that may be hindering
- Spiritual formation to take place in and through our pupils.
- For being a strong light within our local community as we continue to interact and engage with our state colleagues.



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## Week starting Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June

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### LOOKING FORWARD TO 2026

#### Prayer Request:

- Prayer for Boards, Proprietors and Senior Leadership Teams as they begin to prepare for 2026.
- Pray that the Lord will continue to raise up labourers for the harvest field in our Christian schools.

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## Week starting Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> June

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### NZACS 2025 TEACHERS' CONFERENCE

#### Praise Point:

- Thanks for the team at KingsWay School whose mahi has made the conference possible.

#### Prayer Request:

- Safe travel to and from the conference for delegates, sponsors, exhibitors and speakers.
- For delegates to be refreshed, encouraged and inspired through keynote sessions, workshops and networking opportunities.



Website:  
[www.nzacs.nz](http://www.nzacs.nz)



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+64 27 604 0064



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[secretary@nzacs.nz](mailto:secretary@nzacs.nz)



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