

# NORTH COAST ANGLICAN

*Transforming lives through Jesus Christ*

October November 2019 | Issue No 5



## PARTNERSHIP TO ENHANCE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Saturday 14 September was the official open day of Farnworth the farm which is a shared property between Bishop Druitt College and Clarence Valley Anglican School.

The Farnworth open day was the first opportunity that CVAS and BDC has had to express to their communities the dynamic and exciting future that this property and the new

partnership will provide.

The farm is located at 54 Kangaroo Creek Road, Glenreagh. The day featured rolling tours on the property, together with a morning tea on arrival.

The property is 161.51 hectares of pastures with extensive tree-lined ridges and established walking paths. Both Clarence Valley Anglican School and Bishop Druitt College see the

potential to develop Farnworth into an educational facility that can support:

- Vocational education (e.g. construction, agricultural and pastoral education)
- Science and Environmental education
- Outdoor education (e.g. school camps)
- Creative Arts

BDC Principal Mr Nick Johnstone is very excited about this partnership and wishes to thank Ted and Peggy Clarke as well as Martin Oates the Principal of CVAS and Kieran McAndrew the chair of CVAS Council.

"This partnership proves that when schools work together, more educational opportunities open up, which goes straight to benefiting the students," said

Mr Nick Johnstone.

"This is a fantastic development in the school's history and BDC are excited by the possibilities."

Pictured, BDC council chair Mr David Ford is presenting a BDC school hat to Mr Ted Clarke, who gifted CVAS the property, to welcome him to the BDC family.





# FROM THE BISHOP

## Reading the Bible as Anglicans

If you have ever used the London Underground, you would be familiar with the phrase “mind the gap”. The announcement is meant to draw attention to the dangerous gap between the train and the platform, which a traveller ignores at their own peril. Whenever I look at the Scriptures I’m aware of another gap. The gap between the world in which the text was written and my world as a reader. Either consciously or unconsciously, those who teach and preach from the scriptures are constantly negotiating this gap. As they interpret the words of the Scriptures and apply them to life today, the preacher’s words become the lens through which to view the Scriptures. This has always been a challenging and even dangerous exercise, as evidenced by the fact that in 1542 and again in 1563 the Reformers were not confident that preachers were up to the task. A series of sermons was authorised for use. A form of this list appears in Article 35 of the Thirty-Nine Articles Religion (see page 833 of APBA). I’ve never heard any of these authorised sermons actually preached in a church, but the existence of the list is evidence of the dangers of making

interpretations from the social and cultural world of the text to the contemporary world of the preacher and his or her listeners. But of course it’s not just the preacher or teacher who has to take this gap seriously. Once the Scriptures were translated into English or other vernacular languages, they were open to the interpretation of anyone. Hopefully, each of us uses the Bible regularly for personal study and devotional purposes. Much of Scripture is easily understandable because it voices universal sentiments that have a timeless relevance. A reader with no awareness of the background to the text can clearly still gain spiritual solace and insight because of a shared human experience with what the passage narrates. An elderly gentleman to whom I regularly took Home Communion as a Curate hardly needed a degree in Biblical Studies to know that the Psalmist’s words, “If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast” (*Psalms 139:9-10*), deeply resonated with his own reflections as he contemplated the end of his long and faithful life.

Yet if we want to go beyond this devotional use, how do Anglicans understand the scriptures and interpret them for our life today? God communicates with human beings and the Bible is a privileged vehicle of that communication. It is the sacred text of the church. As such, Anglicanism has always cherished scripture and given it a central place in its life and worship. Historically, this is summed up in Article 6 of the 39 Articles, “Holy Scripture containeth all things necessary to salvation”. For Australian Anglicans this is echoed in the *Fundamental Declarations of the Constitution* which states, “This Church receives all the canonical scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as being the ultimate rule and standard of faith given by inspiration of God and containing all things necessary for salvation”. Two key words here are inspiration and canonical. Absent from these statements is a definition of the nature of the scriptures or any precise definition of what is meant by inspiration. The general phrase “given by inspiration of God” is in stark contrast to understandings from the Continental Reformers who used phrases like “God

breathed”. Attempts over the years to pin down the nature of the inspiration have not received adequate support within Anglicanism. Yet Anglicans do believe that the Scripture writers were inspired by the Holy Spirit in their work, so we should take seriously their original context. After all, trying to understand what the original author meant honours the divine inspiration of Scripture because the message the writer directed to their times is surely part of God’s inspired communication. For many, saying that Scripture is God’s inspired revelation includes taking seriously God’s ongoing revelation in the life of the believer as the inspired text is read and in turn, inspires the reader. I draw on an example here from my work over many years as an Examining Chaplain and Vocations Adviser. It is God’s revelation in the Bible that reminds us, as readers or listeners, of God’s call to us (*Jeremiah 1:4-10; Mark 1:16-20*) but our decision, in response to that text, to live out a vocation using our gifts to serve him (*Isaiah 6:8*) is part of God’s ongoing revelation and inspiration in the life of the believer and their community. While the nature of inspiration is an ongoing debate, the

canonical nature of the scriptures is well understood. Over a long period, the church assembled various documents that had good standing within the Christian community, and through a Conciliar or Synodical process, authorised them. So the single book that we know today as the Bible was brought together in and for the church. As Martyn Percy has pointed out, when Paul wrote that “all Scripture is inspired by God” (*2 Timothy 3:16*) in a letter to his friend Timothy, he could hardly have had his own letter in mind at the time. The conferral of canonical status on his letter came much later. Given its emergence through the history of the early church it is hard to believe how some Christians have come to believe that the Bible has come from heaven to earth like a fax. This is not an Anglican understanding because we have always been conscious and respectful of the historical process of compiling what we now know as the Bible (forming the Canon). Yet some find this hard to grasp and, in judgement, readily offer comments like “Anglicans don’t believe in the Bible” or “Anglicans don’t take the Bible seriously”.  
**Continued Page 4**

### The Three ‘Worlds’ of the Bible

Here is a suggested way of looking not just at the words on the page but also behind them to the context in which they were written. It also challenges us to think about our own context and perspectives as readers of the text. This approach is based on the writings of Sandra Schneiders in her book *The Revelatory Text: Interpreting the New Testament as Sacred Scripture*. (San Francisco, CA: Harper, 1991). Her other helpful book *How to Read the Bible Prayerfully* (Collegeville: 1984) is still in print.

#### 1. THE WORLD BEHIND THE TEXT

What do we know about the ancient context of the passage?

- Historical information
- Social systems of the time
- Cultural knowledge

#### 2. THE WORLD WITHIN THE TEXT

Focusing on the passage in its context in the Bible.

- How does this passage fit into the larger context of the book or Bible as a whole?
- Who are the key characters in this

passage (or the book in which it is found)?

- What are the issues, themes and purpose of this passage (or the book in which it is found)?
- What kind of literature (genre) do we have here: poetry, narrative, letter, song, etc?

#### 3. THE WORLD IN FRONT OF THE TEXT

Thinking about my intended use of the passage and on what I as a reader bring to its interpretation.

- What is my context (situation) and what

kind of spiritual wisdom am I seeking?

- Who am I reading this passage with (or for whom am I preparing this sermon or study?)
- How has this passage been understood by other Christians over the past 2000 years?
- What challenge or invitation do I discern the Spirit offering me (us) through this passage at the moment?

**HELPFUL TIPS**  
A good Study Bible can help you engage with the

scriptures in this way. Highly recommended here is the *New Oxford Annotated Study Bible* (NRSV). Alternatively, there are plenty of options now in terms of Bible Software, such as Olive Tree [www.olivetree.com](http://www.olivetree.com) or Accordance [www.accordancebible.com](http://www.accordancebible.com). In addition to this, why not consider requesting a *Bible 360* seminar in your ministry unit or MMR? We have trained *Bible 360* presenters in the diocese. Find out more here [www.formedfaith.org/aboutthe360project](http://www.formedfaith.org/aboutthe360project) or ask your Parish Priest.

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Articles should be sent, preferably, by email or as an attachment in Word, or if sent by post should be typed. Articles need to be between 300-400 words but may be edited as a result of space constraints.

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# Winner of the BDC Teacher Professional Learning Scholarship announced

Bishop Druitt College is pleased to announce that the inaugural FXBC Fuji Xerox Teacher Professional Learning Scholarship winner is Mark Freeman. This scholarship is to the value of \$3000 and has been generously donated by Gary Evans, Dealer Principal, Fuji Xerox Business Centre Mid North Coast.

Mark will be undertaking a leadership session regarding improving outcomes through Talk for Writing, a second session focussing on reading into writing, shared writing and creative writing and a number of school visits to recommended Talk for Writing schools.

BDC is also pleased to announce there is a second winner in 2019, BDC Chaplain The Rev'd Naomi Cooke, who will use her scholarship to attend a Holy Pilgrimage to Nazareth and Jerusalem. This will include a spiritual component and an academic

component. This event is being led by the Dean of the Cathedral, The Very Rev'd Dr Greg Jenks.

"We have been partners with BDC for many years and at Fuji Xerox Business Centre Mid North Coast we have a policy of trying to give back every year. This scholarship came about while speaking with BDC Principal, Mr Nick Johnstone, and we both agreed on the program. There has been really good interest and we are planning to run the program again next year," Gary Evans said.

"We value our partnership with Gary and his team and are excited that we can work together to enrich what staff bring to BDC and therefore deliver to our students," Nick Johnstone said.

"This a fantastic initiative and I feel so privileged to be a part of the first round," Mark Freeman said.

"This is fantastic news - super



L-R: Mark Freeman, Gary Evans, Naomi Cooke

exciting for both Mark and I," Naomi Cooke said. Gary added, "If we didn't

donate the funds for this program, no-one would and it wouldn't happen."

Congratulations to our two scholarship winners Mark and Naomi.

# Diocesan Meeting to Discuss Potential Changes

On November 9, Anglicans from across the Diocese will descend upon St John's Coffs Harbour to hear about plans to make significant structural changes to parishes and church centres of the Diocese of Grafton.

The Bishop-in-Council has been looking at the Mission and Ministry Overview document that was agreed in February 2018 and how best to advance the call to restructure the diocese to enable mission and ministry. The November meeting will unveil "Restructuring for Mission and Ministry", a document that will be open for discussion and comment in each parish, church and regional grouping over the following months.

Bishop Murray wrote to all parishes saying "The thought of restructuring can produce uncertainty and even fear for the future. However, it is my impression that, given that the "old models" are not working as well as they used to, many



are waiting expectantly for the opportunity to do things differently and embrace new models. So let's approach all of this with an openness to who God is calling us to be."

The November meeting will be open to those on the synod roll and parishes will be invited

to nominate up to two more members to attend. After the process of consultation a special synod will be held on June 27 next year to give effect to the final version of the restructuring plan.

"This is a vital time for the Anglican Church on the north coast and we hope that there is enthusiastic involvement in the conversation" commented the Registrar, Mr Chris Nelson, "and we ask that everyone prays for wisdom and guidance in the process."

## RESTRUCTURING FOR MISSION AND MINISTRY A PRAYER

*God of mission, give us, your people of Grafton diocese, a spirit of adventure and courage as we explore and live into new models of ministry. Grant to us a sense of your presence during our conversations, enabling us to speak clearly and with love. Give us attentive ears and kind hearts as we listen to one another and your wisdom in our decision making. As we explore our future may we know that you are already here, calling us to renew your church and join with you in mission. vGuide us with your light, enliven us with your breath and enflame us in your love. Amen.*

# St Mary's Ballina Welcomes Japanese Visitors

Twelve students and three teachers from St Margaret's Elementary School, Tokyo, Japan, were welcomed to the St Mary's Ballina congregation on September 1.

The tour group spent the previous week as guests of Emmanuel Anglican College, where they were billeted with school families.

The focus for the service was the Martyrs of New Guinea. Associate Priest, The Rev'd Cathy Ridd, spoke sensitively about two of the martyrs

especially their commitment to their calling and willingness to serve and minister to people in their community.

Following a special morning tea the group travelled to Brisbane with a stop at the Gold Coast to purchase souvenirs.

The school also has a secondary school and university on the same site. It is an Anglican School with St Mary's being their chapel name.

The school chaplain made a

visit to Emmanuel Anglican College earlier in the year. Principal of Emmanuel Anglican College, Mr Rob Tobias, visited St Margaret's at the end of 2018 for their graduation ceremony.

Pictured are the 12 girls and three teachers from St Margaret's Elementary School Tokyo, Japan with Emmanuel Anglican College Principal Mr Rob Tobias and College Chair Mr John Bryen following the service at St Mary's Church Ballina.





# Rural Ministry Conference

By The Venerable Tiffany Sparks, Diocesan Archdeacon

In September, leaders from sixteen dioceses gathered to discuss and celebrate the “Glitz” and “Grit” of doing ministry in Remote and Rural Australia. The conference was held in beautiful Blampied an hour and a half north west of Melbourne in the Ballarat diocese. The conference was facilitated by Bishop Matt Brain from Bendigo diocese. We discovered just how vast and remarkable our church is in reaching some of the most geographically isolated people in this land.

Bishop Cam Venebles from the Brisbane diocese presented a survey of the national church in rural and remote Australia. We were collectively amazed to discover that 2 million people live in rural and remote Australia. There was a great sense of how important it is that we continue to reach these Australians with the love of God in Jesus Christ. We heard about the challenging work of reaching and celebrating our first nations people in rural and remote areas. We listened to several presentations from people doing innovative ministry and also the work of BCA around the country. The Primate Archbishop



Philip Freier addressed us on the national church and the importance of being intentional in ministry to rural and remote people. We heard about the importance of having a theology of rural ministry from Bishop Andrew Curnow and the need to ensure safe ministry for vulnerable people. We were invited to comment on draft amendments being presented at general synod

in response to the Royal Commission report. We had an opportunity to share the highs and lows of being faithful to our call as the church to rural and remote Australians and each diocese including ours presented symbols of this. The conference discussed “What’s next” for rural and remote ministry as we looked to the future.

The conference has agreed to establish a new network for Anglicans ministering in rural and remote areas to encourage each other and share resources. The meeting also decided to meet again in two years and to promote research papers from within the Australian church to strengthen the learning. For us, as a diocese, the

timing of the conference was fortuitous as we pursue our goals for ‘Daring to have a future’. We brought back with us some examples of successful ministry models in rural contexts that will help us in our conversations. I believe we have much to be hopeful about as God moves and shapes our future as a rural diocese in Australia.

## Reading the Bible as Anglicans

Continued From Page 2

A few years ago there was a project launched in the Anglican Communion to explore how Anglicans of different traditions around the world engage with and interpret scripture. Amongst its many useful insights, the project concluded that what is distinctively Anglican about how we approach Scripture is that Jesus Christ is seen as the living Word of God. At least one Anglican Catechism asks, “Where then is the Word of God to be found in all its fullness?” And the answer: “In Jesus Christ, [God’s] only Son, who was made man for us and for our salvation”. The ultimate purpose of carefully negotiating the gap is that we might meet and know Jesus Christ.

Another distinctively Anglican way of understanding and engaging with the scriptures is through liturgy (or worship) - a tradition of experiencing and living together in common prayer. As an old Anglican maxim says, “As we pray, so we believe”. *The Book of Common Prayer* and its descendants, including *A Prayer Book for Australia* (APBA), each generously use verses from *Scripture as Greetings, Thanksgivings, Invitations and Prayers. The Daily Offices*, including Morning and Evening

Prayer, are filled with Psalms and Canticles. We also follow a Lectionary (itself doctrinal in shape and content) which offers a cyclical series of readings that lead us through a broad sweep of the entire story of God’s work in creation, covenant, call and promise, as well as the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus. As we move through the liturgical year with its associated Biblical narratives, we are challenged and enabled to interpret this Scripture in the context of our changing world.

Anglican method for interpreting the Bible in our contemporary context also involves the use of reason. The distinctive *Anglican Tripartite of Scripture, Tradition and Reason* acknowledges the authority of scripture but also the role of reason as we live out our faith in each historical moment and context. The apostles were doing this already as they wrestled with the issue of including Gentiles (*Acts 10-15*). The early church used reason as well as Scripture when they settled on the wording of the Creed with its affirmation of the nature of God as Trinity. It took much longer to resolve the issue of slavery, which at the time that the scriptures were written was condoned but in modern times is seen as totally unacceptable.

In the face of criticism from

conservative Christians, William Wilberforce was driven by evangelical fervour to bravely challenge the slave trade on scriptural grounds, despite the fact that the Bible condones and doesn’t censure slavery. Wilberforce saw himself as listening for God’s word in human experience as well as in the Bible. While we definitely need to avoid the pitfall of seeing the Bible as “just an anthology of influential ideas from antiquity” or even “mere ancient texts that have no connection to issues in modern life”, interpretative wisdom is needed when using it to contribute to contemporary social and moral debates. Because the Bible is a lengthy document composed over a long period in diverse contexts, it does not always present a single position on any given issue.

The Anglican way is not blind obedience that ignores the gap between the world in which the Scriptures were written and the world today, but rather it is to seek the mind of Christ by dialoguing with scripture in the light of reason.

Another gap which many are unaware of is that which exists between the world of scholarly engagement with the scriptures and the world of the ordinary Christian. How do we draw on the insights of Biblical scholars in a way that everyone can

reach a deeper understanding and also be enriched in their Christian living? In order to use the Scriptures to discern God’s will for us today, an understanding of their original context can help to bring them into conversation with our world. The seed which is the word of God does not produce abundantly even in good soil without some patient and generous tilling (*Luke 8: 11, 15*).

For those who want to know more about our Anglican understandings and methods of engaging with the Bible, I have offered some suggestions for further reading on Page 2. Also, I offer a process that people can use to understand the world of the text and what we bring to it as readers more deeply.

As Anglicans I hope we have a desire to be a true learning community, constantly discovering that new situations call for fresh expressions of a scripturally informed faith and spiritual life.

To conclude, I quote the experience of one Anglican who writes passionately about what happens when we read and explore the Bible together. I pray that this is your experience too.

“...when a bunch of Anglicans read the Bible together—they find themselves in the story, they recognise themselves as

part of God’s story, they hear words of judgement, they find challenge and consolation, they recognise Jesus Christ living in themselves, they are moved to prayer, and discover the longing for forgiveness and community and hope. ...what took place that afternoon was also in continuity with the long history, beginning with the day of Pentecost, of Christians reading the scriptures together. For a few chaotic moments the Word of God was present with us in all the power of the Holy Spirit, and our lives were touched, and we knew deliverance and healing again from Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, who became human for us, and for our salvation. For all these things, thanks be to God.”

+Murray

### Suggested Further Reading

*Lost in Translation? Anglicans, Controversy and the Bible: Perspectives from the Doctrine Commission of the Anglican Church of Australia.* Scott Cowdell, Muriel Porter. Desbooks, Thornbury, [Vic.] 2004.

*What is the Anglican Tradition: Scripture.* Walter Deller. (An article available from the Bishop’s Office)



# Ballina Anglicans Speak Up on Environmental Issues

Ballina Anglicans took a radical move to bring something important to the attention of the Ballina community on 29 July.

It was only July, and the world had already used all the renewable resources available for 2019.

Scientists tell us we have only 12 years to make major changes to the way we use the earth's resources, or we will no longer be able to sustain our current lifestyle.

To make the message loud and clear, the bell at St Mary's Anglican church was rung continuously for 12 minutes until 12 o'clock.

Prayer offered by The Rev'd Cathy Ridd recognised the part played by our Indigenous forebears who managed to maintain the environmental equilibrium for tens of thousands of years.

She highlighted the role of the church as good stewards of



the earth. We are charged by God with a duty to care for all the earth's resources for the betterment of creation. Right at the start of the Bible in *Genesis 2:15* humans are given the role

of caring for creation. Caring for the world and treading softly on the earth is not easy with our modern lifestyle, but the damage we are doing is clear. If we

continue to exploit the earth's resources, we will soon need two earths to meet our needs. Time is running out! The challenge is clear. We can work together to make a

cleaner, safer and healthier world, by changing the way we live as individuals and as a community. See [www.overshootday.org](http://www.overshootday.org) for ideas on changes you can make.

## SNAPSHOT



In July the Bishop and other representatives of the Diocese visited Gurehlgam, the Clarence Valley Aboriginal Healing Centre, to meet local Indigenous Elders and agency leaders. The visit was organised by The Rev'd Lenore Parker and is part of a journey of listening that will continue over the coming months as the Bishop visits other places to meet elders and community leaders.



The Bishop's first Sunday visit to Port Macquarie was on August 18 when he participated in services at St Thomas' and at Trinity. Bishop Murray is pictured here with Archdeacon Stuart Webb and some members of the team.



The Bishop's first Sunday visit to Port Macquarie was on August 18 when he participated in services at St Thomas' and at Trinity. In this picture the children show the Bishop their work at the end of the 9am service.



Leonie Cashman and John Wells were married in St James, Kingscliff on August 10. The weather was amazing, beautiful blue skies and no wind. Fr Graeme Hodgkinson and Fr Greg March officiated.



# BDC students have more innovative learning opportunities than ever before

The senior leadership structure at Bishop Druitt College has been redesigned for 2019/2020 allowing for more student opportunities that include the areas of leadership, service, the arts, academic, and sport. Within this new leadership structure, each pair of school captains works with a staff mentor. The role of this staff mentor is to help and give guidance to the captains with direction and as an ideas sounding board, working effectively with their committees and as a conduit to help gain action on any decisions that are made by the committee.

For this new structure to work effectively, current best-practice and BDC students have identified that an authentic, valid, heard, acted on student voice is fundamental to any leadership model, their fulfilment and success.

“We are the first independent school in the region to recognise student strengths

in leadership areas. We have created 10 captain positions in the fields of academic, service, sports, leadership and the arts, along with our current house leaders. We recognise the importance of student leadership within our school and the wider community, and this structure allows for more opportunity and growth for our students,” Sue O'Connor, Director of Student Wellbeing, said.

The students who applied to become a school captain within this new leadership structure needed to comply with certain criteria responsibilities in order to be successful candidates. Some of their leadership responsibilities include: representing the college at functions, involvement in presentation days, academic performance, lead and develop school-based forums, coordinate student feedback, tours, student voice, participate in charity events and more.

Bishop Druitt College would like to publicly congratulate the student leaders for 2019/2020.



Pictured: The 2019/2020 BDC student leaders photographed from left: Charlie Alderman Sports Captain, Angus Longworth-Brown Academic Captain, Blake Schoeffel Leadership Captain, Kyle Lang Sutherland Leader, Thomas

Sweeney O'Shane Leader, Brianna Malouf Murray Leader, Kaitlyn Lastavec Academic Captain, Kate Murray Sports Captain, Quinn Allen Hollows Leader, Jonah Bedford Leadership Captain, Emily Pavey Cottee Leader, Asra

Salman Service Captain, Saskia Brown The Arts Captain, Lucy Alkemade Kngwarreye Leader, Charlotte Bell Service Captain, Jessie Woodward The Arts Captain.

# Fashion, fun and fellowship at St Cuthbert's

**By Yvonne Turner**

Over 100 ladies, and a few brave men, put on their weekend best for a terrific fashion parade at St Cuthbert's on August 31.

Annually, St Cuthbert's prepare the day knowing that it will bring a great deal of joy to so many in the community who don't have the opportunity to be involved in the wonderful fellowship that seems to go hand in hand with the day. So was the case this time.

Following the parade, the noise level in the hall while all enjoyed a wonderful afternoon tea was almost deafening.

It is often said that a party can be defined on two levels:

1. The noise level.
2. The reluctance of guests to leave.

On BOTH these things, this parade ticked all the boxes.

Our amazing and very humorous parish models, Sue Woodruff, Margaret Bishop, Jean McLennan, Jenny Hughes and Linda Hale did a wonderful job showing the clothes of Black Pepper. It was fun to watch.

The parade bounced along to the music of Ross Johnson who played music ranging from show tunes to jazz. It absolutely added that little “something” to the show with many making mention of their enjoyment of the music.

During a time of transition as the parish awaits the arrival of our new Parish Priest, the day was a bringing together of parishioners as well as ladies from surrounding churches and social groups. It was a



terrific cross section of our community and the day proved to be very worthwhile.

A very special thanks to all who played a part in the day. Everyone played an integral

part in making the day the success it was. Well done to all of us!

# Ballina Parish Raising Awareness of our Impact on the Environment this Season

The Parish of Ballina is currently holding the Seasons of Creation studies, led by The Rev'd Cathy Ridd.

Part of this is raising awareness of our impact on the environment in which we live. Our Northern Rivers District has recently suffered great

hardship with raging bushfires and extreme heat. We need rain desperately in many parts of our beautiful country.

The trees outside St Mary's are home to beautiful rainbow lorikeets and many other species of birds. Because the

weather has been so hot and dry, the Parish has installed a bird bath in the garden in the hope that it will bring relief to the thirsty birds.

In this small way we hope that we are helping to improve the living conditions of some of God's creatures with whom we share this beautiful place.





# News from Clarence Valley Anglican School

## LAUNCH OF NEW CLARENZA CAMPUS MASTER PLAN

There's a positive flavour at Clarence Valley Anglican School (CVAS) with the launch of the 25-year master plan for the Clarenza Campus. The master plan assists the school in planning and preparing for expected growth and avoids ad-hoc buildings and infrastructure. The plan extends over three stages: the next five years, 10 years and 25 years.

As part of the first stage, CVAS has applied for a grant of \$900,000 towards the construction of a performing arts centre. A positive outcome of this application, hopefully received soon, will mean that we can commence building in 2020 with a view to opening the centre in 2021. The centre will underpin the strong and steady growth of interest in music and arts in the school.

The 10-year stage includes a proposed early childhood centre and the addition of cattle yards which complements the school's property at Glenreagh. At 25 years, the plan shows the possibility of a gymnasium, an expansion of the oval and the merger of the junior campus on the one site.

We envision the new master plan to benefit not only the current school community, but the broader Clarence Valley

now and in future years and we couldn't be more excited.

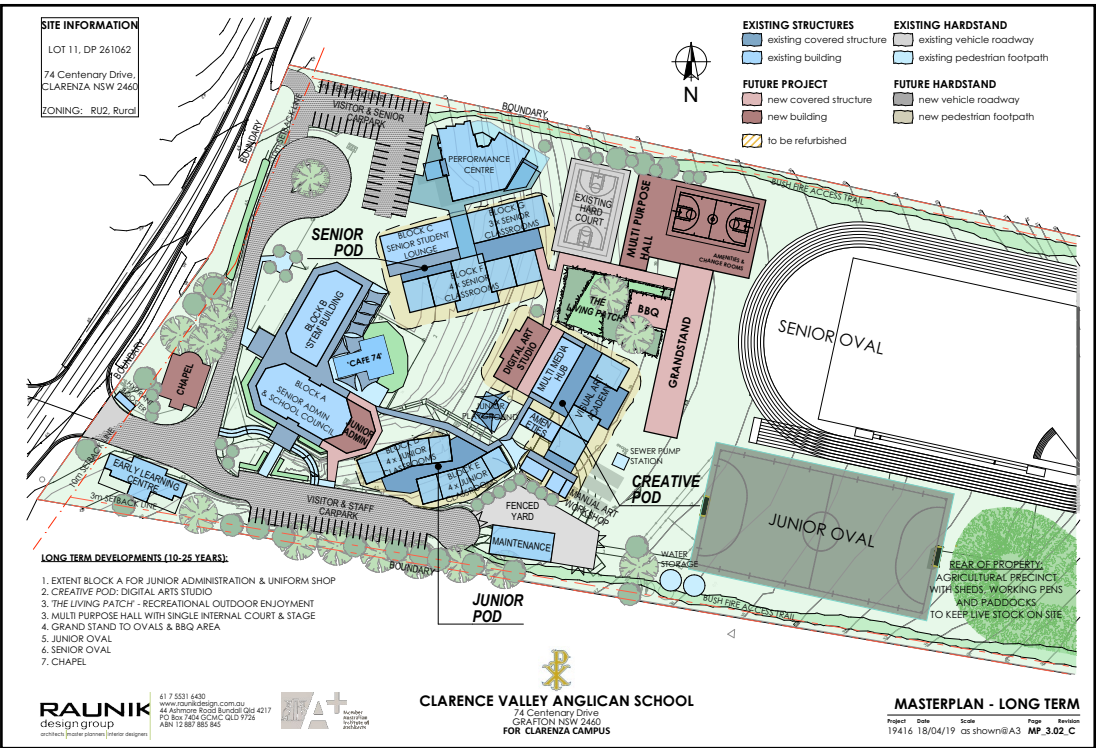
## BOOK WEEK

In Term 3 our junior school held the annual Book Week with many fun activities including the Book Week Dress Up, Book Week Lunch, Pamper our Parents Breakfast and of course the Scholastic Book Fair itself. The theme for this year's book week was *Reading is My Secret Power* which meant students dressed in super power costumes. Book Week is always an exciting part of the junior school calendar and 2019's event didn't disappoint!

## NCIS ATHLETICS

Students last term competed at the NCIS Athletics in Coffs Harbour. Our best athlete on the day was Madeline McKeown who was awarded Age Group Champion for 15-years-girls. Madeline entered in a record number of nine events and was placed first in three of them: the 800m, 400m and discus. She placed third in the 100m and 200m. Bailly Bathgate also competed strongly and placed third in 16-years-boys age group. He entered seven events and place first in shot put, second in 400m and third in javelin.

Finn and Tom McIntyre always compete strongly for CVAS with both qualifying for CIS in



the high jump and 800m. Tom ran very strong to convincingly win the 17-years race despite no training. Finn also picked up a third in the 15-years 400m. Another athlete who competed in many events on the day was Kyra Fuller and her effort and commitment is most praiseworthy. She competed in six events and was selected to attend CIS by her 3rd place in the 14-years 400m. Alijana Framp sealed her CIS selection running second to Madeline

McKeown in the 15-years-girls 400m. Morgan French had a few injury problems going on but managed an excellent throw in the 15 years discus to win the event. Our last two CIS qualifiers were in the 12-years secondary division with Cody Lamberth placing second in the shot put and Leah Ellis running a very fast 100m to place third. In the primary team congratulations must be extended to Emily Lamberth for her CIS selection in the

discus where she placed third. CVAS competes against schools that are much larger than us but there is always something special about the atmosphere around the CVAS team at a sporting event. Our students are always keen to take part and do their very best and as staff we are always proud to take them and enjoy a day of competition with them. We congratulate these students on their selection to CIS and wish them well.

# Lawrence Annual Bread and Soup Morning

By Penny Bird

Thanks is sent to all who contributed to the Lawrence Annual Bread and Soup Morning which took place on August 21.

There were new and familiar faces from our Clarence Region (Grafton, Maclean, Iluka) who gathered to get to know one another, or to catch up again at last, and enjoy the welcome fellowship, food and fun.

The winners of our introductory wall quiz this year were Dulcie and Roger Reeves, who also banded with their ukulele vocal group to provide us with a lively sing-along.

There were the many raffle prizes distributed.

Then a much appreciated guest speaker, our Cathedral Dean, Greg Jenks, who shared his very interesting and valued experience "Living in Jerusalem." A Q&A session followed.

Reflective and nourished within, it was then time to taste-test the variety of soups and freshly sliced bread sticks donated with enthusiasm by our local General Store.

Then tea or coffee with lots of sweet treats.

How thankful we are for our Diocesan Church Family and Regional Community.



## 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](mailto:admin@graftondiocese.org.au) and remember: It's free!





# News from Emmanuel Anglican College



### COLLEGE BUILDING PLANS

The Regional Development Planning Panel have granted formal approval of the College's development application to construct a Multi-Purpose Centre. The facility will contain indoor courts, a stage and performance area, a dance room, a strength and fitness centre, foyer, office, servery, significant storage areas as well as toilets and change rooms. It will comfortably seat our whole community for celebrations, performances and assemblies. It is a much needed and well deserved facility for our students, which we anticipate opening in late 2020.

### MUSIC NEWS - LISMORE EISTEDDFOD

In September, 102 students from Emmanuel Anglican College competed in the

Primary School Division of the Lismore Eisteddfod. Students were involved in the Choir, Band and Ensemble sections and returned with trophies and pennants from every division.

#### Percussion Ensemble

- First (89) Lewis Carroll-Burgess, Kade Paish, Jack Carigg
- Second (86) Max Saltalamacchia, Erin Lister, Ethan Grier

#### Woodwind Ensemble

- – First (86.5) Max Whittaker, Julianna Addenbrooke, Rayissa Hansen, Miley Spencer
- – Second (86) Charlize Hughes, Charles Cross, Maya Bright
- – Third (85) Eva Rylands, Jo-Yi Chan, Felicity Walker, Ellen Miller

- – Highly Commended (84) Ben Vanem, Lennox Broadley, Rory Neaves

#### Brass Ensemble

- – First (87) Jayden Matthews, Alex Grant, Angus Carter, Archie Cook
- – Second (86) Leo Smith, Mili Docherty, Laylan Bradbury
- – Third (85) Philo Rylands, Brighton Wilson, Will Lowrey

#### Stage 2 Band

- – First (89) Year 4 Band
- – Second (88) Year 3 Band

#### Stage 3 Band

- – First (90) Year 6 Band
- – Second (88) Year 5 Band

#### All Ages Band

- – First (89.5) Senior Primary Concert Band

# Commissioning of Reverend Tim Waghorn

The Rev'd Tim Waghorn was commissioned as the Rector of the Parish of South Grafton on the August 13.

Parishioners from South Grafton and Woolli, together with clergy from across the Diocese, representatives from Clarence Valley Council, local Government, local churches, and friends of Rev'd Tim and Gail welcomed them to the Parish in a service led by Bishop Murray.

Rev'd Tim responded to the welcome indicating that he and Gail were looking forward to the journey ahead with the people of the South Grafton Parish as together we share God's love in our communities and beyond.

Rev'd Tim was the Rector of Lakes Anglican Kanwal on the NSW Central Coast before answering God's call to come to South Grafton.



To be the trusted financial services provider of the Anglican Diocese of Grafton, enabling ministry growth

### Term Investment Accounts

Term	Interest Rate
90 days	2.50% p.a.
180 days	2.60% p.a.
365 days	2.65%p.a.

\*Interest paid at maturity

Note: Special Interest Rates on Term Investments are available on request for funds \$100,000 & over

### Saver Accounts

Balance	Interest Rate
Balances up to \$4,999	0.10% p.a.
\$5,000 to \$49,999	0.25% p.a.
\$50,000 and over	0.50% p.a.

### Cheque Accounts (Parishes, Ministry Units & Anglican Affiliate Entities Only)

Entity	Interest Rate
Parish	1.00% p.a.
Anglican Affiliate	0.25% p.a.

\*Interest paid monthly

### Cash Management Accounts (Parishes, Ministry Units & Anglican Affiliate Entities Only)

Entity	Interest Rate
Parish	1.75% p.a.
Anglican Affiliate	1.50% p.a.

\*All Interest Rates are current as at 1 September 2019 and are subject to change

50 Victoria Street Grafton NSW 2460 | PO Box 4 Grafton NSW 2460 | ABN 42 489 753 905

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# The ABM Martyrs Appeal 2019



The 2019 Martyrs Appeal needs \$61,558 to assist our Anglican Partners in Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands. Please give generously in honour of the Martyrs who gave their lives in service and faithfulness to Christ.

## PAPUA NEW GUINEA - NEWTON THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE CHURCH TO CHURCH PROGRAM

Newton Theological College plays a crucial part in the Anglican Church because it is where clergy – the future leaders – are trained. The students, often accompanied by their wives and children, live on the campus during the residential component of their four-year Diploma in Theology course.

There has been some improvement in the water supply, but four water tanks are still needed and funds are yet to be found for the college to be connected to the national grid.

The library has been renewed by a significant consignment of books. It's providing much-needed help to the students who are trying to adapt to the changes in the curriculum, but more resources are needed to make it a better, up-to-date collection.

Support is also needed for the complementary program for the students' wives. The program includes literacy, health and sewing.

Bishop Jeffrey Driver, Acting Principal of Newton College, says that there is also a need to purchase a vehicle for the college. Located 10 kilometres from Popondetta, it is a priority to have a robust diesel ute to service the college and also to ensure a duty of care in case of illness or accident.

ABM urges you to keep Newton College in your prayers. Your generous donation to this project will help provide for the training needs of students and their wives, as well as for the day-to-day needs of both the students and lecturers who live at the college.

## SOLOMON ISLANDS - POSITIVE PARENTING PROGRAM COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The Anglican Church of Melanesia, like the early missionaries, is focussed on building "a church that matures spiritually, culturally, socio-politically, economically and in wellbeing. A new Anglican Church of capable, responsible people." - Outgoing primate of the Anglican Church of Melanesia, Rt Rev'd George Takeli.

With this in mind, ABM asks you to pray for the church as it continues to engage in God's mission, and to consider giving to the work of the Positive Parenting Program, implemented by the Mothers' Union throughout the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

The Positive Parenting Program encourages and equips parents to raise children in a healthy, positive way. It has already made powerful changes to individuals and families across both countries. As ABM's Kate Winney witnessed: "The participants were asked to write down negative parenting habits, their 'old ways', and any descriptions of hurt or pain they may have experienced. Whilst singing hymns, these pieces of paper were nailed onto a cross and the next day were discarded in a fire as part of a ceremony. It was a powerful and personal moment to witness - seeing mothers, fathers, church and community leaders let go and learn from the past, not only as parents but for each participant personally. It was a reminder that this program is transformative – of families, communities, and people."

## HOW TO DONATE

**Online:** You can make an online donation to the 2019 Martyrs Appeal at [www.abmission.org](http://www.abmission.org).

**Mail:** You can enclose a cheque/money order (made out to the Anglican Board of Mission - Australia. Please include the campaign name 2019 Martyrs Appeal with your donation) and send it to:  
Anglican Board of Mission – Australia  
Locked Bag Q4005  
Queen Victoria Building NSW 1230

## IN BRIEF

### ORDINATION:

**The Rev'd Paul Hodge** will be ordained to the Priesthood on Friday 18 October in the Cathedral. Paul is the Chaplain at St Columba Anglican School.

### COMMISSIONING:

The commissioning of **The Rev'd Dway Goon Chew** as the next Priest at Tweed Heads will be held at St Cuthbert's Tweed Heads on Sunday 17 November 2019 at 4pm. The liturgical colour will be white.

### APPOINTMENTS:

**The Venerable Gail Hagon** has been appointed in the role of Mission Companion assisting Ministry Units with structural change.

**Mr Phillip Bonser** has been appointed as the Director of Professional Standards.

### RESIGNATIONS:

**The Rev'd Keith McPherson** has resigned as Rector of the Parish of Sawtell. Keith will be on long service leave from 19 August until 18 November.

**The Rev'd Bronwyn Marchant** has resigned as Rector of the Parish of Kempsey. Bronwyn's last day in the parish will be 3 November.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**4 October** – Clergy consultation day at Ballina.

**10 October** – Mothers Union AGM in the Cathedral.

**12 October** – LLM Formation Day in the north.

**18 October** – Ordination of Paul Hodge to the Priesthood.

**19 October** – LLM Formation Day in the south.

**21-24 October** – Clergy Retreat in Coffs Harbour.

**9 November** – Restructure meeting in Coffs Harbour.

**17 November** - Commissioning Service of Dway Goon Chew in Tweed Heads.

## 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."





## REFLECTIONS

# Building Bridges Together

By Venerable Stuart Webb  
Archdeacon South

If you put ten Christians in a room, you would get ten different versions of a Christian world view. I'm sure there would be some common themes hopefully around the person of Jesus and the love of God for the world. How we read the Bible, our life experience, and how we understand the truth can have a dramatic effect on how we see ourselves and the world around us.

Holding a genuine humility toward God and each other is essential. If we are going to love our neighbour as ourselves, then the different world-view is something we are going to need to wrestle within love. We are called to build bridges, not guard towers.

In recent years I've become increasingly aware of what we all bring to the Bible when we read it. What I mean is that when we read the Bible, we bring to the text our life experiences, our cultural values, our societal norms and biases. Sometimes even the views of our Sunday school teachers, ministers and denomination. These are all great things provided we are aware that they are there and the influence they have on our understanding and interpretation.

A good example from my own life was to sit down with a Christian refugee from South Sudan and read the Bible together. I wondered what insights might be different for them. How might someone who lived through the terror of civil war and witnessed their



children or village massacred think? How might someone facing violent persecution for

**“God’s Holy Spirit can impart truth and wisdom to us through careful study when we approach with humility. I believe God’s spirit will also empower us to love others when we disagree over the interpretation of scripture.”**

their faith interpret *Matthew 5:44*? “But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those

who persecute you” (NIV). How deeply confronting would this passage be for them yet possibly seem so simple for me having grown up in sleepy, gentle, peaceful Australia?

This awareness that we all bring an interpretation to the Bible when we read it is called “hermeneutics”. The Oxford Dictionary defines Hermeneutics as, “The branch of knowledge that deals with interpretation, especially of the Bible or literary texts”.

My life experience influences my particular way of interpreting scripture. My idea of interpreting scripture is affected by those who have taught me, my type of education, my society,

my gender and a long list of other influences. These together might be called “my hermeneutic approach”. I need to be aware that when I read the Bible, I bring my hermeneutic to the text.

This hermeneutic explains why there are so many different views within the church on most subjects.

This awareness then helps me to live with and love those who read scripture differently. This kind of gracious approach also allows me to hold passionately to my belief about women and men's equality of roles in ministry. At the same time, this agile approach allows for my brothers and sisters up the road in the Presbyterian

Church to believe something completely different. When we refuse to acknowledge our own hermeneutic and then the validity of theirs, we sow the seeds of conflict. We start to operate in a “us and them” mindset where I'm right, and they are wrong, and we start to tear down bridges instead of building them. We can hold a strong position and believe our argument is correct. At the same time, we afford others enough respect to hold their view with integrity based on their different hermeneutic. This integrity allows for mutual respect in the face of our differences.

As Anglicans, we hold to the idea that all scripture is “God-breathed” and that God is invested in our interaction with them. God's Holy Spirit can impart truth and wisdom to us through careful study when we approach with humility. I believe God's spirit will also empower us to love others when we disagree over the interpretation of scripture. This mutual respect is not to say that truth is relative. I believe that if we are prayerful and humble in our approach to scripture, God will speak truth through and in the midst of our hermeneutic.

We need to hold carefully the idea that God loves the church built on Jesus Christ. Even when we are wrong, God will still be right, and God's spirit will ensure that God's church will endure. Instead of building guard towers against those that in our view are blind, we need to be bridge builders to those who we believe cannot yet see.

## ANGLICARE NORTH COAST

# Affordable housing – a region in crisis

The concept of “affordable housing” is probably different for each one of us. What is affordable for me may not be affordable for others. Some people may be able to live in a luxury apartment and pay \$600 or more per week rent, but most of us could not afford to do that.

Those of us who are income earners are in the privileged position of having some choice about where we live and what type of property we live in, but for many low-income people, the place they live in is dictated simply by finances. In other words, they have to live wherever they are able to secure a property that is within their restricted budgetary limitations. In many cases, it is not even possible to find a property that is truly “affordable”.

Affordable housing in our region is, unfortunately, very

scarce. If we work on the definition of affordable housing used by most economists and policy makers in Australia, that affordable rent is less than 30% of household income, the picture in our region is not a pretty one.

For example, in the Coffs Harbour and Richmond-Tweed regions, 14% of those renting are paying more than 30% of their income in rent. The situation in Byron Bay is even worse with 18% paying more than 30% of their income in rent. These figures are well above the national average and unfortunately only relate to those who actually have found a property to rent.

Unfortunately, income levels in our region are also well below the state average, so we have what could colloquially be called a “double whammy” – high rents combined with low incomes.



Our Affordable Housing Foundation seeks to address the crisis facing our region due to the lack of Affordable Housing.

If you would like more information about how to partner with us in this important project, please call our Grafton office on

6643 4844 for more information or check out our website: [www.anglicarenorthcoast.org.au](http://www.anglicarenorthcoast.org.au)



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# New Director of Professional Standards for Grafton Diocese

The Diocese of Grafton has a new Director of Professional Standards (DPS) to assist the Diocese in responding appropriately to claims of sexual abuse, ensuring that historical claims are appropriately investigated and assisting the Diocese and each Ministry Unit with safe ministry improvements.

Mr Phillip Bonser takes on the DPS position from 2 September 2019 stepping into the gap created when Ms Amanda Hickey took up new career challenge.

Phillip brings to this role personal knowledge from more than 20 years in the Anglican Diocese of Grafton as well as professional skills in education. Phillip's career includes considerable experience in conducting investigations and ensuring proper processes are followed in sensitive matters. In particular, Phillip had experience as a member of the NSW Department of School Education's Child Protection Investigation Unit that was formed in response to the Wood Royal Commission.

To contact the Director of Professional Standards, you can call 1800 370 757 or email [dps@graftondiocese.org.au](mailto:dps@graftondiocese.org.au) or contact the Bishop's Registry on 02 6642 4122 to make an appointment for a personal meeting.



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## 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 370 757** or email [dps@graftondiocese.org.au](mailto:dps@graftondiocese.org.au)

to reach our Director of Professional Standards who can receive your report with confidentiality.

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## THREADS LAID BARE

### Sundays - Ordinary or Not.

**By Rev'd Camellia Flanagan**

Throughout the year many of our Sundays have special names for important events in the Christian year, even though in some quarters Sundays are known as "ordinary Sundays" which include "Sundays after Trinity", or "Sundays after Pentecost." In our calendar no Sunday is ordinary.

As I write we are in the Season of Creation when we celebrate and renew our thanks for the

wonder and spirituality of our Earth, our home. During the week when we celebrated the diversity of flora and fauna, we found a tawny frogmouth sitting on a nest in the Cathedral Flindersia Ash tree (an Australian Teak). Master builders of nests are not frogmouths and a few days later the nest - just a pile of twigs and sticks seemingly thrown every which-way in a bundle - was on the ground and the frogmouth

was nowhere to be seen. It had been windy, but I think it was rather that the poorly constructed nest gave way one evening when the bird wriggled around to get comfortable on the haphazard pile.

A little research revealed that this poor nest building skill perhaps evolved because tawny frogmouths usually build in the large branches of the flaky-barked eucalyptus trees which exist in small numbers in our region today. They have

been harvested relentlessly to furnish timber for homes and furniture, with not a thought for the need of a home for a bird.

The fragility of a bird's nest can remind us of the fragility of our planet, the dust from which we are made and the trees that continue to refresh the air we breathe.

The tawny frogmouth and his life partner have moved to another place, hopefully a safer place to raise a family.

On this Sunday in the Season of Creation we pray, "God of life in all its diversity, we celebrate the abundance of Earth's fauna and flora, your beautiful and complex canvas of love. Open our ears and hearts to hear the good news of your love ringing through the creatures of the wild and displayed in the diversity of the plants. Make us faithful stewards of this fragile eco-system..... Amen."

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## PRAYING WITH THE SAINTS

### Teresa of Avila, Teacher

**By Rev'd Camellia Flanagan**

**DIED 1592. FEAST DAY 15 OCTOBER.**

Teresa, whose name was Teresa de Cepeda y Ahumada, was born on 28 March 1515 in Avila Spain and died on 4 October 1582 of Tuberculosis.

As a young child she showed signs of a deeply religious nature and would spend long periods in silent prayer. She also enjoyed giving alms to the poor. At the age of 16 she was sent to a convent school, then joined a convent, but the rules there were less strict than with her father. She entered the Carmelite Convent of the Incarnation probably five or

six years after the death of her mother in 1529 and this upset her father. She became a nun, one of the great mystics and religious women of time and an author of spiritual classics. She was the originator of the Reform of the Carmelite movement which restored the austerity and contemplative character of early Carmelite life. Teresa became an invalid two years later and during an illness which was probably malaria, which lasted three years. She developed a love for mental prayer. When she recovered from her illness she stopped praying and for 15 years lived in a divided state between worldly and spiritual aspirations, and

then in 1555 had a religious awakening.

Forty years after her death in 1622 Pope Gregory XV canonized Teresa and she later became one of the patron saints of Spain. In 1970 she was made a "doctor of the church" by Pope Paul VI and was the first woman to be honoured in this way.

She is known as the patron saint of writers. Her position among writers on mystical theology is unique. In all her writings on this subject she deals with her personal experiences with a deep insight. Her analytical method has enabled her to explain

her thoughts clearly for the benefit of others. The story of her spiritual life is found in *Life Written by Herself* in 1565 when earlier notes were lost, and in the *Relations* and in the *Interior Castle* which contain her remarkable spiritual biographies which can only be compared to the *Confessions* of St Augustine.

Many of her sayings have been preserved and are still relevant in our turbulent world today, so in our daily prayer can we reflect of some of the writings of Teresa of Avila.

*"Let nothing disturb you. Let nothing frighten you. All things are passing away; God never*

*changes. Patience obtains all things. Whoever had God lacks nothing."*

*"The closer one approaches to God, the simpler one becomes."*  
*"May today there be peace within. May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be. May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith. May you use those gifts that you have received and pass on the love that has been given to you. May you be content knowing you are a child of God. Let this presence settle into your bones, and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love. It is there for each and every one of us."*

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# ANGLICARE NORTH COAST CONNECTION

## A helping hand for those with a mental illness

Anglicare North Coast has been delivering the Partners in Recovery (PIR) program for approximately six years. The aim of PIR is to support people with severe and persistent mental illness with their often complex needs and, by bringing together

multiple sectors, services and supports that the participant may come into contact with, to work in a more collaborative, coordinated and integrated way. A person centred, recovery focused framework is always at the forefront of our work.

In July this year we were privileged to receive funding for the next 12 months to continue to deliver the program across the Coffs/ Clarence Region, bringing a new model of service delivery into practice. The new funding has enabled Anglicare North

Coast able to engage additional staff, thus increasing our capacity to assist those in need. Over the next 12 months we will be continuing to test our participants for the NDIS and we will be delivering some fantastic group programs and workshops, including

swimming, art and craft groups, equine therapy group and BBQs. In addition, we will be collaborating with our wonderful participants to see what activities and groups they would like to participate in.

## Meet the team who work in our Mental Health section

This month we would like to introduce the staff who deliver this program, including some new staff members who joined us in early September.

Amy has been a valued member of the PIR program for the last 18 months and we are so lucky that Amy will be staying with us. Amy has a wealth of knowledge in the area of mental health and is a qualified Social Worker currently undertaking her Master's Degree. In her spare time, which is very precious, Amy and her family like to pan for gold in the rivers surrounding the Clarence, kayak and fish. Amy also enjoys being in her garden and cooking and this is how she cares for own mental wellness. Amy has stated that she is looking forward to continuing to walk beside people into their mental health journey and wellbeing.

Evelyn has been with Partners in Recovery since March, starting in the role of NDIS Transition Worker and moving to the role of Support Facilitator for a period of time. Evelyn stated that she has enjoyed the challenge, learnings and observing the achievements of participants within the PIR program.

Unfortunately we will be losing Evelyn as she will soon be leaving us to travel for a few months. Evelyn has said that she is sad to be leaving Partners in Recovery but she has enjoyed her time with Anglicare North Coast and has found the team to be very supportive of her.

Alaia pronounced ('A-lay-a') joined the PIR Grafton team at the beginning of September as a Transition Coordinator. Alaia has a background in complementary medicine as both a practitioner and teacher and has recently worked researching a regional community health program in the UK. Alaia is looking forward to meeting and speaking with all the participants about what works best and how community can better support their needs. Alaia has said that she is looking forward to working with the Anglicare team and is happy to be back on the mid-north coast spending time on the rivers and out at the coast on the weekends after being based in Brisbane for many years.

Todd joins us in the capacity of a Peer Support Worker based in Grafton. Todd served in the Australian Army from 2001 until 2009. He says that his aim



L to R: Todd, Evelyn, Alaia and Amy. INSET: Christina.

with the job is to help people navigate through the system that so many seem to struggle with.

Christina is based in our Coffs Harbour office as a Peer Support Worker, and has been with us since March this year. Christina says she is happy spending time with people and having a chat. She loves to learn new things and meet people and share their experiences. In her spare time Christina loves camping

and being outside enjoying the sunshine and nature. She is also an avid sewer and has a little side hobby of sewing handbags and sustainable products which she sells at the markets. Christina is looking forward to continuing to work alongside the participants and support them in their journey to recovery with mental health.



## Sharing the journey with Robbie

Robbie was referred to Partners in Recovery late last year, referred to our Emergency Relief Program. Robbie was having difficulties coping with the death of his mother and had an imminent housing inspection he was concerned about, as he was overwhelmed with keeping on top of his cleaning.

Upon speaking with Emma

from ER about the referral, Amy (PIR worker) contacted Robbie who elaborated more on the challenges he was facing in his life. He had not seen a psychiatrist in many years and had reduced the amount of medication he was prescribed without the advice of a professional. He was having trouble managing his money and he felt as if his life was

spiralling out of control.

PIR assisted Robbie to have his home cleaned and liaised with his housing provider to assist him to retain his home. Robbie also received help to obtain a mental health care plan to receive some grief and loss counselling and to re-engage with his psychiatrist and be prescribed medication that stabilised him.

With the assistance of PIR, Robbie investigated options for TAFE and now has the aspiration to volunteer at the Christian radio station with the eventual goal to become a journalist or a music critic. PIR worked closely with Emergency Relief in the assistance of financial stability, helping Robbie to understand the sustainability of his

income. Robbie was assisted to put in an application for the NDIS which he was granted in July 2019. Robbie is now working with his Support Coordinator and NDIS supports to accomplish his goals in community connection and journalism.

Job well done due to collaboration and coordination between our different teams.



Phone (02) 6643 4844  
Anglicare North Coast, PO Box 401 Grafton 2460  
[anglicarenorthcoast.org.au](http://anglicarenorthcoast.org.au)

## AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOUNDATION

### AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOUNDATION DONATIONS

Our mission is to provide appropriate, affordable accommodation to disadvantaged persons throughout the North Coast of NSW. To donate or for further information please view our website or contact our office.

ALL DONATIONS TO ANGLICARE NORTH COAST OVER \$2.00 ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE AND ARE USED TO HELP US FULFIL OUR MISSION