

NORTH COAST ANGLICAN

Embracing the spirit of Christ in Our Time

April May 2018 | Issue No 2



Goodbye, Bishop Sarah

It was through tears and well-wishes that the Diocese of Grafton said goodbye to Bishop Sarah and Rev'd Ian Chaplain at a special service of Laying up the Pastoral Staff at Christ Church Cathedral on March 3 2018.

It was a full Cathedral as many travelled far and wide to farewell and honour a leader who led the diocese

with compassion and integrity through what has been a tumultuous time for the Diocese.

Archdeacon Sally Miller, representing the Clergy of the Diocese, spoke of a shepherd who encouraged, believed and trusted the clergy to share the good news.

"To say that our Diocese was feeling embattled

four years ago is almost an understatement – the Royal Commission, financial concerns, and the reality of life and economics in our regions could have entirely overwhelmed us, however this has not been the case.

"As clergy, you reminded us of our core business, of the good news we have to share.

"You helped us to find words

of repentance, and equally importantly, you have encouraged us to step up, to move on from the past having learnt from the pain, through legislation, through prayer – may we never go there again. Thank you for modelling for us the way of God's grace in hard times.

"It is not easy to be a risk taker, some of us love that buzz, but

for others it is scary, unsettling. I suspect as a Bishop it takes an inordinate amount of courage to ask that of your clergy. Yet you have asked this of us, you have encouraged us to try, to explore and to dream. You have released us to reshape our parishes, our church life and trusted us to 'have a go'.

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FROM THE DIOCESAN ADMINISTRATOR

Called to be Generous



"Sustain in me a generous Spirit, O God" (Ps 51:12).

Over the past few months I have had endless opportunities to witness the generosity of Spirit displayed in people across the Diocese as they have responded to the news of Bishop Sarah and Ian's retirement. Alongside a very real and genuine feeling of grief, many people have also been able to express deep feelings of love and of

profound thankfulness for Bishop Sarah and Ian's time and ministry with us. Clergy and Lay across the Diocese have certainly displayed a generosity of Spirit over these past few months.

In a recent email that I received from Bishop Sarah she wrote: *"Ian and I were astonished and humbled by the Diocese's generosity. We do not yet know exactly how we will use the money but it will certainly make a big difference as we make the adjustments that come with retiring a little earlier than we had planned. Could you please pass on our deep gratitude? Despite the many challenges of the last four years, we have been so richly blessed by our time in the Diocese and by the people we have been privileged to work with. May the Diocese be richly blessed in the future."* In these few words from Bishop Sarah I am reminded again of the

generosity of Spirit that both Bishop Sarah and Ian have modelled for us as a Diocese.

I too have experienced something of this generosity of Spirit as people from across the Diocese have taken the time to remind me that they are praying for my husband Mark and me during this time of transition. I especially experienced a generosity of Spirit when I chaired my first Synod, the Discernment Synod in February. Whilst I kept asking members of Synod for a "leave of absence" instead of "leave of Synod", members of Synod blessed me with a generosity of Spirit as they lovingly kept reminding me of the correct terminology. As a result of their generosity I survived Synod and so did they!

It seems to me that generosity and generosity of Spirit is an essential characteristic of a healthy Christian community.

It is a state of being as the Psalmist reminds us. In the Gospels there are countless stories of the generosity of Jesus, and of his followers, examples that we are invited to embrace and follow. Thus I believe that the Community of the Church is called to be generous as God is generous, and that generosity should be evident in all aspects of our lives.

When communities of faith lose sight of a God who gives extravagantly, distrust, suspicion, quickness to judge, contempt, intolerance, anger and indignation creeps in and causes a breakdown in generosity of Spirit. They forget that central to their calling is to be generous as God is generous.

People will not seek to join communities that are rife with distrust, contempt, anger and indignation. Whereas there

is more likelihood of people joining communities that are slow to judge others, are filled with warmth and compassion, communities that express care and respect for every individual.

I hope and pray that the Spirit of generosity will continue to be evident in the lives of people and in their faith communities across the Diocese during this time of transition. I hope and pray that our communities of faith will be keen to model the generosity of Christ and Christ's love for all people. I also hope and pray that when the time comes for us to welcome a new Bishop to exercise ministry amongst us and with us, we will be able to extend to them a true Spirit of generosity, one that is based upon the generosity of God.

Diocesan Administrator
The Venerable Gail Hagon

Regions Gather to Farewell Bishop Sarah and Rev'd Ian

In the weeks leading up to Bishop Sarah's service of Laying up the Pastoral Staff, the regions of the Diocese were given the opportunity to say their final goodbyes to Bishop Sarah and Rev'd Ian.

The Southern and Central regions of the diocese came together on February 17 at St John's, Coffs Harbour.

Close to 100 people attended the event to celebrate the ministry of Bishop Sarah and

Rev'd Ian and shared stories of their time with them. They both will be dearly missed.

A traditional service to farewell Bishop Sarah and Rev'd Ian was held at St Thomas' church, Port Macquarie on February 18. The service also saw Margery and Ned confirmed and was followed by a farewell lunch.

Members of Wauchope Parish also attended and enjoyed a lunch together to give thanks for the ministry of Bishop

Sarah and Rev'd Ian.

At the close of the confirmation service Bishop Sarah received a standing ovation from the people of Port Macquarie for her leadership and care for the people of the Grafton diocese. Bishop Sarah received flowers and Rev'd Ian a bottle of red wine.

On one of the wettest Saturdays we have seen in many years, the people from the Northern Region gathered

at Emmanuel Anglican College, Ballina on February 24 to share lunch and conversation with Bishop Sarah and Rev'd Ian before their retirement the following Saturday.

The gathering followed the Licensed Lay Minister Formation Day where people from the many different Ministry Units arrived with a variety of food.

It was designed to be a very relaxed and informal gathering

as Bishop Sarah wanted people to have an opportunity to mingle and chat, especially those who were unable to attend the Laying up of the Pastoral Staff service at the Cathedral.

There were no speeches, just friendly conversation which allowed people to say their personal farewells to both Bishop Sarah and Rev'd Ian.



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Diocese Farewells Courageous and Nurturing Shepherd

Continued From Page 1

"In both words and action you have challenged and upheld us, and perhaps the most wonderful of all – you have trusted us."

Archdeacon Sally thanked Bishop Sarah for "leading in the saddle" with a spirit of hope.

"What a difference four years can make – with your timely leadership we have moved from struggling to breathe, to surviving, to now – looking for new ways. Amazing, wonderful, and through God's gift of you – the right person for the right time," she said.

Likening the Clergy of Grafton to Bertie Botts Every-Flavour Beans from *Harry Potter*, with a full range of personalities, she said, "We, the clergy of the Diocese of Grafton are something of an odd bunch – some of us are much sweeter than others, some are mild, some quite tart! Yet, under your leadership you have sought to nurture and appreciate every one of those flavours."

"Thank you for allowing us to know you. Thank you for taking the time to know us, our families, our pets... and I do apologise for the over friendly nature of the Miller family pets."

"Thank you for having us in your home, for your hospitality to us all – and how could I name this without thanking Ian as well – Ian you have so generously fed and loved us all, you have quietly encouraged us (yes, many of us have noticed that you often have a timely word for us), you have laughed with us, and occasionally at us!"

Canon John Bryen, who spoke on behalf of the Lay people, shared the hallmark of Bishop



Bishop Sarah delivering her sermon

Sarah's leadership with the congregation.

"We quickly realised we had a Bishop who had a heart for the gospel and a heart for people. We all became aware of your outstanding communication skills and people skills immediately we met you. Your capacity to easily move among the people of the Diocese, remembering their names and their stories showed a willingness to listen and help people feel at ease in your company. This has empowered us to be involved and share with you our hopes and dreams, our frustrations and disappointments knowing you would understand and work with us whether that be individually or in our various, groups, committees and organisations," he said.

"We have faced many challenges together. Your calmness in leading us through the challenges has given us confidence. When faced with the financial challenges arising from Professional Standards, many would have directed parishes and ministry units to sell properties. Instead you decided to take a far more pastoral approach and visited each parish, meeting with Parish Councils to work with them, to empower them, to make decisions in the context of their local ministry and mission. This is just one example of collaborative ministry at its best."

"You have brought a very high level of management skills that have allowed us to work to put in place the framework, policies and processes to ensure good

governance with best practice principles and consistency of approach. Your expertise and experience has empowered others to continue this work. I don't think many bishops would volunteer to rewrite an ordinance during their holidays!

"As Bishop you modelled exemplary leadership in issues relating to child protection, the North Coast Children's Home, the Royal Commission and the Appellate Tribunal. Your empathy and compassion greatly assisted in the healing process. We recognised, as Bishop, you were prepared to not only be well briefed in the legal aspects and correct procedures, but to recognise the impact on all those involved and therefore the pastoral support that was

necessary and will continue to be so."

John shared an admiration for Bishop Sarah's transformational and collaborative leadership that has empowered the diocese on their growth journey, and thanked Bishop Sarah and Rev'd Ian on behalf of the laity of the diocese.

"On behalf of the laity of the Diocese I give thanks to God that God chose you and Ian to be part of our Diocesan family."

"Yes many of us were a little disappointed when we heard of your resignation but the contributions you have both made in the four years has been immense. Today is a time of celebration of your ministries with us. We pray God's blessing as you transition to retirement in whatever form that may take. You will always have a special place in our hearts and now the history of our Diocese."

Mr Chris Gulaptis, the Member for Clarence, and Archbishop Glenn Davies also thanked Bishop Sarah and Ian for their contribution to the diocese.

Bishop Sarah was consecrated and installed as the 11th Bishop of Grafton on March 1, 2014 in what was a historic moment for the Anglican Church. Bishop Sarah became the first woman in Australia to lead a diocese in what she described as a "breaking through the stained glass ceiling" moment for women in the church. Bishop Sarah gave notice of her retirement on November 3, 2017.

From March 4, 2018 the Diocesan Archdeacon, Gail Hagon, will be the Administrator of the Diocese.



Bishop Sarah concluding her ministry



Archdeacon Sally Miller



Archbishop Glenn Davies



Canon John Bryen

Grafton Welcomes New Dean

Cathedral, City and Diocese came together at Christ Church Cathedral on February 2 for the installation of the Very Rev'd Greg Jenks as the 8th Dean of Grafton.

After returning to Australia exactly one year earlier, following his time as Dean at St George's College in Jerusalem, Dr Jenks had spent six months as the locum at Byron Bay. Although he had commenced as Acting Dean in mid-September, the installation had been delayed two or three times due to surgery for an aggressive cancer that have been diagnosed after he was chosen to serve as Dean.

After all these delays there was a palpable air of excitement as the new Dean was finally installed in the Cathedral and also commissioned as the Rector of the Parish of Grafton.

Speaking in response to speeches of welcome from the civic community, the Diocese, the Chapter and the Parish, Dean Jenks outlined his vision

for the Cathedral:

"As a Cathedral Parish we are first of all a community of people called together as followers of Jesus. Tonight we reaffirm our commitment to learn and to practise what Jesus has taught us about living as a colony of God's Kingdom here in this place and at this time.

"As a Cathedral we serve the wider diocesan community. I invite the prayers of each ministry unit across the Diocese, as we seek to discern how best to make the spiritual and cultural resources of this place more available to you in your own context.

"As a Cathedral we seek to be a place of pilgrimage and prayer for all people of faith, for people of all faiths, and those who do not claim any faith. Our doors are open, our hearts are open, and our minds are open to insights and challenges emerging from our ever expanding knowledge, our evolving social contexts,



and the impact of new technologies.

"As a Cathedral we are a place where the civic community gathers to celebrate our shared life as a city. Here we mark

times of tragedy and loss, and here we affirm our unique local character and our many successes as a city.

"Finally, as a Cathedral we are a place that affirms hope. As

a traditional place of asylum and sanctuary, we speak truth to power, and we speak peace-shalom-salaam to those without hope or power."

New Cathedral Canons

There is a story that during the First World War an Ottoman Army Officer arrived at the gates of St George's Cathedral in Jerusalem, and demanded that the Bishop hand over the Cathedral Canons! Category error.

The Canons of the Cathedral are among our best assets for making an impact for Christ in our region. We might even joke about them being 'big shots' in the Church. But they are not weapons of war, they are people with a passion for mission and a responsibility for the oversight of the Cathedral.

The Cathedral recently welcomed a new set of Canons, following a major restructure of the Governance Ordinance's requirements for the Cathedral Chapter at the 2016 Synod. Under the changes made at that time, a new set of Canons were elected and appointed

following the 2017 Synod, and they were commissioned as part of the installation service for the new Dean on February 2.

One Lay Canon is yet to be appointed by the incoming Bishop, but the other seven Canons are: Lee Archinal, John Barrett, John Bryen, Judy Edwards, Zoe Everingham, Terry Shorten, and Matthew Smedley.

As she prepared to commission the seven new Canons, Bishop Sarah Macneil described their role as follows:

"The role of a Canon, together with other members of the Chapter, is to assist the Dean in discerning the mission of the Cathedral within the Diocese, the City and the wider community on the Northern Rivers. They will be guided in this by the vision and values of the Diocese, seeking to discern



how best the Cathedral can contribute to the mission and ministry of every ministry unit within the Diocese."

Please give thanks for the ministry of the Cathedral Chapter, and for the willingness of these people from across

the Diocese to assist in making the Cathedral a vibrant witness to the good news of God in Christ.

Soul Survivor Serves



Soul Survivor NSW/ACT was born out of a passion to provide a base for youth to experience opportunities for worship, intimacy with God, using the gifts of the Spirit and practical servant-evangelism. Beginning in 2000, now a full-time ministry run by a core team in Sydney and Canberra. Activities include regional events, servant evangelism projects and training and the annual conference. This year's conference is in Coffs Harbour, April 23-28.

Northern Beaches Anglicans are linking up with Soul Survivor to provide 200 of the estimated 400 youth participants with insights into local ministry and the opportunity to serve our community.

A different team of 50 teenagers each day will visit Northern Beaches Anglican. Hearing stories of local ministry challenges and initiatives, sharing in a BBQ lunch, working on practical projects at each of the four public primary schools during the afternoon

before enjoying a walk and beach games on Woopi (aka Woolgoolga) beach prior to heading back to their base in Coffs Harbour.

Each of the schools are enthusiastically looking forward to jobs that never seem to get done being completed by energetic, focused teenagers keen to serve. Northern Beaches Anglicans values the role of our local schools and the opportunity to serve them through the servant ministry of Soul Survivors.

Discernment Synod and Bishop Appointment Board Update

By Archdeacon Gail Hagon, Chair of the Bishop Appointment Board

Members of Synod came together for our Diocesan Discernment Synod on February 4. This gathering of Synod had two main purposes: (1) To determine the qualities, characteristics and skills desired of a new Bishop; and (2) To elect members of a Bishop Appointment Board.

Our gathering began with a Discernment Eucharist, which was held in Christ Church Cathedral. During this service there were two key areas of focus: (1) the importance of prayer, and (2) the work of Discernment. These two key areas of focus remained a constant theme throughout our Discernment Synod.

Synods are never without their hiccups and this one was no exception. At very late notice our consultant, Mr Phillip Bonser, had to withdraw leaving The Rev'd Lisa Williamson to facilitate our group discussions with very short notice. But what a sterling job Lisa did, with her own natural giftedness and by using the material that Phillip had previously prepared. Participation was high, conversation energetic, and engagement was ensured by the use of the Mentimeter app. There was laughter, and there were differences of opinion, as together Synod engaged in the task of:

- Naming the things that



we have accomplished in the last 3-5 years;

- The disappointments of the past 3-5 years, and
- Identifying our "unfinished business."

This was followed by an update of Diocesan Ministry and Mission Overview review, presented by Canon Zoe Everingham. After this, members of Synod were asked to consider, the skills, qualities and characteristics that they believed the next Bishop of Grafton would need. The group discussion concluded with one final question, "What would

be the most important things for candidates for the next Bishop to know about us so as to enable their discernment process?" The purpose of gathering this material was to aid the work of the Bishop Appointment Board in putting together a Bishop Nominee Information Pack.

Next was the election of the Bishop Appointment Board. The members elected to form this Board were:

House of Laity

- Mr Chris Nelson
- Canon John Bryen
- Mr David Ford

- Mrs Ann Helmrich
- Mr Lawrence Outridge
- Mrs Desley Ryan

House of Clergy

- The Ven Gail Hagon
- The Very Rev'd Dr Greg Jenks
- The Rev'd Canon Zoe Everingham
- The Ven Sally Miller
- The Venerable Matthew Jones
- The Rev'd Christian Ford

Supplementary Members (Lay)

- Mrs Stephanie Ridge
- Mr Graham Peart
- Mr Stephen Campbell

Supplementary Members (Clergy)

- The Rev'd David Hanger
- The Rev'd Lyn Bullard
- The Ven Stuart Webb

The members of this Board have been elected to, on behalf of the Synod, discern and to appoint the next Bishop of Grafton. Please pray for them as they have committed to undertake this enormous responsibility.

Since its inception the Bishop Appointment Board has met twice. Their main objectives to date have been:

- The production and distribution of a Diocese Prayer Card, calling people of the Diocese to prayer;
- Compilation of Bishop Nominee information Pack;
- Establish and agree on the requirements from each nominee, and
- Discuss and confirm the Board's own procedure.

By the time that this edition of the North Coast Anglican goes to print, nominations for the next Bishop of Grafton would have closed.

I encourage all of us in the Diocese to pray. To pray for the Board as it seeks to discern who God is calling to be the next Bishop of Grafton. To pray that person will know, recognise and act upon God's call on their lives. And to pray for our diocesan life together in this time of transition.

Synod Endorses Child Protection Legislation

By Chris Nelson
General Manager/Registrar

Synods are a lot of work and not everyone's idea of a fun day out so why would we have more synods than we have to?

The Diocese of Grafton took the rare step of holding an special synod on Saturday 3 February. This synod was the last to be chaired by Bishop Sarah Macneil and was called specifically for our Diocese to handle the Safe Ministry and Child Protection legislation agreed to by the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Australia in September 2017.

"The General Synod emphatically supported new child protection and safe ministry legislation for the Anglican Church of Australia showing that the church had heard the message from the recent Royal Commission and was keen to put in place higher standards across the church. Once that happened it was now up to each of the 23 Anglican dioceses to endorse that legislation to be applicable in their diocese" said the Diocesan Registrar,



Mr Chris Nelson, who attended the General Synod as a representative of the Diocese of Grafton.

"The Diocese of Grafton wanted to deal with this legislation as soon as possible and it was fitting that Bishop Sarah Macneil could preside over the synod that adopted them. Bishop Sarah's leadership on

Safe Ministry has been strong and consistent."

The General Synod legislation adopted at the Special Synod was:

- Safe Ministry to Children Canon 2017 Adopting Ordinance 2018
- Episcopal Standards

(Child Protection) Canon 2017 Adopting Ordinance 2018

- Constitution (Jurisdiction of Special Tribunal) Amendment Canon 2017 Assenting Ordinance 2018
- Offences Amendment Canon 2017 Adopting Ordinance 2018

• Canon Concerning Confessions (Revision) Canon 2017 Adopting Ordinance 2018

• Canon Concerning Confessions (Vulnerable Person) Canon 2017 Adopting Ordinance 2018



The Iona Performing Arts Centre Official Opening

The Iona Performing Arts Centre at St Columba Anglican School was officially opened on March 7.

The Hon Luke Hartsuyker MP, Federal Member for Cowper and The Ven Gail Hagon, Diocesan Administrator, officially opened the building. Peta Pinson, Mayor of Port Macquarie Hastings Council, was also in attendance.

The Iona Performing Arts Centre was completed in 2017. As well as hosting the school's co-curricular activities and PACE ensembles, the Centre also provides opportunities for community engagement and commercial use. The facilities within the Performing Arts Centre are outstanding and will provide a wealth of possibilities for students within the program.

Features of the building include a 300-seat black box theatre, the Libby Baker Orchestral Rehearsal Room, vocal rehearsal studio, drama studio, dance studio, 12 practice studios, 3 state-of-the-art music classrooms, entertainment industry and technology training spaces, offices, staff room and kitchen facilities.

The official opening included performances by the Senior Choir (130 Year 7 to 12 students), the Secondary Concert Band, and a performance by alumni student and opera singer Stella Hannock who is currently in her third year studying at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music.



The Hon Luke Hartsuyker MP and The Ven Gail Hagon officially opened the building. Photo courtesy of Ivan Sajko at Port Macquarie News.

Journey to the Cross a moving Easter tableau

Jesus' companions on the way to the Cross were many – some fishermen, some wealthy, some outcasts, some friends, some enemies, all curious, some sceptical.

St Mary's in Ballina gave some of them life during Lent in a tableau that grew weekly to encourage reflection on the contrasting people who followed Jesus – some of them to the very shadow of the Cross and then the open grave.

Based on *Followers of Jesus – Five Bible Studies for Lent* by John Birch, the tableau opened with highly-placed Jewish figure Nicodemus meeting Jesus cautiously by night to try to fathom just what this

charismatic teacher was all about.

He ended up taking Jesus from the Cross, anointing him with expensive spices and herbs and placing him reverently in the tomb.

A week after Jesus and Nicodemus adorned the altar, they were joined in the tableau by Mary and Martha, the scene now highlighting three figures from the Gospels.

Then came the outcast woman at Jacob's well, who defied custom by drawing water for Jesus, having a lively discussion about religion and shocking the disciples when they discovered the Lord speaking with her.

In the final two weeks before

Easter Sunday, the tableau expanded to include James – the son of thunder as he was known – and Mary Magdalene, a woman not of ill-repute as often portrayed, but of some status as evidenced by her entourage of other women who also followed Christ. She was the first to see Jesus after the resurrection and to tell others that he had risen.

Rector of St Mary's, Archdeacon Matthew Jones, said the Lenten Tableau was a natural follow-on from the church's Christmas panorama, which has featured an expanding nativity scene, including a life-sized donkey, in the past two years.

"The graphic illustration of



Christ's life and death is a powerful reminder that he walked the earth and rubbed shoulders with people from all walks of life, people like you and me" Fr Matthew said.

Mr Nick Johnstone Commissioned as the fourth Principal of BDC

Archdeacon Sally Miller and the Chair of our College Council, Mr David Ford, officially commissioned Mr Nick Johnstone as the fourth Principal of Bishop Druitt College on February 9.

Mr Johnstone said, "I was touched by the feeling of care in the room and am thrilled to be a part of this community. Thank you to those parents and visitors who were able to attend".

Husband, dad, Anglican, and teacher, he brings to BDC over 25 years experience in

the Independent and Anglican schools sector in Queensland and WA.

Mr Johnstone is looking for the opportunity to make a difference in the next phase of BDC's development and is excited about building upon the traditions of our modern school.

"A learning culture is imperative to growth and building staff and student wellbeing is essential. I am all about creating opportunities," said Mr Johnstone.



ZERO TOLERANCE FOR SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

Grafton Diocese has established formal procedures to deal with **sexual misconduct**. Persons aggrieved by the sexual misconduct of a church worker - whether they are an ordained or lay person - should report it. If you wish to speak to someone about sexual abuse by a church worker

please phone **1800 070 511**

at any time for recorded information of the names and telephone numbers of our contact persons.

Lindisfarne School Chaplain Ordained Priest

By Adele Rowlands-Dealey

Last month, in front of a large congregation of supportive family, friends and community members, The Rev'd Chad Rynehart was ordained as a priest at the Lindisfarne Anglican Grammar School chapel.

It was one of the highlights of the school year thus far with guests travelling from far and wide to witness to this momentous occasion.

An anxious Rev'd Chad stood waiting in the wings trying to soak up the serene sounds from Lindisfarne's choir and musicians as the community filled the chapel.

"I was very nervous," said Rev'd Chad.

"I'm not usually one who likes being the centre of

attention. However, one of the discussions that Dean Greg Jenks guided me through was around my awkwardness with the limelight, and there were some interesting revelations to come out of that. So, while I was still nervous, I wasn't feeling awkward, and that was great."

"It was a big crowd, bigger than I had expected," said Rev'd Chad.

"I had family there who had driven up from Newcastle and it was lovely to see them once I got to the front of the chapel and turned around."

Rev'd Chad said it was very "affirming and encouraging" to have a dozen or so clergy from around the diocese there to support him.

"One of the stand out moments was when the clergy gathered

around and laid their hands on me as Bishop Sarah prayed for me. All of their hands together felt quite heavy, and that made it quite emotional," he said.

Lindisfarne Anglican Grammar School Principal, Stuart Marquardt spoke of Rev'd Chad's ordination as a celebration and honouring of the place of chaplaincy within the school.

"We are extremely fortunate to have Rev'd Chad to guide and support our students, his ministry is critical to their care and wellbeing," said Lindisfarne Anglican Grammar School Principal, Stuart Marquardt.

"I have spoken often of his role as School Chaplain to our whole community, not just the students, but also parents and staff," he continued.

"To come together as a



community on such a special occasion in support of Rev'd Chad was a wonderful

reminder of the positive impact our School Chaplain has daily within our school community."

What's in a name? Suriname!

By Jan Fryer

Suriname – Suri, a Hindi word, can mean red rose, happiness, consort of the sun, learned, Krishna (a God), Goddess, learned, sage.

This year the World Day of Prayer was held on March 2. The theme was creation and the country was Suriname in South America.

The Parish of Ballina came together to learn about this country and to share in the issues they face that are universal to humanity and creation.

Ninety-percent of the people live in the cities, but it is in the jungle where mining for gold and bauxite has the potential to destroy the ecosystem as it is often unregulated.

Children are often used as labour, leaving school at a very young age as schooling is not compulsory after 12 years of age.

Outgoing World Day of Prayer coordinator, Joan Swinbourne was presented with flowers by Ven Matthew Jones as a thank you gift for many years of coordinating the World Day of Prayer in Lennox Head.

New co-ordinator, Rosemary Edwards led the congregation to reflect upon their actions in their own places to ensure the environment remains in good condition for future generations.

Through "show and tell" they were encouraged with ways to recycle better.

One attendee stated, "It was an amazing feeling to know that around the world Christians were praying the same prayers. It is very exciting and a reminder of how powerful prayers can be."



Growing New Family Initiative

The commissioning of the Rev'd Simon Reeve as Young Families Minister, Northern Beaches Anglicans and Young Families Resource Officer, Diocese of Grafton launched a ministry already bearing fruit in our midst.

Surrounded by family, friends and parishioners, Rev'd Simon was commissioned, and his family welcomed, at a service full of joy, thankfulness and anticipation.

This new ministry made possible by a partnership between the Bush Church Aid Society (BCA), Diocese of

Grafton and Northern Beaches Anglicans.

In a tangible mark of this partnership, Archdeacon Gail Hagon joined us for our celebrations and Rev'd David Rogers-Smith, BCA Regional Officer for Queensland/Northern NSW, was our guest preacher.

In his Diocesan role, Rev'd Simon has taken the opportunities provided by extra Synod sessions and Bishop Sarah's farewell to initiate informal contact with clergy to introduce himself and get to know his colleagues as

he begins an audit of ministry to young families throughout the Diocese.

A dedicated Kids Church during the Sunday@10 family gathering, young mum's bible study, informal meals and activities with families within and beyond the parish, increased attendance at Sunday@10 and extra energy injected into the youth group, some of the marks of the impact Simon, Alison and their children are having at Northern Beaches Anglicans.



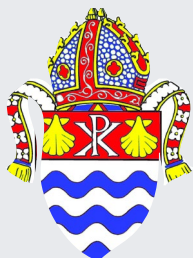
Rev'd Simon Reeve signs the agreement watched on by Archdeacon Gail Hagon, Rev'd David Rogers-Smith (BCA) and Mr Steve Egan (Parish Warden)

Anglican Diocese of Grafton

Do you have an up-to-date will? Please consider giving to the work of the Church in your will.

Our diocese has been blessed by the generosity of benefactors in times past. As we seek to expand Christ's Mission in the 21st century, please consider how you might contribute. You should get legal advice before making your will. You may wish to consider the activities of the Anglican Diocese of Grafton as the recipient of either a specific gift or the residue of your estate.

The following wording may be useful for you and your legal advisor when making your will: "I bequeath to the Corporate Trustees of the Diocese of Grafton in the State of New South Wales the sum of to be used for the general purposes of the Diocese of Grafton in such manner as the said Trustees may approve."



Prayers answered at Mid Richmond

In Mid Richmond we've been praying for growth, and we thought we were prepared for God to answer our prayer in unexpected ways. But this new member of the congregation

was a bit too unexpected! It's rather a shame this little tree snake didn't arrive for Lent when we have all those readings about snakes.



Beyond East and West

The Dean of Grafton, the Very Rev'd Gregory Jenks, met with Bishop Daniel (Bishop for the Coptic Diocese of Sydney) and Fr Shenouda (General Secretary of the NSW Ecumenical Council) at a meeting at St Augustine's Catholic Church, Coffs Harbour on March 10.

Despite many cultural differences it was a delight to find so much common ground between Egyptian (Coptic) English, Ethiopian and Eritrean expressions of Christianity, as they discussed ways that the churches could work together in the years ahead.

All members of these three Oriental Churches were urged to feel at home in Christ Church Cathedral any time they are in Grafton. The Cathedral is a house of prayer for people of all faiths, as well as those who claim no faith of their own.



IN BRIEF

COMMISSIONING

The Rev'd Katie Peken has been appointed Rector of the Parish of Lower Macleay. The Commissioning Service will be on Wednesday 4 April at 6pm in South West Rocks.

RESIGNATIONS

The Rev'd Lyn Baldwin has resigned as Rector of Mullumbimby and will be finishing her ministry at Mullumbimby on 18 May. She and Howard plan to move to Gippsland.


ANNOUNCEMENT

The Rev'd John Power has been appointed Rector of Byron Bay. John has served in Bendigo and Newcastle Dioceses and has recently been completing some research work in Melbourne. His commissioning date will be advised later.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 4 April - Commissioning of the Rev'd Katie Peken in South West Rocks.
- 21-25 May - Clergy Retreat
- 25 May - Synod motion closing date
- 26 May - ABM Day in Ballina

- 27 May - Cursillo Show your Colours Day
- 2 June - Pre-Synod meeting
- 6 June - Pre-Synod meeting
- 9 June - Pre-Synod meeting
- 15-17 June - Synod at South Grafton



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Parish	1.00% p.a.
Anglican Affiliate	0.25% p.a.

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Parish	1.75% p.a.
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*All Interest Rates are current as at 26th March 2018 and are subject to change

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Compassionate Breakfast at Ballina

A tasty breakfast in comfortable surroundings contrasted with the message at a fundraising breakfast for the Compassion organisation at St Mary's Ballina.

Compassion's Child Survival Program partners with local churches to run activities aimed at preventing premature death, securing good health and enabling positive development of the children. Programs include nutritional support, health intervention and income generation training.

Compassion's Relationship Manager, Warren Spooner, told more than 30 at the breakfast that the organisation is active with local churches in more than 25 countries.

Mr Spooner said for mothers and children living in poverty, the first few years of a child's life are critical for survival. He

told of personal experience living with a young family where the mother sent her husband and children off to work and school each day with lunch, but had no food left for herself.

Many challenges include malnutrition, pneumonia, diarrhoea and malaria.

Where access to healthcare and education is lacking, mothers often don't know how to best care for their children.

Globally every day:

- 20,000 girls under the age of 18 give birth
- 800 women die from complications in pregnancy and childbirth
- 16,000 children under the age of five die from mostly preventable causes

Rector of St Mary's, Archdeacon

Matthew Jones, said he was impressed by the work undertaken by Compassion, its commitment to working in conjunction with local churches and the breadth of its activities.

"They are putting into practice the message of Jesus to "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." Fr Matthew said.

Of the estimated 5.9 million deaths of children under five in 2015, almost 1 million occurred on the first day and close to 2 million in the first week.

Currently Compassion is giving care and support to more than 32,000 caregivers and their children.

The organisation can be contacted at www.compassion.com.au or Phone 1300 22 44 53.



Mothers' Union Wave of Prayer

In early March this year the Alstonville Branch of Anglican Mothers' Union Australia (AMUA) took part in the Wave of Prayer.

The Wave of Prayer is a continuous set of prayers said throughout the world as each Mothers Union (MU) Branch somewhere in the world, in turn, gathers to pray for their linked Anglican Dioceses in other countries.

In preparation for this occasion Branch President, Joyce Shepherd, approached their new Rector, the Rev'd Dr Desiree Snyman, to see if it would be possible to incorporate the Wave of Prayer in the Sunday Service.

Rev'd Desiree was not only happy for this to take place, but also dressed for the occasion in a beautiful Sari, representing our linked Diocese of South Kerala in India.

MU members decorated the church with Saris for South Kerala, African cloth and hand-carved wooden African animals for Luweero in Uganda, Yei in South Sudan and On the Lake in Nigeria, Shamrocks for Armagh in Ireland, outback hats and a boomerang for our Diocese of Grafton and a Globe to represent MU throughout our world.

MU prayers and hymns were used through-out the service and members participated in every aspect of the Eucharist.



Gerri White, Rev'd Dr Desiree Snyman, Pam Brown and Joyce Shepherd



Do you have an inactive account?
Have you changed your contact details and not let us know?

AFGD has several accounts that are sitting dormant because we have not heard from the account holder.

Some are School Saver accounts.
Others are Saver and Investment Accounts.

Does one of these accounts belong to you?
Have you moved recently? Are you the executor of the estate of an AFGD account holder?

Please call us on 1800 810 919 (freecall in NSW) or 02 6642 4480 if you suspect that your account may have fallen asleep!

ASIC Rules Force AFGD Changes

Conditions put in place by the companies regulator ASIC have forced AFGD to make changes to its services for individual and joint account holders.

In early February, the AFGD Chair, Mr David Ford, wrote to each individual and joint account holder with AFGD and informed them that the new regulations means that AFGD cannot offer accounts to all of its current retail customers.

While AFGD can continue to offer accounts to clergy, employees, council members and some volunteers of the parishes, schools and organisations of the Diocese, there are many Anglican members and supporters who are excluded by the ASIC requirements and AFGD have

until 30 September 2018 to make this change.

Mr Ford say "This is a step that AFGD has taken reluctantly because we value the support that our loyal account holders have provided to the work of the church through entrusting their funds with us. This is a step forced upon us by new regulations and we recognise the pain and difficulty this has caused some of our people."

"Annette and Linda in the AFGD office are providing a helping hand to those who are trying to work out the next step for them."

AFGD account holders who did not receive a letter or need help with this change, can call 1800 810 919 (freecall in NSW) or 6642 4480 for support.

REFLECTIONS

Finding Common Ground

By Archdeacon Sally Miller

I am bit angry at the moment; I'm sad, perplexed, bewildered. But mostly I am angry. Or maybe I am deeply sad.

This week in a year seven class I asked the students to move to the right-hand side of the classroom if they thought people were basically good, and the left if they thought they were basically bad.

Let me say – if the classroom had been a ship, we would have tilted dangerously to the left. I was shattered.

In a class of twenty five 11–13 year olds, at least three-quarters of that class thought that people were basically bad. When I asked why, they cited the way we care for the world around us, gun violence, the inability of leaders to make good decisions, the way that people speak to each other, people dying trying to find safe places to live. One particular student said, “Look at me, look at us, look at our world – we are clearly monsters.”

How do we respond to that? Fortunately the path this particular lesson was to take was to discuss what God saw when looking at creation, reminding them that we are loved and God delights in us. Nonetheless this was a mind shattering class conversation.



What kind of messages are being passed to our children, our grandchildren, and neighbours and friends. What are we doing to them?

It would be easy to point the finger at social media, at all forms of media. I think that lets us off too lightly. I certainly understand the brokenness

and sinfulness of our world. But that we might be raising a generation of children who think that the world, that people, that *they* are bad, tells me that somehow we have failed to get the good news to the places it so badly needs to be heard - in our families.

I fear that we have gotten so caught up in working out how to get these young people into our churches that we may have forgotten to get out to them! It doesn't matter if we have the most awesome house band or inspiring youth pastor if we cannot speak words of love and encouragement to our younger generations. Reminds

me of the words of Paul, “Are we merely clanging gongs?”

Our children deserve something, someone to look up to. We are all they have. We cannot abdicate our responsibility and point to famous athletes, musicians, and movies stars. Instead we need to become their heroes. Our lives should inspire, our words enthuse, and our action confirm our words. It hurts to hear these generous, intelligent, funny, creative children speak of themselves as monsters. It hurts to see how this manifests in their lives – anxiety, depression, self-harm, isolation and a lack of trust in the “grown-ups” that surround them. As the church, the people of God, we have so much to offer – the greatest news of God's love and forgiveness, the beauty of being loved unconditionally, the incredible wonder of being truly known. So we need to speak this, to anyone who is near to us, not just those who might listen! Our adult children, our neighbours, grandchildren, and the ones we see at playgroup, or in the supermarket. A friendly smile, a word of encouragement.

If we want our children to love God, then first we must love them. It really is as simple as that.

Kyrie eleison

By Fr Matthew Smedley, Christine McNeil, Pauline McKelvey

Thirty-five refugee children are being held in detention with their parents on the island of Nauru and have been there for five years. A child forced to spend precious childhood years behind barbed wire is a tragedy. But the children are not entirely forgotten.

Workers at the detention centre in Nauru have described the facility as “cruel” and “inhumane”. Mental health

has become a serious issue. Workers have observed anger, aggression, depression and self-harm. Children in Nauru feel like “animals and not people”. The UN Committee against Torture has also described the conditions in Nauru as “cruel, inhumane, and unlawful”.

Throughout the season of Lent, All Souls' Bangalow requested candles to be lit for these children being held in mention on Nauru.



THREADS LAID BARE

Oils ain't Oils....The Three Sacred Oils

By Rev'd Camellia Flanagan

Many of NCA readers remember the advertising campaign “Oils Ain't Oils” with Sol and his gangster friends. But what do we know about sacred oils used in the everyday life of the church? Each year supplies of fresh oils are brought from the Cathedral to the parishes. These oils are prepared and blessed at the Cathedral Church of the

Diocese at the Eucharist of the Holy Oils (Chrism) and Affirmation of Ministry when priests and people renew their vows and commitment to ministry.

The Oil of the Catechumens and the Oil of the Sick is pure olive oil. The Oil of the Catechumens is used in the preparation for baptism as part of the renunciations and affirmations in *A Prayer Book*

for Australia (APBA) page 56 or can be use before as a person undergoes a period of catechumenate or preparation for adult baptism. The Oil of the Sick is used as St James has said (*James 5:14-16*) APBA page 683 and a person is anointed with the holy oil so that they may be strengthened by the Holy Spirit and by faith, healed and restored according to God's good purposes. The anointing is done through faith

in Jesus Christ in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

The Oil of Chrism is mixed with Pure Balsam oil usually by the Bishop. This is a reminder of the ancient custom of anointing Kings which tradition says was with persimmon oil. Various oils are mentioned in the bible. The spices in *Song of Solomon 5:1,13; 6:2*, the oil for anointing priests *Exodus 25:6; 35:28*, and

the Queen of Sheba brought oil believed to be balsam to Solomon as a gift, (*1Kings 10:2*). The balm of Gilead (Cammiphora opobalsamum is derived from the resinous juices of the balsam poplar tree a member of the Bursera family) Oil of Chrism is used at Baptism, Confirmation, Ordination of Priests and for the consecration of holy objects.

Farewell to Rev'd Eron and Jane Perry

An excerpt from "A Tribute to Eron and Jane" by Michael Lill

The Rev'd Eron Perry was Rector of Kingscliff Parish for ten years until November 2017.

Something that they should absolutely feel is pride, for together they have accomplished great things. They have stood before us and, more importantly, they have stood with us and beside us on our journeys of faith.

Their dedication to Christ is exemplified not only through their Church ministry but through their commitment to the broader community and, indeed to "our little blue planet" as Eron calls it. The beneficiaries of their passionate advocacy are far too great in number to list here but of particular note are: the children in KICK, Lifebridge, (Community Connection), Messy Church, Parish Council, Home Groups, raising up new leaders in the

church, current and former Army personnel, upgrading and implementing new buildings and the establishing of a Labyrinth as well as individuals profoundly affected by the 2017 floods, also the involvement in the Community, Diocese and National Church. The compassion, sensitivity and love that Eron has demonstrated in organising and implementing community outreach programs is a hallmark of his ministry and a testament to the immense quality of the man. He has shown time and time again that true ministry and authentic faith extends far beyond the Church building. His actions have given hope to those who have been beset by distress and loss. He may not realise it but actions such as these are the turning points in peoples' lives.

For all of the works that Eron and Jane have done I know that there are countless acts

of generosity that we don't even know about. Churches, like life, are always in a process of transition. The most recent example is the Mission Action Plan that Eron has guided with great sensitivity and unwavering commitment. The Mission Action Plan is a 'living document' that celebrates the infinite love of Christ.

It is a reminder to all of us of our moral responsibilities to maintain an enriching and inclusive faith. It clearly reinforces the vital role each of us has within our community, in our society and in our world. It shows us what we need to do if we want the Church to grow. It challenges us and reminds us of what is truly important. Eron and Jane have invested an incalculable amount of time in developing and implementing an array of initiatives and programs.

This tribute falls well short of how each of us feel about Jane and Eron.



Whilst it's a cliché, words can't possibly express how much you have been cherished and how much you will be missed. We all know how busy God is but I'm absolutely certain that the schedule was cleared a little to make way for some

time to smile and to rejoice in all that you have done and will continue to do".

Rev'd Eron was commissioned into the Parish of Burleigh Heads on November 21, 2017.

Country Church Enjoys a Revved Up Cuppa

By Rev'd Lenore Moules

Pappinbarra is 25kms from Wauchope, and part of the Parish of Wauchope. The little country church is set in a beautiful grazing and farming area. Just watch out for the cow pats as you make your way from the parking area to the church! A service is held there once a month at 2pm.

Following the service we head outside for a cuppa. After all, a cuppa after the service is an essential Anglican tradition. But what do you do when

your church has no electricity connection? The people of Pappinbarra have solved this problem in a unique way.

One of the parishioners brings his ute to church with a generator on the back. This is fired up and provides the power to boil the jug. Meanwhile, the tea, coffee, cups and good country cooking are laid out on a tablecloth spread on the back of the ute.

And so a great time of fellowship is enjoyed by all. Where there's a will, there's a way!



PRAYING WITH THE SAINTS

Frederick Barker – Bishop of Sydney

DIED 1882. FEAST DAY 7 APRIL.

By Rev'd Camellia Flanagan

Barker was born at Baslow, Derbyshire, England, fifth son of the Rev'd John Barker and his wife Jane. He was educated at The King's School, Grantham and Cambridge, where he graduated B.A. in 1831, M. A. 1839. He was influenced by Charles Simeon and was made deacon on 10 April 1831; he was ordained a priest on 15 April 1832, and placed in charge of the perpetual curacy of Upton, Cheshire. Subsequently, he was at St Mary's, Edge Hill, an important church in Liverpool, for 19 years where his skill as an administrator and parish priest were honed. In April 1854 he became vicar of Baslow, and

soon afterwards was appointed Bishop of Sydney and was consecrated on 30 November 1854.

At Liverpool Barker was a member of a group of clergy, who were active in the Evangelical cause. They were firm opponents of non-denominational education and, in a city where religious feeling ran high, of Roman Catholicism. Some of his sermons and commentaries have been published but ministerial duties and a preference for pastoral work to scholarship or academic controversy restricted Barker's literary efforts.

Sydney had been without a bishop since February 1853,

when William Grant Broughton died in London. Attempts to find a successor had failed. Soon after Bishop Selwyn of New Zealand had declined translation, the arrival of Sir George Grey at the Colonial Office turned the search from a High Church to an Evangelical candidate.

Barker was approached. Amid criticism from High Churchmen, he consented with some reluctance, because of his health but after his physician's assurance 'that he would not find the work so hard as in a town parish, he agreed. His letters patent designated him Bishop of Sydney and metropolitan of Australia. On 25 May he reached Sydney, and

was enthroned in St Andrew's temporary cathedral on 31 May.

Barker came in a firm Evangelical spirit, his task was missionary conversion, not only in new areas but in settled districts as well. He preached a simple gospel in a disarmingly simple manner. He was a kindly man, tolerant in personal relations but inflexible in public opposition to other schools of churchmanship. A tall man, dignified and scholarly in appearance, twice married but without children. The First synod of the diocese met in 1866 and dealt with issues concerning relations of the Church in Australia with the Church in England and a

constitution for the cathedral. He was a pioneer of theological education, founded Moore College and a church society which later became the Home Mission Society now Anglicare. During his episcopacy of 27 years the number of churches and the number of clergy more than doubled.

In December 1880 Barker had a stroke and in 1882 he had a second attack and died at San Remo on 6 April 1882. As we ponder the life of this early bishop can we pray for all called to be bishop of the church and for those charged with the discernment and task of appointing bishops in our time.

Clarence Valley Anglican School Celebrates 20 Years

2018 is a celebratory year for Clarence Valley Anglican School (CVAS). It has been 20 years since the foundation of the school back in 1998.

Formerly known as The Cathedral School (TCS), with one campus at the time in Victoria Street, now known as the Cathedral Campus. Our numbers quickly grew and by 2006 Years 7 – 12 had moved into our new Clarenza Campus. A few years later we saw our years five and six students also move to the Clarenza Campus.

We have built a solid reputation, from our popular Pre-Kinder program through to our HSC support, on our caring, holistic approach to education combined with quality teaching staff.

To celebrate our 20 years a Cocktails and Canapes Evening was held on March 23 at our Clarenza Campus. A lovely night with wonderful music, food and fellowship was had. It was great to see some old faces join us including past key staff who were instrumental in getting the school off the ground and bringing the “dream” of an independent school to life.

2018 School Leaders

CVAS Principal, Mr Martin Oates, is proud to introduce our 2018 school leaders.

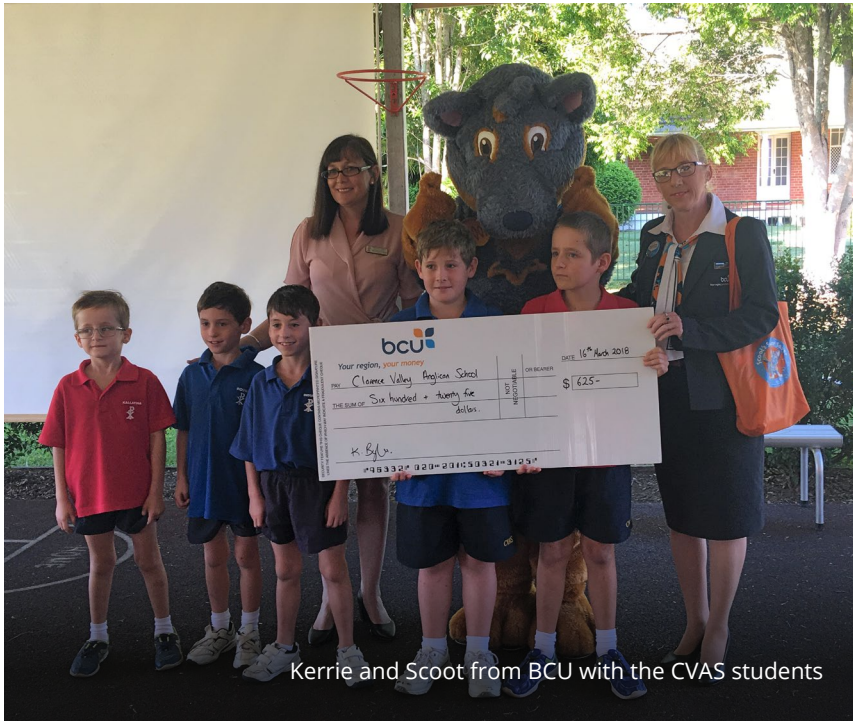
Our School Captain is Georgia Campbell, Vice-Captain Jacob Ellis and Chapel Sacristan Emily McDonough. Our Junior School Captains are Jessica Marsh and Luke Leven.

BCU Coffs Tri – Scoot for Schools Competition

Kerrie and Scoot from BCU dropped in to the Cathedral Campus this month to present CVAS with a cheque for \$625 to be used for sporting equipment.

This generous prize was won by the Palmer and Hagon boys (Will, Tom and Sam Palmer and William and Henry Hagon) who recently competed in the BCU Coffs Tri and subsequently CVAS was entered in the Scoot for Schools (Small Schools Division).

We are blessed to have received this prize. Thanks to the students and BCU for helping the school.



A helping hand from St Mary's Ballina

St Mary's Anglican parish used its annual meeting last month to lend a helping hand to a number of charities.

Rector of St Mary's, Venerable Matthew Jones, presented \$1500 cheques to representatives of Sheraton House, the Ballina Christian Education Committee, Heartfelt House and Biala School.

"While Federal and State Governments assist many charitable organisations, there is very often a shortfall," Fr Matthew said.

"Added to that there is uncertainty about ongoing assistance each year and increasing demands for the services," he said.

"St Mary's is happy to be able to help these organisations in a small way, knowing how valuable their work is to so many people each year," Fr Matthew said.

Funds for the presentations came from the Anglican Op Shop, which is located on the corner of Grant and Tamar Streets in the Ballina business area.

Fr Matthew is pictured presenting cheques to Mick Maloney from Sheraton House, Kate Loubet from Heartfelt House Neville Foster from BCEC, and Annalise Puglisi from Biala School.





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