



# St Mark's Anglican Church Casino NSW Parish Profile 2019



*to worship God, share Christ's message of love and care for each other & the wider community*



Welcome to the Parish of Casino NSW and thank you for taking the time to look through our profile.

The township of Casino is in a rural farming area situated on the Richmond River. Our main industry is beef, and in fact, we consider ourselves to be the “Beef Capital” of Australia, regardless what any other town believes!

Living in Casino can be a little hectic at times, especially when there is a big event on such as Beef Week, our local Agricultural Show, Heritage Weekend, Primex and more. Of course though, there is also time to slow down, relax and breathe in the good old country air!

The township is perfectly situated geographically as it’s only a short drive to the beach, bush walks and tropical rain forests. An hour and a half up the road will put you right on the doorstep of all the shopping you need, and then just that bit further along is Brisbane.

The thing you can always remember is that you will be returning home to a nice quiet town, where all the hectic life of the big city can be left behind. We are a pretty friendly bunch here and are ready to welcome you with a hardy handshake, a nice cup of tea and some home cooking. Come along and check us out!

## Parish Communication and Contacts

Office Phone	02 6662 1018
Parish Mobile	0411 618 115
Office Hours	Monday to Friday 9am to 1pm
Email Office	<a href="mailto:office@casinoanglicanchurch.org">office@casinoanglicanchurch.org</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.casinoanglicanchurch.org">www.casinoanglicanchurch.org</a>
Postal Address	PO Box 71 Casino NSW 2470
Street Address	39 West Street Casino NSW 2470
Facebook	Link from the Parish Website

# About Us.....

## Who are we?

The Anglican Parish of Casino is a centre of worship primarily based on A Prayer Book for Australia. We can be diverse in our services with other forms of worship on occasion recognising ministry units within our parish and special days such as ANZAC and Remembrance Day.

## Where are we?

St Mark's Parish Church is located in the township of Casino which is situated on the banks of the Richmond River. The town is at the junction of the Bruxner Highway and Summerland Way, 733km north of Sydney and 256km south of Brisbane.

## Building Our Community

The people of St Mark's are always looking for ways to build our Faith community and we welcome all people to our parish. Even though we may be small in numbers, we strive to be supportive, committed and caring, not only within our Parish, but also extending out into the wider community.

## Working with Us

Locum Tenens	- As appointed by the Bishop
Retired Clergy	- Rev Thea Archinal - Rev Lenore Moules
Parish Administrator	- Mr Russell Hayes
Parish Wardens	- Mr Russell Cole - Mr Mark Earl (Parish Treasurer) - Mrs Julie Whittaker
Licensed Lay Ministers	- Mrs Annette Battistuzzi (Category 2) - Mr Mark Earl (Category 2) - Mrs Dolly Fletcher (Category 1) - Mrs Fiona Miller (Category 1) - Mrs Susan Lollback (Category 2)
Parish Nominators	- Mrs Patricia (Robyn) Cooper - Mr Mark Earl





# Worship Services

## St Mark's Anglican Church

Sunday 8am

Wednesday 10:30am - Weekday Eucharist.

On the fifth Sunday of the month the service is followed by a Parish Breakfast in the Church Hall. This is a special Sunday when our centres come together as one to worship.

Previously St Marks catered for two Sunday Services at 7am (traditional service) and 9am (family service). This was changed to 8am only from January 2019 and is open for discussion.

### Children's Space

The northern entrance has been made into a children's area with books, activities and toys. We also have a small area at the front of the church.

### Special Services

Special services occur at St Mark's to give thanks or to commemorate special days. We warmly welcome the community to join us, as we do for all services, and often hear guest speakers who come to share their experiences.

### Centre Church Services

Sunday 11am - Centre Church Services - The Parish of St Mark's has 3 outer centre churches each with a service once a month.

- First Sunday - Bentley Hall, Bentley
- Second Sunday - St Faith's Church Doubtful Creek
- Fourth Sunday - St John's Rappville

On the Third Sunday of the month, the incumbent at St Mark's travels to Upper Clarence Parish to conduct a Worship Service in the Churches at Bonalbo and Old Bonalbo on alternate months.

### Nursing Home Services

Casino has three nursing homes which each receive an Anglican Service once a month, provided by the incumbent, retired clergy or an LLM.

### Home Communion

Home communion is taken to those requesting it by one of our dedicated LLMs.

### Special Religious Education - SRE

Currently we do not have SRE in St Mark's Parish but there is a desire to run a group specifically designed for youth.





St Marks Parish has active ministry and various weekly or monthly activities.

### **Solomon Islands**

A dedicated group of ladies meet to pack items to send to the Solomon Islands. These range from clothing, medical, books, stationary items, medicinal items, tea, coffee and even sewing machines. Shipments are made twice yearly and so far over 1000 boxes have been sent.

### **Casino Soup Kitchen**

The Casino Soup Kitchen is privately run but the Parish provides free use of the Ministry Centre and the equipment inside. The parish supports this mission with donations of cash and goods.

### **Friday Morning Prayer Group**

A long term group of people meet on Friday mornings in the meeting room at the Parish Office for Prayer Group. Everyone is welcome to come along to attend and join in with some fellowship afterwards.

### **Saturday Hoi**

Hoi is played on the first Saturday of each month, except January, in the Auxiliary Hall. Donations of cooking and produce are prizes and money raised goes towards supporting the Solomon's Mission.

### **Toy Library and Tot Time**

St Mark's Toy Library and Tot Time are for young families to come together and enjoy fellowship on Friday mornings during school terms. The toy library allows people to borrow educational toys at a low cost per week.

### **St Mark's Old Time Dancers**

The St Mark's Old Time Dancers meet weekly in the Auxiliary Hall on Tuesday nights and also have a special once a month dance on a Saturday in the main hall. Everyone is welcome to come along.

### **St Mark's Indoor Bowls**

St Mark's Indoor Bowls roll out their mats and play on Monday nights in the Auxiliary Hall. This provides great fellowship along with the fun and challenge of keeping your bowl on the mat!

### **MU Australia**

Mothers Union is alive and well in the Parish of Casino. Members meet on Monday once a month and all are welcome to join, even men!

### **St Mark's Singers**

St Mark's Singers are an ecumenical group of people who love to sing, enjoy the fellowship of others company and put on concerts during the year.

### **Ladies Coffee and Chat**

On the first Thursday of the month, an open invitation is offered to ladies to meet at the local Cecil Hotel for a catch up and refreshment. The idea of starting a men's group is in the pipeline.

### **Other Events**

In February St Mark's holds its annual Dahlia Show and in September, the Spring Fair. Both show great exhibits of flowers and market stalls. In May, the Bentley Harvest Festival brings local produce and craft up for auction to raise funds for the parish. On the morning of the last day of Year 12, the parish holds a breakfast for all students before their exams are due to start. We also have Parish BBQs and other events in the Rectory grounds which bring great fellowship for all parishioners.





# Music

Music at St Mark's Parish is something we take great pride in. Traditionally, music at St Mark's Church is played on our new Yamaha Clavinova by a dedicated team of able musicians. Music also plays a vital role each month at our Centre Church of St Faith's Doubtful Creek and occasionally at another Centre Church, St Johns Rappville.

We have an ecumenical choir, The St Mark's Singers, who meets regularly for practices on Wednesday nights and performs several times a year, with two large concerts in our main hall and other smaller concerts around the township. A small group of singers sing in church at our Sunday services during communion.

There are a number of talented musicians within our Parish who play various instruments. It is envisaged by a few of these people to form a small group for special services where we can come together and play, celebrating their talents.

Our church has been used on occasion to host concerts from groups outside our parish, including the local One Voice Choir.

Our media facilities at St Mark's has a recent upgrade. This included the purchase of two 65 inch screens for the front of the church and a new media hub which is situated at the rear. We now use these facilities for special services and can offer professional quality power point slide shows for families at baptisms and when farewelling a loved one.





Casino's first Anglican Church was built of Cedar in 1871 on the bank of the Richmond River. The foundation stone of the present church was laid on the 27th August 1904 and the church was dedicated the next year. The original pulpit and the font are retained in the present church. There are a number of stained glass windows in the church. Twenty five rectors have been appointed to St Mark's since its establishment in 1871.

## **St John's Rappville**

St John's opened on January 30th 1910. The church was built by the Rappville community on land originally owned by Henry V Rapp and dedicated by Bishop H E Cooper on July 6th 1911. St Johns celebrated its Centenary in 2011 and welcomes all denominations to their services. We have a small but dedicated congregation and enjoy a luncheon after the service.

## **Bentley Hall**

Services have been held in the Bentley Hall since it opened in 1935. One member of the congregation, Yabsley Vidler, made the altar cross and turn the candle holders. Services are held on the first Sunday of the month. The big yearly event is the Harvest Festival. The congregation varies from approximately 6 to 12 people.

## **St Faith's Doubtful Creek**

Saint Faiths' Doubtful Creek is located in the little village of Dyraaba approximately 20 km from Casino. St Faith's has become known as our spiritual centre. Lunch is provided by the parishioners after each service which is held once a month on the second Sunday. Our church is loved and cared for by all the congregation who attend each month.



## Parish Office

The parish office is located at 39 West Street which is next door to the rectory. The office is a beautiful old cottage and was originally part of the second rectory which was built shortly after the current Saint Mark's Church. The other half of the building is now the Ministry Centre. The office is currently staffed on weekday mornings. The building is air-conditioned and alarmed and houses the rectors office.



## Parish Halls

There are two halls in the same complex as Saint Mark's. The main hall and the auxiliary hall. The timber and iron auxiliary hall was built by volunteers in 1964 and the brick main hall was built in 1965-66. Both halls are available for hire and are used regularly for functions. A large kitchen is situated in the rear of the main hall which is used extensively by the caterers. Grants are currently being sought to renovate the auxiliary hall plus upgrade its kitchen.



## The Rectory

In 2004 the Saint Mark's third Rectory was condemned and demolished a new rectory was built on the same site in 2005. The new brick home in West Street between Saint Marks Church and the parish office meets the Diocesan standard for clergy housing.







## Ministry Centre

Saint Mark's Ministry Centre was originally part of the second rectory and was moved to its current location where the third Rectory was built in the 1950s. The building has been renovated and air-conditioned. Parish council meetings are held in the main room and the building is available for hire. The building also houses the Saint Mark's Solomon's Mission, the Casino Soup Kitchen, the Saint Mark's singers and is also where group studies such as are held.

## Special Groups

### St Mark's Op Shop

The St Mark's Op Shop commenced trading 33 years ago in 1986 to provide low cost clothing and goods to people on low incomes. The Op Shop continues to play a vital role in the life of the Parish.

A roster of people volunteer their time in various roles which assist with the running of the Op Shop. A large quantity of goods is donated and a dedicated group of people sort through these on a weekly basis. We market quality goods and know that our customers and those seeking help appreciate this.

Donations of clothing are also sent to the St Mark's Solomon's Mission sorting team.

In 2015, the St Mark's Op Shop introduced a voucher system through the Casino Neighbourhood Centre for people deemed to be in desperate need. A voucher to the value of \$50 was originally given but this has been recently revised to \$20. The Casino Neighbourhood Centre assesses each case individually and an appropriate number of vouchers are given. In 2017 approximately \$2000 in vouchers was given out.

### St Mark's Catering Group

The St Mark's Caterers have a wonderful team of extremely hard working volunteers who cater for approximately 60-70 events and functions per year. In recent times, a bulk of these are for funerals, along with luncheons and dinners for groups, birthdays and anniversaries, local events, weddings and our two flower shows.





## Financial Overview

Casino parish is no exception to the financial trend of regional and rural parishes. Most of our parishioners are in the age bracket of 70-90, but we have been looking at ways and ideas to attract people and families to the church. St Mark's Catering team and Op Shop have provided the extra finance we need to supplement the church takings for the everyday running of the parish. We also rent out our halls and Ministry Centre which has also given us a good income. St Marks owns a two bedroom unit which is currently long term tenanted.

We are now looking at and working our way to become more financially viable as we recognise that many of our hardworking team members are aging and will not be able to go on forever. The Treasurer, Wardens and Parish Council are constantly looking for ways to minimise costs and investigation new possibilities for investment and income supplement. We are seeking a priest who can lead us into mission and growth in accordance with the Mission & Ministry Overview in restructuring and growth.

## Parish Statistics of Services for 2018

	Yearly Attendance	Baptisms	Weddings	Funerals
2018	8109	2	1	25



## Who are we looking for?

Someone who is:

- approachable and inclusive;
- an enabler and inspirer, with good listening skills and ability to problem solve and negotiate;
- a team player who can facilitate and care for the members of the teams of the parish;
- a good spiritual teacher and can offer guidance and a listening ear;
- prepared to drive between the various centres of worship;
- able to manage their time and exercise good self care, recognising the need to balance work and life;
- a priest, deacon or layperson (a layperson would need to be eligible to be licensed as a Stipendiary Lay Minister).

## 2016 Census information regarding Casino NSW

- The population of Casino is 10914 with the median age being 42 years.
- There are 2745 families within the district with 1.9 children per family.
- Casino has 4812 private dwellings with an average of 2.3 people per household.
- There are 2510 people who identify as Anglican, which makes up 23% of the population.
- Unemployment is at 9.2% with 49% of people in full time work.
- The largest industry is meat processing, followed by aged care and primary education.

# Outer Centre Church Locations



# Area Map

