

NORTH COAST ANGLICAN

Embracing the spirit of Christ in Our Time

October November 2018 | Issue No 5



FAREWELL TO FOUNDING CHAIR

ST COLUMBA FAREWELLS FOUNDING CHAIR

St Columba Anglican School has farewelled its founding Chair, The Rev'd Canon Dr John Barrett OAM, at an Assembly at the school on August 24.

Dr Barrett has presided as Chair of the School Council for the past 17 years. He was the visionary and driving force behind the establishment of St Columba Anglican School back in 2002. After a conversation with the

Bishop of the day, Bishop Huggins, he was given the go ahead to commence planning for the school at Innes Lake.

Dr Barrett reminisces on the rapid growth of St Columba since its beginnings, "When St Columba Anglican School opened in 2002 we had 72 students. We now have around 1150, so there's been outstanding growth."

Dr Barrett has brought a wealth of experience to the

role, having also served in Port Macquarie Hastings Council as a councillor for 16 years, and as Mayor between 1991-92 when the council received the R Bluett Award for the most outstanding council in NSW. He has also worked as a pharmacist and business owner, Clerical Canon for the Anglican Diocese and is a Board Member of the Mid North Coast Local Health District.

This experience is something he has generously offered to the school since its inception.

"There's been a sense that it would be good to use whatever expertise I have to help develop education here in Port Macquarie," Dr Barrett said.

"The fact that we've been in the top 100 schools in the state for the last few years, I think, is testimony to the staff, to the Principal, to the

Executive and the Council of St Columba."

"I am humbled by what has been achieved. Not so much by me but by others," he said. "I am leaving the school in good hands."

Former Deputy Chair of St Columba Anglican School, Dr Gordon Burch, will succeed Dr Barrett as the new Chair.



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MORE DETAILS PAGE 8

FROM THE BISHOP

Laying the Foundations to Grow



When my grandmother died I inherited her Bible. The pages were so well worn and the binding so perished that it was tied up with string. Inside were tiny prayer cards used as page markers. There was also a photo of a child she had lost in infancy. In her later years she was not much of a churchgoer, although she might have been when she was younger. The scriptures had given her much comfort and guidance throughout her long life of

103 years. Her deep and gentle faith, her confidence in God and her regular encouragement to pray always inspired me; it laid the foundation for me to accept and grow into the Christian Faith.

That faith is formed by the power of the Holy Spirit through personal, trusted relationships is a key understanding of John Roberto, a Christian Educator from the USA who recently spoke at conferences at Coffs Harbour, Grafton and the Gold Coast.

He encouraged us to see congregations as learning communities, nurturing the faith of all ages and equipping them for living as disciples.

In preparing young people for Admission to Communion or Confirmation I always find that I learn as much from them as they (hopefully) learn from me. I appreciate their enthusiasm,



passion and optimism, as well as the clarification of my own beliefs that comes from sharing the faith with someone from another generation.

At Clayfield last year, we let members of the Youth Group and Kids Plus (Sunday School) lead the whole family service one Sunday. Despite a sense of last-minute panic on my part that this maybe wasn't a very

good idea, the children did very well indeed and approached the whole thing with a sense of reverence and joy.

What new insights about the faith can you gain from someone from another generation? What might you be able to share with them?

Roberto recommends sharing stories, asking young people to

interview older people, making things together, and eating together whilst exploring a seasonal theme.

If you want to bring generations together there's no substitute for storytelling. What story would you tell someone from another generation to encourage them in the faith?

+ Murray

“What new insights about the faith can you gain from someone from another generation? What might you be able to share with them?”

Anglicare North Coast Awarded for Innovation and Excellence

Anglicare North Coast was recognised for innovation and excellence at the recent Anglicare Australia National Awards held in Adelaide on September 17.

Anglicare North Coast are the proud recipients of a Highly Commended award in the Excellence Category for its 3Es to Freedom Program - *Education, Employment and Empowerment – A Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Strategy*.

The 3Es to Freedom program emerged from Anglicare North Coast's practical experience in delivering settlement services to families from refugee backgrounds. Working predominantly with female heads-of-households, it became clear that the economic and financial independence positively impacted other areas of women's lives. This is supported by research showing that improving women's financial security plays an

important role in increasing their safety and reducing vulnerability to violence.

The Anglicare Australia National Awards for Innovation and Excellence, sponsored by Telstra, recognises outstanding services, projects and programs provided by the organisations of the Anglicare Australia network, as well as individual volunteers who have made a significant contribution.

The Awards program affirms the contribution of Anglicare agencies to the health and wellbeing of not only the individuals, but also Australian society. They are a wonderful opportunity to attract media attention or recognition for programs, research, or outstanding volunteers.

“The 3Es to Freedom program is also a semi-finalist in the 2018 NSW/ACT Regional Achievement and Community Awards of which we are also quite proud of,” 3Es to Freedom Manager, Jane Gustus-Callanan said.



The 3Es to Freedom staff team. L-R: Kesti Faulkner, Jane Gustus-Callanan, Jill Donoghoe, Briony Leonard, Sabrina Singh, Emma Aspden and Sally Pannifex

NORTH COAST ANGLICAN

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All photographs must be sent as an attachment in JPEG format with a dpi of 500 or greater. Photographs sent through the mail will not be returned

EDITORIAL

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Deadline: November 16 2018

Bishop Druitt College Celebrate Indigenous Heritage

Ginnagay! Hello!

Students at Bishop Druitt College, in beautiful Coffs Harbour, have long been familiar with the indigenous heritage of the area, with Gumbaynggirr language heard regularly in formal assemblies and as part of weekly lessons for students in the "Goori Group".

This year's NAIDOC celebrations were the most significant in the College's history.

BDC's NAIDOC Week 2018 featured speeches from students on the NAIDOC theme of *Because of Her We Can*, a drama performance by Year 10 students about the stolen generation as part of the Reconciliation theme of *Don't Keep History a Mystery*, and a celebration of indigenous food with a kangaroo sausage sizzle with bush tomato sauce.

The week culminated with a smoking ceremony to open the school's Yarning Circle. Indigenous students

performed special dances to mark the occasion as elders and special guests gathered, fire was created and the smoke of lemon myrtle and eucalyptus consecrated the area.

A Yarning Circle is a space to gather for conversation and learning, and is an important part of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture.

Snaking around the edge of the school's Yarning Circle is a rainbow serpent, which was created by the hands of over a thousand BDC students, staff and community members who placed rainbow rocks into the stunning landscaping feature.

At Bishop Druitt College we celebrate and honour the Indigenous Heritage of our community and the land where school has grown. There is much to repent of in Australia about the ways our Indigenous sisters and brothers have been treated throughout history.

Celebrating NAIDOC week, acknowledging Reconciliation themes and supporting our



NAIDOC Week celebrations Inset: BDC Yarning Circle

Aboriginal students to learn Gumbaynggirr language as part of their education are important in the life of the College and are part of our Reconciliation Action Plan and

an expression of our school's motto Faithfulness in Service.

Yaarri yarraang! Goodbye!

Venerable Gail Hagon Opens New CVAS Amenities

NEW AMENITIES BLOCK

A new amenities block was opened at the Clarence Valley Anglican School Clarenza Campus on August 31. The Hon Keven Hogan MP and the Venerable Gail Hagon were the two guests who officially opened the building. It was wonderful to have so much interest in the opening as it was a long time in the planning stage. The "old" amenities are almost finished being installed at Farnworth and we look forward to being able to visit the property more regularly because of this project.

CROSS-COUNTRY NEWS

Congratulations to Madeline McKeown who was presented with the Karlie Swanson Perpetual Trophy at last month's assembly. Karlie Swanson was a Coffs Coast schoolgirl runner who represented Australia at cross country at school level in Israel where she won the World Schools title for her age



The Ven. Gail Hagon opens new amenities

group. She was also selected to represent Australia as an Under 20 at the World Junior Cross Country in China.

She is currently on a sports scholarship at Boise, Idaho. This perpetual trophy is awarded by the North Coast



Madeline McKeown awarded the Karlie Swanson Perpetual Trophy

Running Club, along with a cheque, to a junior female runner that shows talent, grit and determination in the hope

that it will assist with their competition costs. It was a great honour for Madeline to win this award and we wish her and the other CVAS athletes all the best at CIS Athletics on September 25.

MUSIC CONCERT

CVAS students showcased their talent at our recent music concert held on September 7. The larger than expected audience was delighted with the quality of the performances. Well done to everyone that performed and thanks to the helpers on the night.

BOOK FAIR... PAMPER OUR PARENTS BREAKFAST AND DRESS UP

Our parents at the junior school were invited to attend our Pamper Our Parents Breakfast on August 23. This event was part of our annual Book Fair and was very well attended. Students looked fantastic dressed in their "cosmic" costumes too.

Looking for NCA in your Inbox?

Do you want to be among the first to receive the NCA? Would you prefer to receive it electronically instead of in paper form? Or would you like to have it both ways?

For future editions of the North Coast Anglican, we will be sending out a PDF version by email as well as sending out the normal paper copies. So if you would like the NCA in your email Inbox, please send your details to Kaytrina in the Registry on admin@graftondiocese.org.au and remember: It's free!



Quiz Worx equips Children's Ministry in Grafton

The inaugural North Coast Regional Children's Ministry Training Day will be hosted by the Parish of South Grafton on October 20, 2018.

The Equip Conference is part of the Diocese of Grafton's initiative to resource Young Families' Ministry across all its parishes.

A partnership between the Diocese, Bush Church Aid (BCA) and Quiz Worx has formed to provide a comprehensive program to assist parishes in growing ministry to children, no matter what stage they are at.

Quiz Worx have been training and equipping children's ministry leaders for 20 years as well as engaging in ministry to children in churches, schools and family camps.

They will share their creativity and experience during keynote

sessions on storytelling and engaging children.

The conference is designed for anyone with an interest in gospel ministry to children and is open to people from all denominations and experiences.

Along with training in foundational elements of children's ministry, the conference will also include electives on puppetry, music and kids' ministry, and getting children's ministry off the ground.

The conference will be held at St Matthew's Anglican Church, 64 Tyson Street, South Grafton, 8.30am-4pm on Saturday October 20. The cost is \$50 per person and includes lunch and morning and afternoon tea.

You can register online at www.bushchurcaid.com.au/equip by October 15, 2018.



Urunga Food Pantry Celebrates 5 Years

By Mrs Leonie Sills, Pantry Co-ordinator

The Urunga food pantry celebrated its 5th birthday on August 17. The pantry started operating at St Barnabas Church on August 15, 2013 and since then has become a valuable service to the community.

The Lifehouse Church in Bellingen saw the need to locate a pantry in Urunga as many clients were finding it difficult to access the Bellingen pantry during their operating hours. The Anglican Church was approached to fulfil this gap in the community.

At present we have about 160 clients from the surrounding area visiting our pantry as the need arises.

The pantry is open to anyone with a pensioner or healthcare card and groceries can be

purchased at highly reduced prices. Most grocery items are \$2 or \$1. We also have free bread, vegetables and fruit in season. We cater to a wide variety of people within the community including pensioners, families and Centrelink clients. We can help with special dietary needs if necessary. Everyone is treated with dignity and respect.

The co-ordinators, Mrs Leonie Sills and Mrs Joyce Tarrant, would like to thank Kellie Small from the Bellingen Lifehouse Pantry as well as the many community members who have donated fresh food items such as vegetables, fruit and eggs. We greatly value your contribution over the last five years.

We look forward to continuing to serve our community for many years to come.



Co-ordinators Joyce Tarrant (left) and Leonie Sills (right) cut the birthday cake

Fond Farewell to Much-Loved South Grafton Priest

The Rev'd Margaret Beach was farewelled from the Anglican Parish of South Grafton by a large number of parishioners and friends on August 26 before her departure back to Perth.

Many wonderful memories were shared over lunch to celebrate Rev'd Margaret's seven years of ministry with the parish.

A number of parishioners spoke in high regard of Margaret and her ministry among the parish as well as out into the wider community.

"When she came to our Parish she brought with her a vibrant enthusiasm which she endeavoured to extend to all people she came across," one parishioner said.

The Rector's Warden, Chris Cable, spoke on behalf of the parishioners, offering thanks for Margaret's leadership, achievements, care, compassion and ministry, and wished her well in the next stage of her journey.

Rev'd Margaret now returns to her family in Perth and awaits God's calling to the next phase of her life.



Trifecta of Celebrations Sees Parish Turning Blue

Ballina and Lennox Head Anglicans and many community members pulled off a trifecta with a signature dinner, gala fête and moving commemorative church service to celebrate the consecration of St Mary's new building 20 years ago.

"It was beyond all expectations," was the reaction of The Venerable Matthew Jones, Rector of the Parish. "With 90 people at the dinner, a constant crowd at all times during the fête and every seat taken at the combined Sunday service, we were blessed," he said.

"Celebrating the Anniversary of St Mary's has been a wonderful occasion for bringing not just the Anglican community, but the wider communities of Ballina and Lennox Head together and highlighting a serious social issue within our nation," Fr Matthew said.

The Beyond the Blue Horizon dinner on September 7 at Ballina RSL featured beyondblue advocate and high-profile sports commentator, Craig Hamilton, who spoke candidly of his experience of depression and bi-polar disorder. He spoke sincerely about battling the deepest depression, having delusions and being bundled into a police van when he got out of control. His advice was: "If you're depressed right now, you need help from anywhere you can get it." That could be a friend or your doctor.

Craig has written two books, which will be available through the church for anyone wanting to know more about mental illness.

The Big Blue Fête dodged threatening rain on September

8 and was piped in by the Rector of St Bart's Alstonville The Rev'd Dr Desiree Snyman, surrounded by fruit and vegetables, bunches of flowers, potted plants, popcorn, cuddly bunnies, jumping castle, face painting, books, bric-a-brac and sizzling sausages. Fire brigades, morning teas, cakes, a pet fashion parade and a Lego building competition completed the picture. Music included an organ recital, the Emmanuel Anglican College band and The Headliners Chorus, and vocal and keyboard soloist from Xavier Catholic College showcasing the church building's famous acoustics.

Funds from the Friday dinner and the Saturday fête raised more than \$7000 for the beyondblue mental health charity.

Sunday the 9th saw a combined worship service led by guest Archbishop of Adelaide, Geoffrey Smith, who was the Rector when the old building was decommissioned, and the new Church dwelling was built. Long term parishioners thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to catch up with Archbishop Geoff and his wife Lynn. The service was followed by a lunch of fish and chips and a chance to catch up on the past 20 years with friends and guests.

Nostalgia along with future hope were combined into the message presented in the sermon. Archbishop Geoffrey stating how we only view the building as a house of God because of the interactions of people and God within or without the building, and this relationship needs to continue to be nurtured, otherwise



Fr Matthew Jones, Craig Hamilton and Milton



Craig Hamilton selling his book

without these connections the church building remains just a structure.

Emmanuel Anglican College was Archbishop Geoffrey's

vision which he saw to fruition. He spent time at EAC on Monday 10th before returning to Adelaide.

For those present it was exciting to be involved in events that help build a vibrant community.

SNAPSHOT



Some of the wonderful volunteers at the Mid Richmond Op Shop. They have recently created a fabulous space where customers can browse the books.



The Venerable Sally Miller, Archdeacon Schools and School Chaplaincy, dressed up as Wombat Divine at the Emmanuel Anglican College Book Week.

Is God Calling You?

By The Venerable Gail Hagon

Our sacred scriptures recall endless stories for us of God speaking to "his" people. For example, God spoke with Adam and Eve, to Moses, to Noah, to Deborah and to Mary to mention just a few.

Our sacred story also reminds us that God communicated, that is, spoke with his people in a variety of ways, through creation, through angels, through prophets, through dreams and visions, and miracles. Based on this it would appear to me that God has a strong desire to connect with, to communicate with God's people.

Jacob was a cheater. Peter had a temper. David had an affair. Noah got drunk.

Jonah ran from God. Gideon was insecure. Miriam was a gossip, and Martha was a worrier. Sarah thought God was funny. Moses stuttered. Zaccheus was short. Mary was young and Abraham was old. And yet... God called them all.

I wonder if God is calling you? I wonder if you are open to listening, to explore and to become all that God has created you to be? I wonder if you know what your vocation is?

The word vocation comes from the Latin word *vox* (wooks) meaning voice or vocal. It is often used synonymously with the Greek *Kaleo* which means to give name to, or receive name from, thus vocation is about giving voice to, or

expressing something that is part of your identity. Therefore to follow one's vocation is about living our own unique life, in a way that one has been created to be.

Part of our vocations as Baptised people of God is to use the gifts that we have been given to be God's people in the world, making God known in our communities, families and work places.

We have, by virtue of our Baptism, been called to reveal Christ in the world. The way that each of us do that will be as different and as diverse as humanity itself. Some of us will do this as we live out or calling to be a nurse, a teacher, a business planner, a tradie, a parent, a sports person or a

council worker. Others will live out our calling within a ministry in the church, i.e. a church warden, a children's ministry coordinator, a pastoral worker or an LLM.

Still others will feel called to the ordained life, that is, to the office of deacon, priest or bishop.

Here are three stories of people who are currently exploring God's call in their lives. They are in different stages of the Diocesan Inquiry/ Seekers process. After reading their stories you may feel called to become part of this discernment process.

If you do, can I ask you to take the following steps:

Speak to God in prayer: Ask God to reveal to you "his" plans

for your life, and how best you might serve him.

Reflect upon your gifts: Can you engage with people and are you able to share your faith? Are you someone with caring skills, with a willingness to support others? Are you a creative or natural leader or do you prefer to follow someone else?

Converse with your parish priest, a chaplain, or a trusted friend. Ask them what they think your vocation is and what gifts you have? Ask them to pray with you and for you?

Contact The Ministry Development Officer who will be able to advise you in your journey of discernment.

Remember: God calls everyone!

David Morgan



Hi all, my name is David Morgan. I am married to Elizabeth and we have four children - Charis, Sarah, Hannah and Jacob. Currently we are seeking our sense of calling into the priesthood. I say we, as my wife is very much a sojourner together with me. As I reflect on my life and randomly what it may have looked like in first century Palestine, (I think I would have been a shepherd) we both have had a nomadic life experience. I grew up as a child in Aboriginal church communities, spent several years living overseas in two countries on three different occasions and have studied three degrees in two

countries. Elizabeth's past is not dissimilar although involves more countries!

My wanderings and experiences have shaped who I am, yet it is not because of them that I sense God's call on my life. It is rather this difficult-to-explain pull of my heart towards leadership and pastoring within the church community, together with God's soft still voice and the confirmation of people who encourage me in the leadership role I am currently in, Families Minister at Port Anglican. That being said, the nomadic shepherd life has taught me much which has prepared me in perhaps a

similar way to Israel's Moses and King David — a formation, a shaping of the heart. The nomadic shepherd boy within me continues to grow, mature and develop an awareness of the world around him. This perhaps is why I feel at home sharing life with people not only in the church community but beyond the sheep fold into the "wilderness", the workplace and spaces in which the wider community congregates. My wife and I value sharing in the lives of others and thoroughly enjoy hosting people regularly at our home. It is in these times, over the fire as it were, that we get to share, know and understand.

I very much feel God's call on my life, a life of a simple nomad. My prayer has been for God to continue his mighty work in me for the benefit of his purpose and for those around me, and that I may be a leader who leads a quiet Holy Spirit-filled life, who preaches with God's power and authority, who enables the Holy Spirit to work his supernatural work through me, and who trusts God to provide the wisdom I need to stay the course, to have longevity of ministry. I value this opportunity to seek God's call and vocation for my life and my family, and commit it to him.

Paul Hodge



My call to full-time ministry began with a cassette player. I was doing an apprenticeship and spent a lot of time in front of a computer screen drawing houses. I tried to use this time to listen to the Bible and Bible Talks on cassette. It was over this time that I began to think, "Maybe my gifts and abilities could be better used in ministry." I think this was the beginning of my "calling". I had spoken of doing Bible College in the past, and my girlfriend at the time (now my wife) said,

"stop talking about it, and go and do it" So I did.

At Bible College this "calling" was affirmed by those in my church and by the lecturers at college. This calling continued to be affirmed when I was offered my first role at Moorebank Anglican Church, and then again when was offered my second role at The Point Community Church in Port Macquarie. During my time at The Point, I was working too hard and ended up burning out. I took some time off and

got myself better, but this gave me a good opportunity to re-discern God's call on my life.

I really enjoyed ministry amongst young people, so I re-trained as a teacher and got a job at St Columba Anglican School. Whilst perhaps I considered that my days of "official" full-time ministry were over, it seems that God had other plans. Like Stephen Bradbury at the Olympics, people kept falling over in front of me! The Assistant Chaplain left, and they asked me to

take his place and then the Chaplain was keen to move on as well! It seemed that perhaps God was calling me back to this "official" full-time ministry. So I undertook the discernment process to see if this calling would be affirmed and thankfully it was (I also learnt a heap in the process). This calling is a really important part of who I am. I feel like I have found my niche in life (or perhaps that God placed me there). I can't imagine doing anything else!

Lawrence Outridge



My name is Lawrence Outridge and currently I get the pleasure of serving in Port Macquarie as a Stipended Lay Minister focusing on the youth and creative ministries. My week usually consists of a variety of activities from leading youth bible studies, through to mentoring and growing young leaders. I moved to Port approximately 18 months ago, prior to which I was an intern

at a Lutheran church on the Sunshine Coast, Queensland. Ever since I came to faith in high school I have been fascinated with trying to love people with the way Jesus modelled to us. Having been given a broad range of opportunities to walk alongside people in all stages of life, I quickly realised that I wanted to dedicate my life to serving

God and loving people in whatever way I could, and couldn't imagine a better way to do that than within God's church.

When I moved to Port in early 2017, I began to wrestle through the concept of ordination. If you'd asked me five years ago if I thought I would end up working in a church, let alone be

considering ordination I probably would have laughed at you, but the more I follow God's lead in my life, the more signs seem to point towards serving God in an ordained capacity in leadership. There are still many big questions ahead for me about God's calling, but I am joyful to experience life no matter where God places me.

Is God Calling You?

I wonder how God communicates with us today? Facebook? Twitter? Social media? Perhaps, perhaps not, but make no mistake God still communicates with people today. God still calls.

St Columba Anglican School's chamber choir prepares to sing at New York's Carnegie Hall

Students from the St Columba Anglican School's chamber choir are counting down the days before they head to sing at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

The group who found out they were going in November 2017, will in perform in the première of a major composition by international composer, Paul Mealor.

The choir, who have voices like angels, had performed Mr Mealor's music at one of their vocal showcases earlier in 2017, taped the performance and put it on YouTube.

Concert organisers in New York were searching for choirs that could sing Mr Mealor's challenging music and discovered the video of their performance.

Conductor Marie van Gend recalls the moment she received an email inviting the SCAS Chamber Choir to sing at Carnegie Hall.

"I thought it was a hoax so I actually deleted the email and forgot about it. Then they contacted me again via the telephone and I began to realise this was real," she said.

"The students were elated to learn that they were going to perform an original composition by one of their heroes, in arguably the greatest concert hall in the world, and that he was going to teach it to them and conduct it.

"They have worked so hard to get to this point and I am just



Marie van Gend and the Chamber Choir of Saint Columba Anglican School (SCAS) has been offered the chance of a lifetime, to perform at the world famous Carnegie Hall in New York.

so proud of them."

The piece they will be performing will be Mr Mealor's 'Requiem' which looks at 'the beauty of sacrifice' and it will be performed on November 11, Remembrance Day.

Students Jono Kosneier, Melanie Jenkins and Matthew Hingston are among the group going, and said they were all very excited to be given the opportunity.

"Obviously we all love singing and to be given an opportunity

like this is quite amazing," Jono said.

"It is still incredible to think that nearly a year ago we all went out for dinner with Ms van Gend to find out a 'surprise' but never in our dreams did we think it would be a trip to New York to sing at Carnegie Hall."

"Chamber music is gorgeous but is quite challenging to learn, so we have all had to do a lot of practice outside our weekly session as a group," Melanie said.

"It is special to know that we will actually be in the choir that will be conducted by Mr Mealor at Carnegie Hall - which still doesn't seem real."

"My three brothers were in the chamber choir so it was always something I wanted to be a part of when I came to this school and for us to be found from a YouTube video and asked to sing in New York is phenomenal," Matthew said.

"It really does put Port Macquarie on the map as

somewhere that competes on the world stage and to be recognised as being the best is cool.

"A huge thanks has to go to Ms van Gend and Ms Wills who have been so great helping us prepare for the trip.

"I think this is the culmination of everything Ms van Gend has done for the chamber choir over the years and it is so great that we get to do this for her."

STORY AND PHOTOS BY LAURA TELFORD, PORT MACQUARIE NEWS

North Coast Anglican Recognised at ARPA Awards

North Coast Anglican newspaper has won a joint silver award in the Best Design Newspaper category at the recent Australasian Religious Press Association (ARPA) awards.

The presentations were made at the association's conference in Brisbane on the weekend September 6-7.

The newspaper was recognised for design alongside *The Advocate*, a monthly newspaper distributed to Baptist churches in Western Australia.

Judges comments included:

"There was much to commend both entries in this category, and little to distinguish between them. Both have an open, uncluttered appearance that makes for easy reading. Both make copious use of colour photographs."

ARPA awards are presented each year for excellence in religious journalism and publishing in 23 categories, such as Best



News Story, Best Layout, Best Photograph, Best Ecumenical Story, Best Social Justice Story, to name a few. These are judged by leading professional journalists and awarded at a dinner at the annual conference. Awards were presented to entries from the publication year of 2017.

Wauchope Anglicans welcome new Rector



The Rev'd Ross Duncan and The Rev'd Angela Dutton

The Parish of Wauchope welcomed The Rev'd Angela Dutton as Rector of the Parish as she was commissioned on July 27 by the Administrator of the Diocese, Archdeacon Gail Hagon. The Commissioning was attended by many clergy

from the Diocese, Angela's family, visitors from the Parish of Scone, invited guests and parishioners. The parish looks forward to journeying with Angela as their Rector and spiritual guide.

NATIONAL + INTERNATIONAL ANGLICAN NEWS

BISHOP RICHARD INSTALLED BISHOP OF GIPPSLAND

The Rt Rev'd Dr Richard Stanley Treloar was installed as the 13th Bishop of Gippsland at St Paul's Cathedral, Sale, on August 18. Bishop Richard issued the diocese with an invitation: "Let us build a house of radical inclusion... where all are welcome, all voices valued, and all are safe; an open house, with a table at which all who know their need are fed".

THE ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF BUNBURY, WA ELECTS A NEW BISHOP

The Anglican Diocese of Bunbury, Western Australia joyfully elected its 10th Bishop of the Diocese during its Election Synod meeting on the June 15-16, 2018, following a period of searching and discernment from around the country. The Bishop Elect is The Rev'd Dr Ian Coutts, who currently works for both

Anglicare NSW/ACT and St Marks Theological Centre, in the ACT. Rev'd Ian Coutts was ordained Deacon in 1989 and Priest in 1990 in Birmingham, UK. The Rev'd Dr Ian Coutts will be installed on November 3 at St Boniface Cathedral, Bunbury.

MOTHERS' UNION DELIVER FOOD AND WATER TO FLOOD-STRANDED FAMILIES IN MYANMAR

Members of the Mothers' Union in The Church of the Province of Myanmar are helping alleviate suffering caused by flooding in the country. According to Reuters' Relief Net, almost 79,000 people from four townships in the country's Bago Region had to flee their homes after the Swar Chaung dam was breached at the end of August. Mothers' Union members and young people from the diocese are delivering food, clean water and bags of rice to

those whose homes have been flooded as well as people who are stranded and are unable to leave their homes. The only way to get around the area at the moment is by boat because all the roads are badly flooded.

WELSH BISHOPS TO EXPLORE "FORMAL PROVISION" FOR SAME-SEX COUPLES

The Bishops of the Church in Wales (CiW) will explore formal provision for same-sex couples in church after a debate yesterday in the Province's Governing Body. Members of the Governing Body – the Church in Wales' synod – agreed that "it is pastorally unsustainable for the Church to make no formal provision for those in same-gender relationships." Following the vote, a CiW spokeswoman said that bishops will now consider "new approaches which could be brought back to the Governing Body for approval at a later date."



The Rev'd Phyllis Andy, Bishop Richard Treloar, and the Rev'd Kathy Dalton. Photo: Trevor Balm

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Curry with a side of Compassion at Port Anglican

The Parish of Port Macquarie was blessed to spend the weekend with Jane' Alam Sheikh and team from Compassion as they shared in "Curry with a Twist" in September.

The parish heard the testimony of Jane' across all three services, followed by the incredible 'Curry with a Twist' where Jane' taught the crowd how to make his mother's authentic Indian curry.

More importantly though, across the weekend they had more than 20 children sponsored. Sponsoring a child through Compassion does far more than just feed and clothe them; it frees them and their community from spiritual and

physical poverty and gives hope for tomorrow. "Fabulous night. Thanks for organising. Amazing life story. Let's support Compassion in any way we can," one parishioner said.

Compassion joined Port Anglican at Pastor Stuart's invitation and the parish was excited to support the ministry they do. Find out more about their amazing work here: www.compassion.com.au



IN BRIEF

RESIGNATIONS

The Rev'd Rachel Rynehart has announced her resignation as Rector of the Parish of Tweed Heads. Rachel's final service in the Parish will be November 18.

The Venerable Sally Miller has announced her resignation from her role as the Archdeacon to Schools and School Chaplaincy. Her resignation will become effective at the end of the school year on December 11, 2018.

DEATHS

The Rev'd Canon Kenneth Munns, Rector of Port Macquarie from 1988-95, and Rector of Lismore from 1995-2000.

The Rev'd Canon Ron Dyson, Rector of Dorrigo 1956-1961; Rector of Macksville 1961-1966; Rector of Tweed Heads 1966-1981, and Rector of Kempsey 1981-1987.

Mrs Louise Ball, wife of the former Principal of Bishop Druiitt College, Mr Alan Ball.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

9 October – Mid-Richmond MMR meeting

16 October – Northern MMR meeting

20 October – LLM Formation Day at Lennox Head

26 October – Central MMR meeting

27 October – LLM Formation Day at Macksville

1 November – Southern MMR meeting

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REFLECTIONS

Are you ok?

By The Venerable Matthew Jones

During the past few months I have been reflecting a great deal on mental health issues. I think this is mainly because in the Ballina parish we have been planning a number of events to support beyondblue, an organisation which provides information and support to help everyone in Australia achieve their best possible mental health, whatever their age and wherever they live. According to their website, presently three-million Australians are living with anxiety or depression. When I consider these statistics, I am convinced that this is an area I need to know more about.

Some years ago I helped a young person through a particularly difficult time in their life. The person was a male in his late twenties and his behaviour was, for me, both confusing and challenging. What began as something I would have simply described as mood swings soon became so serious that he needed hospitalisation. His family all lived in another country and his girlfriend had left to return to her home country, so this young man was alone and in a very frightening head space. I managed to get him admitted to the psychiatric ward at the local hospital where he was diagnosed as being bipolar, and from that moment he began a course of treatment which still continues today.



I can remember being very traumatised by this experience. I felt helpless and inadequate. I remember leaving the hospital after seeing him through the admissions process and, as I telephoned his father in the country he was living in, I was startled by my own reaction to this situation as I found myself starting to cry. It was not the reaction I had anticipated and I found myself apologising for upsetting his father. After all, I was the professional carer here. I was the priest who was supposed to be able to look at this through different lenses.

His father reassured me that my reactions were absolutely ok with him and he was just so very grateful that I was there to support his son. He told me to never apologise for my emotions because for him, it meant that I genuinely cared. I am still in contact with this young man and he is doing well and my involvement in his journey has taught me a great deal about the way I perceive mental illness.

Here in Australia, R U OK? Day is a national day of action dedicated to reminding everyone that any day is the

day to ask, "Are you ok?" and support those struggling with life. This was recently held on September 13. From the R U OK? website we read: In 1995, much-loved Barry Larkin was far from ok. His suicide left family and friends in deep grief and with endless questions. In 2009, his son Gavin Larkin chose to champion just one question to honour his father and to try and protect other families from the pain his endured. "Are you OK?" R U OK?'s vision is a world where we're all connected and are protected from suicide.

Their mission is to inspire and empower everyone to meaningfully connect with people around them and support anyone struggling with life.

The more I learn about mental health, the less I seem to know because the issues appear to get bigger and bigger. I am keen to keep learning, especially about how I may be able to help those who are struggling. I still feel very inadequate but I want to be there for those who need support, encouragement and nurture. I believe the church can play a key role in helping people who are struggling because we have the strength of God with us. I think these words from Matthew's gospel have much to offer: Jesus said, "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." *Matthew 11:28-30 (NRSV)*

If I look like I am struggling, I hope someone will ask me if I am ok. It is a little question that can have a huge, and positive, impact.

More information can be found at www.ruok.org.au

THREADS LAID BARE

Fragments of stone and the rocks of tradition

By Rev'd Camellia Flanagan

There are two ancient stones on the chancel walls of Christ Church Cathedral at Grafton. From the beginning of Grafton Diocese in 1914, each bishop had been his own Cathedral Dean and the Grafton rector, the sub-Dean. Bishop Storrs installed Archdeacon Warr as first Dean of Grafton on October 16, 1949. Dean

Warr left for England on November 13 for his first visit home in 28 years. As a youth he was a member of All Saints, Fishponds, Bristol and following a visit, the Dean and Chapter of Bristol Cathedral presented him with an ancient fragment of stone from Bristol. The stone masonry design appears to be an ancient fleur-de-lis commonly used at the time as a symbol of Trinity.

The plaque on the south wall for this stone says: "AD 1215 Bristol. AD 1950 Grafton. This and the ancient stone above were consecrated by The Most Rev'd Geoffrey Francis Fisher MA DD Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, Primate of all England on November 7, 1950, Christopher E Storrs, Bishop A Edward Warr, Dean."

A year later the Archbishop of

York dedicated a stone and plaque for the cathedral to commemorate Australia's first 50 years as a Commonwealth. The stone on the North side contains stone mason's work depicting the Greek Key pattern which is a symbol of eternal time. The description on the plaque reads: "AD c.110. A fragment of the Norman Abbey of St Augustine, Canterbury, Kent, the gift of St Augustine's

College, Canterbury AD 1959," and the plaque under this reads, "To the Glory of God and to Commemorate Fifty years in the life of the Commonwealth of Australia 1902-1951. This stone was consecrated by the Most Reverend Cyril Forester Garbett, MA DD Lord Archbishop of York, Primate of England on November 4th 1951".

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."



Fashion and Fun at Tweed Heads

By Yvonne Turner

The fearless fashionistas braved the rain on September 8, what was the wettest day for months, to attend a day of fashion and tea at St Cuthbert's, Tweed Heads.

After months of preparation it was feared that no one would want to go out –and certainly not to a fashion parade! The rain just bucketed down! But

they did – about 99 ladies and one man (Ted Hale). A wonderful day was had by all. You are a very brave man Ted!

This year the fashions were by Maddie & Lil of Kingscliff. Lovely fresh clothes that all the ladies enjoyed were paraded. An added bonus was that Denise Singleton, the owner, has a "Wigs for Wendy" service, providing wigs, chemo caps and turbans to women going

through a difficult time in their lives. Jan Murphy and Sue Woodcock wore a wig with one of the outfits and it really did change their appearance. They looked amazing.

The models were of course ladies of the parish who always do a great job. Modelling with great humour and joy. The word "courageous" does come to mind too.

Following the parade a wonderful afternoon tea was enjoyed. It was with great joy that it was noticed that the noise level from the chatter around the tables was tremendous, and the fellowship very obvious.

I can report that the fitting day for the models was an occasion of its own – seven "mature-age" ladies who were required to select four outfits each. That in

itself was worthy of a comical video!

Sincere thanks to all involved, those who donated lucky door and raffle prizes, the afternoon tea team, the sellers of tickets, the welcoming team and all those who braved the weather and came to enjoy what was a very happy day. All in all, another successful event at St Cuthbert's.



Yvonne Turner – Hostess



Jan Murphy models the fashion



All the models gather following the parade

PRAYING WITH THE SAINTS

Elizabeth of Hungary tssf – Princess and Philanthropist

By Rev'd Camellia Flanagan

DIED 1231. FEAST DAY NOVEMBER 19.

Elizabeth was a princess of the kingdom of Hungary, Landgravine of Thuringia, Germany, and a greatly venerated saint who was an early member of the Third Order of St Francis. She is honoured as a Franciscan saint. She was married at the age of 14, and widowed at 20. After her husband's death, her children were sent away and she regained her dowry using the money to build a hospital where she served the sick. She became a symbol of Christian

charity after her death at the age of 24. Her ancestry included many notable figures of European royalty and she was brought to the court of the rulers of Thuringia in central Germany to be betrothed to Louis IV, Landgrave of Thuringia, and married him in 1221. The marriage appeared to have been happy. In 1223 Franciscan friars visited Elizabeth and she started to live the Franciscan ideals which appealed to her. She was supported by her husband in her charitable efforts in distributing their wealth to the poor. In 1226 when floods, famine and plague took a toll

on the country of Thuringia, and her husband was away representing Frederick II at the Imperial Diet held in Cremona, she took charge of affairs at home and distributed alms in all parts of their territory. She also gave away state robes and ornaments to the poor and built a 28-bed hospital below Wartburg Castle and visited daily to attend to the patients' needs.

Elizabeth's life which was full of love and faith, changed considerably on the death of her husband in Otranto Italy on September 11, 1227 as he was preparing to join the Sixth

Crusade, a few weeks before the birth of her daughter. Elizabeth vowed never to remarry and to live a life similar to a nun, despite pressure from relatives. These vows included celibacy and an agreement of complete obedience to her confessor and spiritual director Master Conrad of Marburg. His treatment of her was strict and often harsh, holding her to standards that many saw as impossible to meet. He ordered physical beatings and sent her children away, but she kept her vow not to remarry. In 1228 she joined the Third Order of St Francis, and her life was consumed deeply by

her devotion to God and her charitable labours. She died at the age of 24 on November 17, 1231 in Marburg, Hesse.

The Collect for Elizabeth of Hungary, from the Manual of the Third Order of the Society of St Francis:

Merciful God, who helped Elizabeth of Hungary to recognise and honour Christ in the poor; grant that we may use the prosperity of this present world for the glory of your eternal kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

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.

Faith Formation in the Twenty First Century

John Roberto shared his insights on Lifelong Faith Formation for the 21st Century as the keynote speaker for the Diocese's Ministry School held at Opal Cove, Coffs Harbour from August 6-8.

The *North Coast Anglican* asked attendees to share their reflections on the Ministry School.

THE VERY REV'D DR GREGORY C. JENKS - DEAN, CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, GRAFTON

There were two stand points where the input from John Roberto was especially relevant for the Cathedral.

The first was the profile of four different categories of spiritual/religious identities, each varying degrees of affiliation with the mission and ministry of the Cathedral (or any other local faith community).

We used this model to sharpen our focus on intentional ministry with the Occasionals and Uninvolved, with leaving open the possibility of some impact on the Unaffiliated. We shall need to monitor progress on these goals and adjust them as may be needed.

The other key "takeaway" for the Cathedral parish was the focus on ministry with families. This confirmed and clarified our already developing plans for ministry with children and families. We are reshaping our outreach to families under the theme, "Building Strong Families".

REV'D MIKE RIDGE -RECTOR, DORRIGO CHURCH

I was fortunate to have a double dose of John Roberto. After hearing him at the provincial conference in Southport we had the privilege of listening to him again at the Grafton Ministry School.

It was certainly a transformational experience to hear such an enthusiastic and inspirational speaker. For me the two salient themes of his presentation was how do we form faith and encourage discipleship across the generations when we live in a society with an increasing number of "nones" and more of the younger generation who are increasingly disaffiliated with institutional church.

The second theme was how can we use digital technology and social media to engage with that missing constituency of people outside the church and expand our reach into the local community.

John encouraged us to be creative, to have a go and to realise that we have nothing to lose in our present circumstances and everything to gain.

We do of course, as John so ably pointed out, have the seasons and rhythm of the church year in order to build opportunities for intergenerational or all-age worship and discipleship (form formation) and we must use these to our advantage.



John Roberto presents to the Diocese of Grafton. Photo by David Ford

Going back to our own context in Dorrigo the content from John has enabled me to make new plans for redeveloping our website, having an intergenerational advent challenge for the beginning of December, experiment with Facebook and live videoing to expand our reach into the community and start to have initial conversations about running a seekers course in a popular coffee shop in the local town. I am also following up by reading "The Digital Cathedral" by Keith Anderson which

details many of the examples that John referred to and gives practical advice about how to implement some of these ideas in the parish context.

On September 2 we recorded our first sermon live and less than 24 hours later it has reached over 300 people, such is the power of social media. My new rule for the day is now "one digital thing every day" even if it is a simple five-minute post on Facebook - in the world we live in today these things are just as important as the church bulletin or the pastoral visit. In summary, this conference was truly inspiring and a great opportunity to apply some of the lessons learnt into my own context at Dorrigo.

Here's what I've tried so far:

- Purchasing "Taking Faith Home," a weekly bulletin insert designed to bring faith into daily life. Extracts also go on the parish Facebook page and the website.
- Sermon podcast: This was simpler than I expected! I had my first episode up and running in no time.
- Refreshing the look of the parish website and Facebook page, e.g. replacing photos of church buildings with photos of our people.
- Curating some great material on baptism from the Church of England website.

You can check out the results of my experiments on www.anglicanmidrichmond.com, and Mid Richmond Anglicans on Facebook.

One important point: individually, we can sample just a little from John Roberto's smorgasbord. I believe that if we are a bit visionary, this is our opportunity to create resources together, which we can use across our regions and across the diocese.

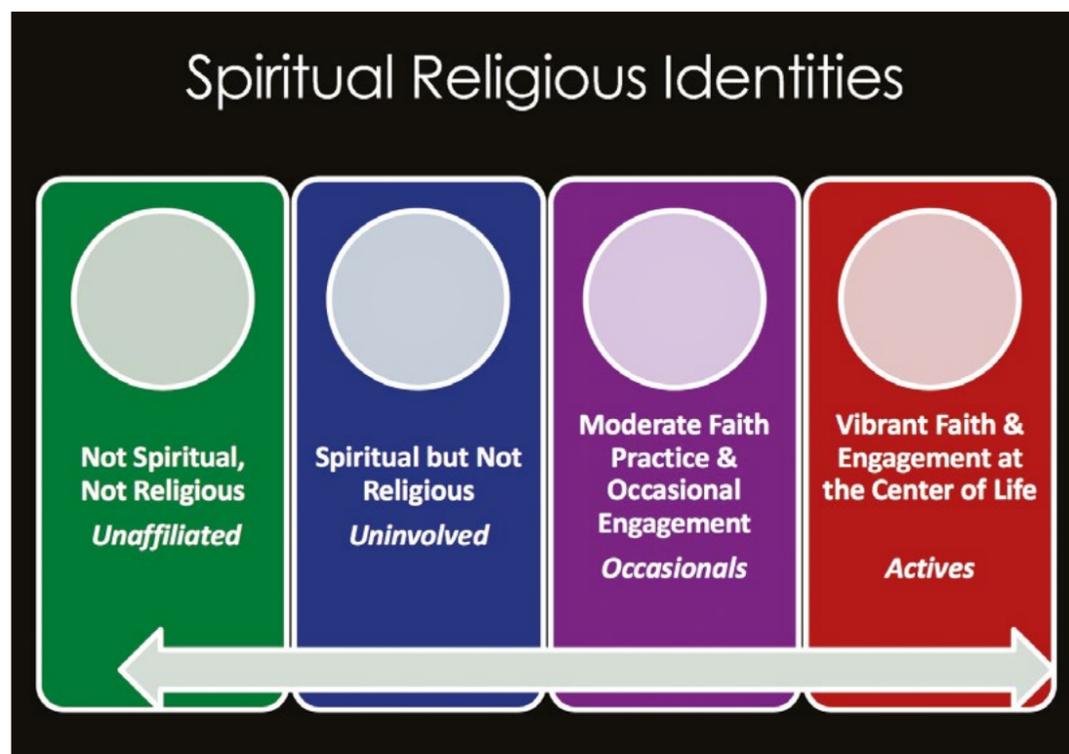
"Taking Faith Home" is lectionary-based, and can be purchased online from Milestone Ministries.

www.buzzfeed.com is a free site which will host your podcast. I'm sure there are many more.

REV'D CATHY RIDD - RECTOR, MID RICHMOND CHURCH

John Roberto offered us a smorgasbord of new ideas, but our plates are piled high with everything we already do in ministry. How can we sample from John's smorgasbord, without overloading our plates?

John's solution is "curating" - finding what other people are doing well (especially on the internet), instead of doing everything from scratch. I decided to try this "curating" thing. I especially wanted to find ways to help families connect with God, even when they are too busy to get to church.



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