

NEWSPAPER OF THE ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF GRAFTON, NEW SOUTH WALES

# NORTH COAST ANGLICAN

*Transforming lives through Jesus Christ*

December 2019 | Issue No 6



*Tell someone who cares*

SPECIAL SCHOOLS SUSTAINABILITY EDITION

PAGE 6



# FROM THE BISHOP



*In the time of King Herod... wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage".* (Matthew 2:1-2).

These words from Matthew's Gospel remind us that we are preparing for the annual celebration of the Birth of our Lord. The early Christians

celebrated this at Epiphany. The Feast of Christmas was not introduced until the Fourth Century.

One of the things I appreciate about living in Grafton is the darkness of the night sky. Set against a jet black sky, the stars are breathtakingly beautiful. Having lived most of my life in a big city, this is something new to me. For the ancients, to look at the stars was to peer into the dark future. Yet for those who could interpret it properly the dark night sky held endless possibilities. Navigation was largely by stars and constellations. It held the possibility of travel by sea or land to distant regions well beyond the safety and familiarity of the local. Yet the Christian story begins, in part, with the Magi

calling upon this knowledge of the night sky and a decision to follow the star.

The Scriptures tell us that the Magi were overjoyed by the sight of the star (*Matthew 2:10*). The King James version states that they "rejoiced with exceeding great joy". The journey of following the star, of seeking out what God is doing, is one we're all called to make.

This year our spiritual journey through Advent to Christmas, New Year, Epiphany and beyond is happening alongside another journey - our journey as a Diocese through the Consultation Process for the proposed restructure of parishes and worship centres. Like the Magi, we need to walk by the light of faith as we traverse

new, uncharted territory.

For the Magi, the star represented the will of God for their lives. Following it involved significant sacrifice. In what ways are we as individuals and communities open to seeking out and following his will with all the sacrifices this will imply? Does seeking out and following his will give us great joy, despite the cost involved?

In order to follow the star, the Magi needed to keep their eyes fixed on it. Every single day God wants to lead us to Jesus. Are our eyes fixed on him?

On their journey, the Magi bore gifts for the Christchild. What are your gifts and the gifts of your parish, school or other ministry unit? How might you offer these up in

the months to come? Are you prepared to offer up to others the things you treasure?

Like the Magi, we too have set out on a quest, not knowing the details of where the journey will lead us, only knowing that we are seeking God's will, guided by faith and hope.

*Lord God, you guided the Magi to your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. May your blessing come upon us, your light guide us, your strength uphold us, and your love protect us, so that we too may grow in wonder at the glory of God. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

+Murray

🐦 @MurrayAHarvey

## Reading the Scriptures

**By The Venerable Matthew Jones, Archdeacon of the North**

I read with great interest the articles by Bishop Murray and Archdeacon Stuart about reading the Scriptures in the last edition of *North Coast Anglican*. I found myself engaging deeply with their words and it got me thinking about my own response to the Bible.

As someone who regularly preaches, I often come upon different interpretations of Bible passages when I am researching for my sermons. Some of these stimulate my thinking and some challenge some of my long-held views. However, I must confess that there are times when I find that anything really radically different to my views gets dismissed and I keep looking for articles and commentaries that I can agree with that support the points I am making in my sermon. Recently however, I have been challenged to explore more of the views which may be very different to mine.

This came about when I was listening to a sermon that one of my colleagues was preaching. In the sermon, which was referring to a passage of Scripture that I was very familiar with, the preacher explained the passage in a way

that I agreed with and in a way that I myself have preached about in the past. However, they then went on to propose a completely different view for us, the listeners, to consider. I had never thought of that passage in that way before and I found myself being drawn into the story in a completely new, and I must admit, rather exciting way.

John Donne was an English priest and poet and Dean of St Paul's, London in 1621. He is quoted as saying, "One opinion makes not catholic doctrine," (*Love's Redeeming Work*. Oxford University Press, 2001). In the context of the sermon I heard recently, I agree wholeheartedly with Donne and can see the value in listening to the views of others which can both encourage and challenge me. Different opinions can be stimulating and educational.

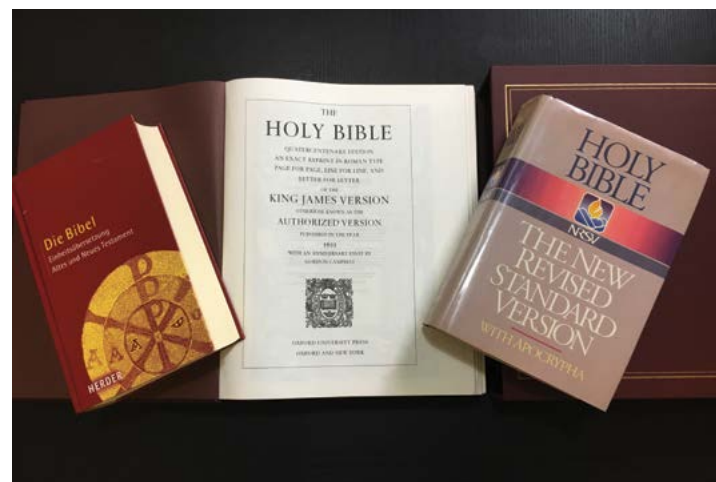
Samuel Taylor Coleridge, writing of the Bible says, "In the Bible there is more that finds me than I have experienced in all other books put together; that the words of the Bible find me at greater depths of my being; and that whatever finds me brings with it an irresistible evidence of its having proceeded from the Holy Spirit". (S.T. Coleridge, *Confessions of an enquiring Spirit*, Letter 11, A&C Black, 1956, pp 42-3). I have come to

firmly believe that, when we are reading Scripture and we allow ourselves to be led by the Spirit, we can discover new insights every time we delve into these sacred stories.

When I was a theological student, one of the subjects we studied was Homiletics, i.e. learning how to preach. In the textbook *Prate, Prattle or Preach* the author, Ivor Bailey, told a story about a Bible study group that was divided into four smaller groups. Each group was given a different imaginary setting in which to look at the text, "Looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith." (*Hebrews 12:2*) NRSV.

He writes: "The first group were to consider the text from the viewpoint of a Christian politician in Uganda at the time of Idi Amin. The second group were to see themselves as a small group of Christian students, meeting secretly in Moscow University. The third group looked at the text from the position of a small group of elderly ladies in a poor inner-city area, one having been recently widowed. The fourth group was set in an affluent American church, discussing the text over a Prayer Breakfast.

The four groups believed each had been given the same background briefing; it was not until they came together at



the end that, to their surprise, they had approached the text from four totally different points of view. The point was clearly made that "where you're coming from determines what you see." (*Prate, Prattle or Preach*, JBCE, 1987).

I am very mindful of my upbringing and cultural context when I read Bible stories about people from other parts of the world and from other times in history. I cannot really resonate with the idea of slavery, which is mentioned a lot in the Bible, but I am sure there would be many today who can, especially in places where human trafficking and kidnapping is prevalent. I cannot really relate to war and hostile invasions, such as we find in parts of the Old Testament and Psalms, but I am sure there are many today in other parts of the world who can see this as their story, those who are

living with this reality right now. From the security and comfort of my armchair, can I really understand the plight of the Israelites escaping from the Egyptians, or the refugee status of the Holy Family fleeing from King Herod and his soldiers? However, I am sure there would be millions who can relate to these Biblical passages from their own lived experience today. Maybe the above quote is true in relation to reading the sacred texts, that, "Where you're coming from determines what you see."

I pray that I will continue to be challenged to read and understand the Scriptures in new ways. I pray that I will not block my ears or shut my eyes to things I disagree with, just because they make me uncomfortable. I pray that I may have "ears to listen" as Jesus says. (*Mark 4:9*) NRSV.

### NORTH COAST ANGLICAN

NEWSPAPER OF THE ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF GRAFTON

#### CONTACT DETAILS

Editor: Louise Mackay  
PO Box 4 Grafton NSW 2460  
P: (02) 66 424122  
Fax: (02) 66 431814  
Email: nca@graftondiocese.org.au

CIRCULATION  
Circulation: 3000

#### SUBSCRIPTIONS (INC. GST)

Australia \$16.00 p.a.  
Overseas \$28.00 p.a.

#### ADVERTISING

Contract \$2.80 per column cm  
Casual \$3.50 per column cm  
Rates include GST

#### CONTRIBUTIONS

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.

#### PHOTOGRAPHS

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

The editor is not responsible for the opinions expressed by contributors, nor do their views necessarily reflect the policy of this paper or of the diocese. Acceptance of advertisements does not necessarily mean endorsement of the product or service.

Deadline: January 17, 2020



# Special Meeting of the Diocese

**By The Venerable Tiffany Sparks, Diocesan Archdeacon & Ministry Development Officer**

On November 9 the Anglican Diocese of Grafton had a special meeting at Coffs Harbour to begin the consultation process towards restructuring the Diocese.

As a result of many years discussing restructuring the Diocese, Bishop Murray was asked to develop a proposal.

The Bishop, along with the Senior Leadership Team and Bishop-in-Council, has spent many months developing a proposed restructure with the primary focus on mission, and inviting parishes to look at how they do church and mission in their community with a vision for the next 20 years.

The proposal looks at how we can do team ministry better, not just the clergy, but on a parish-to-parish level.

The models from ministry are encouraging parishes to work with each other as a "hub" rather than as stand-alone islands.

By creating new ministry units, parishes can benefit from the different gifts and energies that team ministry can bring and support and inspire each other in the mission of God in this region.

With any change, there is always some grief for



Photo by David Ford

what has been and that is understandable.

However, it was the vision of this diocese that change and restructure needed to occur in order for this diocese to flourish (and flourishing is what

we want to do).

We believe in a God of abundance who desires us to have life to the full. We need to find where God is calling us to be in 2019 and beyond.

The hope is that through this

process we can free up the people of God to strategically be the people of God in this diocese.

During this consultation process, people are encouraged to engage with

the restructure proposals and imagine new ways in which they can do ministry.

People are invited to give feedback to Bishop-in-Council by the end of March 2020.

## Wellbeing Hub for Bishop Druitt College

Wellbeing is a central focus at Bishop Druitt College and is based on ensuring that the physical, emotional and social needs of everyone in the community are met, taking into account individual requirements. After consulting with the BDC community to see if a Wellbeing Hub was something that would be of great support and benefit to the students, the decision was made to bring this space to life. BDC's vision is to create a wellbeing environment through the construction of a brand new K-12 Wellbeing Hub.

The Wellbeing Hub will be a one-stop-shop for information and resources on strategies

to build and sustain the wellbeing of the whole school community. This new space will support at-risk students and reduce stigma around mental health issues. The Wellbeing Hub will be supported by our two school counsellors, two Chaplains and the K-12 Director of Student Wellbeing. It will contain five offices, a small group counselling room and a large activity room. The activity room is called The Oasis and will be used by various BDC student groups. Some of these groups are Mindfulness, Goori Group, Breakfast Club, Art for Wellbeing, LGBTQI+, Rock and Water, Human Rights and Environment Groups to name just a few.



Simon Doyle – Assistant Principal, Rev'd David Morgan – Chaplain, Jane Mosco – Counsellor, Nick Johnstone – Principal, Saskia Klop – Counsellor, Sue O'Connor – Director of Student Wellbeing K-12, Rev'd Naomi Cooke – Chaplain.

## 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!





# Welcome to the Labyrinth

**By Bryan McClelland and Anna Mulholland**  
*"I've started walking the labyrinth every day," Uki woman, mid 30s.*  
*"It is wonderful that the church has opened this for the whole community to use," Several Uki locals.*

On October 18, a wonderful cross generational mix of more than 70 people from the Uki community gathered at the opening of the Labyrinth, and "Absence", an art exhibition hosted in the church. Locals and parishioners together walked the labyrinth, admired the art and embraced the peace and tranquillity of the garden.

The Labyrinth was designed by Peter Abraham, artist and regular at Holy Trinity, Uki. Peter also created the contemplative and illustrative art exhibition inside the church.

The church has been overwhelmed by the way the local people have embraced this church initiative, and believe it will continue to build bridges in Uki for a long time. The school librarian is really keen, and has been teaching classes about the worth of the labyrinth and taking them across to use it.

"The labyrinth was just what

I needed before a challenging overseas trip. I particularly related to the art in the church and what the artist has written about his personal life journey," said one of Uki's creatives about to depart on a trip to Europe to record for a musical/narrative creation with his equally creative partner.

The original idea came from members of the congregation. A team of parishioners created the labyrinth - some did the hard labour, others worked on labyrinth design, planning the garden, donating rocks, plants, mowing, weeding and more.

Thank you to the Parish Council for the gift for the purchase of bricks.

"The kids have already been, and want me to come down, so I will do so soon," said a local single mother of two. After hearing of its mediational purpose, "Ooh - I think I need to go down on my own too!" It has been encouraging to



see the continuing deeper development of relations between the church and the local community as a result of the gift of the Labyrinth to our beautiful Uki community, including more seekers attending services at Holy Trinity.

# Christmas in a Shoebox

**By Rebekah Erga, Christian Studies Teacher and Primary Chaplaincy team**

Every year the generous SCAS school community participates in Operation Christmas Child (OCC) project, run by Samaritan's Purse. Samaritan's Purse partners with local churches in developing nations to reach out to children by providing gift-filled shoeboxes and bringing the Good News of Jesus Christ.

After receiving shoebox gifts, many children are also invited back to participate in *The Greatest Journey* - an evangelism and discipleship program. Since 1993, the Samaritan's Purse project, OCC, has collected and delivered more than 135 million shoeboxes to children in more than 150 countries and territories.

To date, 143 shoeboxes have been returned to the school for the SCAS Operation Christmas Child collection. These boxes have been lovingly filled with gifts which will ultimately bring joy to children in developing countries.

A special thank you to you and your family for participating in delivering the Good News of Jesus Christ around the world.

We are blessed to have Mr Graeme Kightley, from the St Columba Anglican School Council, as the regional coordinator for this program.

A special thank you also to our special "secret angel" who has been lovingly hand-making carry bags to be added to the shoeboxes. She has made hundreds for us over the years.



## 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.



# All Creatures Great, Small, Fluffy and Scaly

Many Parishes of the Grafton Diocese held Blessing of the Animals throughout the end of October. Check out the adorable photos.



Ballina



Cathedral



Bangalow



Ballina



Cathedral



Macksville

## SNAPSHOT



All Saints Friends Murwillumbah recently sent 19 shoeboxes filled with toys, books, games etc to Drake for the families in distress from drought and fires. They also sent bags of clothes, sheets, doonas and four newly made patchwork quilts. "We hope that this will let families know we are thinking of them and that the boxes help bring smiles to the children's faces."



Brother Geoffrey and Brother Wayne, Little Brothers of Francis, came to speak at *All Creatures Great and Small*, an occasional service of reflections, words and music on October 6 at All Souls' Bangalow. Following the Feast of St Francis, they told us more about their Franciscan Hermitage at Tabulam and their lives as religious brothers.





Students from St Columba Anglican School generate awareness of the declining koala population

## The BDC Climate Change Position

**By Nick Johnstone, Principal  
Bishop Druitt College**

There has been much written about climate change in the media in recent days and therefore it was important that the Bishop Druitt College position is added to the conversation.

As many of you know I have a tertiary background in science and theology as well as education and there is a natural crossover between the scientific method and theology. This crossover pertains to reasoned argument and reasoned logic. The scientific argument is as follows. As it currently stands, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change notes that the world is likely to warm by 1.5°C at its current rate by 2030 or soon after. This is mainly due to an increase in carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. This increase in CO<sub>2</sub> creates both a thermal atmospheric blanket and is also partly absorbed by our oceans.

From a scientific perspective, this increase in CO<sub>2</sub> creates an increased frequency of heatwaves, droughts, and flooding. It will also result in the melting of ice sheets and glaciers resulting in a 5 to 10cm increase in sea levels globally.

This increase will cause coastal erosion and the loss of arable land as well as a lowering of the ocean pH (increasing acidity). Both of ocean acidity and ocean warming have negative connotations for our coral reefs.

This information is discouraging, to say the least, it is essential that while we think globally we must act locally.

### ♦ What is Bishop Druitt College doing to care for our planet?

The college has replaced all our lighting with LEDs which have a longer life and reduce electricity consumption. In a campus of our size that equates to over 4400 LEDs. The college is in the process of installing a 98kW solar system on the roof of the Branson Centre. This will reduce our consumption by over one third. We are also planning on setting up our shared farm (Farnworth) with solar power when phase two is actioned in the new year. Our college is also working through our Sustainability Committee (a subcommittee of Council) to develop policies and practices to reduce our waste and to focus future purchases using ecologically sustainable materials. The college is also socially active

with students and staff involved in our Environmental Group and other environmental initiatives are being planned for the 2020 school year and will be integral to our school improvement plan.

### ♦ Why is Bishop Druitt College taking action in a practical way?

The college sees the ethical and moral imperative that the current generation has in forming part of the ecological solution. From a theological perspective, as an Anglican school, we also have a responsibility to care for each other and for the earth. Ms Greta Thunberg is, as we know, a passionate climate change activists who has captured the world's attention through her school strikes and her speech at the United Nations. I truly thank Greta and the hundreds



of thousands of students (and teachers) worldwide who are taking action on this issue. We need a little controversy to create the environment for change and Greta has opened the discussion to the general

public.

At Bishop Druitt College, we applaud Greta's integrity, courage and her sense of social justice. It should also be noted that these three values are part of our set of college values.



# Sustainability at St Columba Anglican School

"Sustainability" is a term that sometimes seems as in vogue as Pete Evans' Paleo diet, but at St Columba in 2019, sustainability is something that has become far more than a word.

It has become a part of our School and is growing from the ground up like a newly emerging seedling in the Primary vegetable patch. With the inspiration and passion of two very special Primary teachers, Mrs Rosenbaum and Ms Kiehn, our Primary School students have developed the Primary Sustainability Committee with over 50 students committing their own time to improve SCAS each and every week. Just take a look at the achievements the Committee has achieved this year alone:

- Recording all students' names in Years 3 to 6 who bring nude food lunch boxes, every day of the week.
- Using the House points system and Boost Juice vouchers as incentives for nude food lunch boxes.
- Years 3 to 6 bringing over 1100 nude lunch-boxes this year.
- A beeswax wrap workshop for all Sustainability Committee members.
- Green bins being included in all Year 5 and Year 6 classrooms and playgrounds.
- Red bin removal from the playground and classrooms in Years 5 and 6 areas in Term 4 2019.
- The collection of data on reusable coffee cup usage at the Cafe, and targeted communication and support to increase further usage.
- Multiple classroom presentations for the whole of Primary on sustainability (green bin usage, nude food, sustainable food production etc).

- A fortnightly sustainability item in Primary assembly.
- Request accepted for removal of paper towels in staff bathrooms in 2020.
- A fundraiser for the Koala Hospital, through the production of bag tags and "No Junk Mail" signs in Term 4 2019.
- Koala Smart participation for all Primary students to generate awareness and understanding of the declining koala population.
- And last but not least, a BIC writing instruments recycling program included in all Primary classes.

The Secondary School, under the guidance of HSIE teacher, Mr Tejcek, has also been forging its own path on the sustainability trail, and has laid the foundation for growth over the years to come. Our Secondary School has been involved in projects and initiatives such as:

- Year 10 students being a part of the School's first "Chairman's Climate Change Forum" and contributing to the School's response to the global climate crisis.
- Every Year 10 Geography student writing and illustrating their own children's book to educate children on issues relating to environmental change and management.
- Koala Smart participation by students to generate awareness and understanding of the declining koala population.
- Every Year 9 student participating in a week-long marine debris and ocean awareness week and cleaning rubbish off every single beach in Port Macquarie and then recording the debris collected to the Tangaroa



Blue International Marine Debris Database.

- Students from throughout the Secondary School participating in a number of international student climate strikes. With Ivy Moore (Year 11) and Mr Tejcek being selected and trained by former US Vice-President Al Gore as "Climate Reality Leaders" in Brisbane.
- Our departing senior students continued the tradition and added to SCAS's carbon sequestration program by planting an Illawarra Flame tree as part of the School's growing arboretum on the back oval.

Sustainability is alive and well at St Columba, but we still have a long way to go in becoming a more energy-efficient, waste-free and overall more environmentally friendly school and we are looking forward to the challenge.



## STEM talk and career paths for students

STEM in Schools was held at Bishop Druitt College in November. Year 10 students participated in a classroom activity with CSIRO and special guest panellists in an effort to demonstrate the diverse and rewarding career journeys that come from pursuing STEM subjects (science, technology, engineering and mathematics).

BDC welcomed Mr Pat Conaghan, Federal member

for Cowper and Dr Mel Coleman, Marine Ecologist at the National Marine Science Centre to the Q&A panel. Students posed challenging questions on a range of topics, including Australia's future energy security, the use of genetically modified crops, our involvement in the space race and cybersecurity. "Students interested in STEM subjects have a broad range of potential career paths ahead of them," Mr

Conaghan said.

"STEM skills are being used to solve global challenges and new research frontiers are being frequently discovered with new technologies."

Dr Coleman outlined her role at the National Marine Science Centre in Coffs Harbour. Her research includes experimental marine ecology, population genetics and seaweed ecology and conservation.





# The Future Is In Their Hands

**By Jo Hethrington, Director of Early Learning, Lindisfarne Anglican Grammar School**

At Lindisfarne we are on a journey to integrate sustainable values, actions, and features in every facet of our school environment. It is our hope to ingrain this message in the developing minds of our future youth, and to support their passion in ensuring the ongoing sustainability of our world.

The Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden at Sunshine Avenue continues to expand and flourish – now including a beautiful outdoor classroom and kitchen area along with pizza ovens and additional herb gardens. The lessons undertaken and the experiences in our garden are part of what makes Sunshine Avenue special.

These experiences were recently shared at the Sustainable Schools Symposium which was held in May at Somerset College, where some of our Year 4 students presented our school's journey in developing the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program at Sunshine Avenue. Ms Lauran Turnbull, myself, and our kitchen garden specialist, Mrs Maria Roberson; along with students Simon Hodges, Logan Douglas, Kiki Dorsey and Phoenix Carpenter, presented a workshop to approximately 50 students and teachers from across the Gold Coast and Northern NSW.

The students ignited the thoughts of the people present by exploring possible ways of integrating learning into a school garden. Ideas included science experiments, cooking incursions, entrepreneurship through the selling of produce,



L to R: Year 4 student Kiki Dorsey, Holly Somerville Knox founder of environmental start-up "Tell Someone Who Cares", Year 4 student Phoenix Carpenter and Year 4 teacher Lauran Turnbull.

and mathematical problem solving. We concluded the workshop by teaching participants how to make a pot from recycled newspaper and planting a seed to take home and grow.

The students present also left inspired as they heard from role-models such as 18-year-old Melati Wijsen who, along with her sister, have driven the campaign to ban plastic bag use in Bali. Melati spoke passionately about their journey as young ambassadors for "Bye Bye Plastic Bags", helping to clean the oceans

around Bali and how they have motivated other young people to action.

We all left the day feeling moved by the myriad of incredible young speakers who were so enthusiastic about the causes they supported and nourishing the future of our beautiful planet.

Thank you to the Lindisfarne Parents and Friends Association who have generously supported the kitchen garden program from inception to its fruition.



## BDC and Prosper work together to reduce plastic pollution

Prosper Coffs Harbour's Protection of the Environment Trust is taking a stand against ocean plastics. Together, with the support of Bishop Druitt College, the trust will aim to raise enough money to bring a seabin to Coffs Harbour.

The Fundraising Manager from Prosper Coffs Harbour, Melissa Nunn says, "We need to do something about plastic pollution now and by fundraising to purchase a seabin we can all make a difference to reduce our plastic pollution impact on the ocean and maintain a clean waterway. We are very excited to have the support of Bishop Druitt College to assist

in the fundraising efforts for the seabin over the coming months."

The seabin is a cleaning device that will operate 24/7 collecting floating debris in the water, reducing litter escaping into the estuary and the wider ocean environment. The seabin can collect up to 1.5kgs of floating debris per day. This includes large plastic bags, bottles, plastic straws, coffee cups, food wrappers, surface oils and micro plastics down to 2mm small. Once the funds have been raised for the seabin it will be donated to the Jetty Marina where it will be maintained and continue to clean the

waterway so there is no litter escaping into the wider ocean environment.

"We need to support organisations doing great things in our community and the seabin project is one of them. We are very pleased to be working with Prosper Coffs Harbour to bring a seabin to the Jetty," said Nick Johnstone, Bishop Druitt College Principal.

If you would like more information about the seabin campaign please visit the [www.prospercoffs.org.au](http://www.prospercoffs.org.au) and to donate visit <https://give.everydayhero.com/au/seabin-for-coffs-harbour>



Pictured from left: Matt Newberry, Chloe Braun, Imogen Lamont, Melissa Nunn, Nick Johnstone



*Tell someone who cares*

## Living Sustainably at CVAS

Clarence Valley Anglican School recently received a Highly Commended award from the Clarence Valley Council for being a sustainable school.

Part of what how makes CVAS a sustainable school is the extensive use of solar power, collecting rain water and using it in the school gardens and oval.

The school also takes on the initiative to recycle poppers,

water bottles, etc to collect the 10 cents through Return and Earn, as well as sorting rubbish in the Primary classrooms and turning lights off when not in use.

The interviewing committee were impressed and this is an encouragement to look at further ways we can support our environment.



## SCAS Students Doing it for the Koalas

The Lake Innes Nature reserve in Port Macquarie is home to St Columba Anglican School (SCAS) as our campus backs onto the Gookik Heritage Trail. It is also home to a colony of up to 600 koalas. New South Wales continues to experience high intensity bushfires, the blaze of which devastated parts of our Lake Innes Reserve, decimating the habitat of our koala neighbours.

The Year 6 class of 2019 at SCAS have been motivated to make change to protect our local koala population, especially as they become under threat from the fires. Having formed their own "Sustainability Committee" earlier this year, they have tackled environmental issues by taking action in an array of school-based initiatives.

Their most recent enterprise raised funds for the Port Macquarie Koala Hospital. Using sustainably sourced timber, they created bag tags and "no junk mail" signs and sold them to their peers.

Year 6 student Indi saw the initiative as not only raising important funds, but also increasing awareness of the plight of our koala community. "Koalas are losing their habitat and they are dying. By purchasing a "no junk mail"



St Columba Anglican School Sustainability committee donates to Sue Ashton from the Port Macquarie Koala Hospital

sign, we are also helping put a stop to people cutting down trees to make mail that people are only throwing away," Indi said.

Fellow Year 6 classmate, Sura, believes their efforts are a testament to the power of young people to make change.

"A lot of kids think they don't have a voice and they can't change anything. I think they really can, and kids do make a lot of impact on a lot of what we do. We should have a say. That is the reason why we did this, because we want change," Sura said.

Their sales raised an impressive \$700 for the Port Macquarie Koala Hospital, which will be used to purchase water stations that will be placed within the burnt bushland for koalas and other wildlife. The SCAS community is incredibly proud of the

initiative of these empowered young students. They are the future.

"And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased." (Hebrews 13:16)



# Commissioning of The Rev'd Dway Goon Chew

By Yvonne Turner

The commissioning of The Rev'd Dway Goon Chew as the Priest at Tweed Heads took place at St Cuthbert's on November 17.

The service began quietly with a Welcome to Country by Auntie Ruth Conlan.

Then the roof was raised and the atmosphere set as *The Servant Song, Brother, Sister let me serve you* was sung to commence the commissioning service. It was electric and the feeling of absolute joy – overwhelming!

Rev'd Dway Goon Chew, whose last parish was Ayr in North Queensland, was commissioned by our Bishop Murray Harvey with a congregation of about 150 as witnesses.

The local member of state parliament Geoff Provest, many priests and deacons from the Diocese, ministers from other denominations, headmaster Stuart Marquardt, chaplain and student leader Abby Rynehart

from Lindisfarne Anglican College were among the large community leaders who attended.

Debra Pinkerton from Twin Towns Uniting Church spoke on behalf of all other denominations, welcoming Dway to the district.

Rev'd Dway and his wife Leeza have warmly been welcomed into the parish.

Archdeacon Matthew Jones when delivering the "Sermon" gave Dway a bright red poster with the message "KEEP CALM AND CARRY ON". A very informative and amusing address, with the message that we must know that God is in the midst of all of this. Don't be afraid.

St Cuthbert's singing group added to the atmosphere of the very inspirational service.

Drinks and nibbles in the breezeway and a terrific supper followed. The next chapter in the life of St Cuthbert's begins. Good luck Rev'd Dway.



## A Light Hearted Journey of Harps

In an exquisite October concert, the Byron Music Society presented *The Harp's Journey* with Louise Johnson, one of the most prominent Australian and international harpists, in a rare and outstanding musical performance at St Mary's Church, Ballina.

From medieval to modern, from classical to jazz, from acoustic to electric, Louise took the audience on an exciting journey through the ages. Journeying from an ancient Syrian Hymn and Medieval Music to the 20th Century, the audience was transported to different places in time.

Featuring an astonishing range of seven harps including a green Irish, blue electric and superb concert harp, Louise was able to let each instrument sing with its own distinctive voice of nuance and colour thus creating a magical connection with the audience.

This was the fourth concert at St Mary's this year in an active effort of the parish to connect to the wider community through music.

Our next event is a Christmas Concert by Vox Caldera Chamber Choir on 14 December.



## Launch of New Pioneering Ministry at South Grafton Anglican

The last three months have been busy for the Parish of South Grafton. With a new rector comes new vision and change. It has been a challenging period for all. The Saturday night service had its final send off, to make way for new ministry.

South Grafton Anglican have a new logo, new website, and a new family service to go with them. The Rev'd Tim Waghorn has a passion for new ministries and seeing God's Kingdom grow in the local church.

In less than 100 days of his induction, South Grafton Anglican launched TEN30, their

new family service.

"One of the gaping holes that is prolific in Anglican churches is family attendance", said Rev'd Tim.

"Building into the lives of our communities is not rocket science, but it is not a given either. We have to intentionally change the way we present ourselves - The Body of Christ to the world around us in a way that they can engage with.

"For many churches, this is our last opportunity to be relevant, so we should not hold back on asking what needs to change."

South Grafton Anglican is also preparing for the new model

of ministry as presented to all parishes recently.

"Our parish sees the opportunities of becoming part of a blend with Maclean and Grafton. It gives us, like the other parishes, the opportunity to offer our region a wider spectrum of Anglican worship and theology.

"We are a broad church and there is scope and space within our future region of Clarence for us to make an impact for the Gospel. We do not vie for parishioners who go to other churches in our new model but reach out to those who are yet to experience the love of Christ."





# Alstonville Anglicans support Heartfelt House

By Johnny Sernberg,  
Treasurer and Susan  
Fitzpatrick, Rector's Warden

Alstonville Anglicans together with Bishop Murray Harvey, during his visit to St Bartholomew's on October 13, presented a donation of \$5,300 to Heartfelt House.

Bishop Murray had preached on *Luke 17:11-19*, referring to isolation, healing and moving forward.

He acknowledged the worthy donation and the excellent work of Heartfelt House enabling people to heal and look to the future.

This donation was a result of the very successful Auction of Promises fundraising event held on March 9.

With the strong ties that have developed over many years between St Bartholomew's and Heartfelt House, it was only fitting that funds raised at the Auction of Promises be given to this very worthy cause.

The night was very entertaining and exciting as many experienced for the first time the frantic elements of bidding in person for services and offers of assistance in return



Caroline Maunder, Heartfelt House; Bishop Murray, Susan Fitzpatrick, Rector's Warden

for donations to the worthy cause.  
As well as personal bidding in the main auction, there was a very successful silent auction where guests wrote their bid

on paper against each item during the evening.  
Entertainment was delivered by the Ballina Pipe Band and our very own in-house musical guru, Marius Mulder, who sang

and played well-known pieces from international operetta to much enthusiastic applause.  
Some say the evening was so successful that we must repeat the night again next year.

It would be a shame to miss the opportunity presented by a novel popular fundraising activity, wouldn't it? So, watch this space!



**DONATE**  
to our Rapid Response  
Emergency Fund  
**TODAY**

*Moving into the neighbourhood*

2019 CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Please donate this Christmas to help us move in times of disaster  
[anglicanoverseasaid.org.au](http://anglicanoverseasaid.org.au) 1800 249 880

**ANGLICAN OVERSEAS AID**  
ANGLICORD



Baby Show and Fête

Music supports Affordable Housing

All Saints Church Murwillumbah recently held a most successful Baby Show and Fête.

35 babies were entered into the show, creating a church full of happy families and smiling faces.

Jumping castle and face-painting provided fun for the children.

The Fête had 16 stalls, including flowers, cakes, plants BBQ, hot pies and much more. An enjoyable day reaching out to the community.




On October 20, Alstonville Anglicans presented a donation of \$1,400 to the Anglicare Northcoast Affordable Housing Foundation. The donation resulted from an Evening of Rhythm held on September 21 at St Bartholomew's church.

The evening presented the best of voice, keyboard and instrumental music. The audience was entertained with the keyboard recitals of Marius Mulder, the excellent acapella harmonies of the Headliners Chorus and the instrumental

and songs by several young aspiring musicians. Everyone commented on the wonderful talents of all involved and departed the evening with joyful music resonating in their memories. A great evening and one worthy scheduling again.



L-R: Rev'd Dr Desiree Snyman, Roslyn Felch (Anglicare NC), Susan Fitzpatrick and Jenny Noble (Wardens)



# Anglican funds

GRAFTON DIOCESE

### Term Investment Accounts

Term	Interest Rate
90 days	1.45% p.a.
180 days	1.60% p.a.
365 days	1.55%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.

\*Interest paid six monthly

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

Entity	Interest Rate
Parish	0.25% 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	1.25% p.a.
Anglican Affiliate	1.25% p.a.

\*Interest paid monthly

\*All Interest Rates are current as at 6<sup>th</sup> November 2019 and are subject to change

**Anglican Funds Grafton Diocese \* 50 Victoria Street Grafton NSW 2460 \* PO Box 4 Grafton NSW 2460 \* ABN 42 489 753 905**

**Phone FreeCall 1800 810 919 (NSW Only) or 02 6642 4480 \* Fax 02 6643 2391 \* [office@afgd.com.au](mailto:office@afgd.com.au) \* [www.anglicanfundsgraftondiocese.com.au](http://www.anglicanfundsgraftondiocese.com.au)**



# The Bells of St Mary's

By Rev'd Matthew Jones

With the visit of Dr Lindy Crocker from Sydney to holiday with the Browns nearly two years ago came some tuition on hand bells and the first opportunity to play bells during a Service at St Mary's, Ballina. Lindy has remained our mentor and gives advice and guidance at each further visit. Jennifer has been able to purchase bells from various sources. Our first set of 13 bells was an octave of bells from middle G up. Jennifer was very fortunate to find these second hand bells in excellent condition. This enabled us to get started on forming a bell choir and practising as a group, gradually becoming more experienced and focused on each other.

The music has to be specially arranged for a hand bell choir and most of what we play has been arranged by Ian Brown. Only one octave somewhat limits the scope of music which can be played, so Jennifer purchased new another octave of bells to add below the original ones.

The range of our bells is now all that we could ever wish for. This last set has inscriptions in each handle. Reading these has enabled us to discover that the bells were once owned by Pilgrim Presbyterian Church, San Antonio, Texas. Several had been given



Left to right: Yvonne Wright; Rosalind Latimer; Jennifer Brown (Bell Captain); Ian Brown (Associate Organist); David King.

in memory of someone or in gratitude for their bell choir. Many bell groups play "off the table", where each player lifts bells sharply upwards to ring them. We play bells "in hand". We are taught that the bells contain Champagne which must not be spilled, and the bell is thrust forward to ring. Our more experienced players are becoming expert at three or four in hand. The handles are looped together, one bell is rung forward and one is rung with a sideways flick of the wrist.

Not everyone is able to practice with bells at home. It is suggested this can be done with wine glasses. There are no broken wine glasses to report yet, just a scratched table which ought to have broken the glass.

We have been playing for services and special occasions about four to six times each year, either before a service or during Communion or both. Currently we are practising Christmas Carols to play at the Festival of Lessons and Carols and at St Andrews Nursing Home.

## New Independent School for Woolgoolga

An exciting development has occurred with Bishop Druiitt College Council endorsing both the Principal, Mr Nick Johnstone, and the college Chair, Mr David Ford, to investigate the establishment of a second campus in the Woolgoolga region. This campus will initially focus on Preschool to Year 4.

Mr Johnstone has commissioned the Independent Schools Association to conduct a demographic study of the region with positive results. The regional growth has been endorsed by renowned demographer Bernard Salt.

"The Northern Beaches region and Woolgoolga, in particular, are

growth regions and all are seeking another school to meet the shortfall," Mr Johnstone said.

College Chair, Mr David Ford, stated, "We are vigorously exploring a Pre-school to Year 4 campus in the region and have already investigated a number of potential sites."



## 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."



## IN BRIEF

### APPOINTMENTS

**The Rev'd Daryl McCullough** has been appointed as the next Priest at Coffs Harbour Parish.

**The Rev'd Anne Goode** has been appointed as the next Priest at The Bellinger Parish.

**The Rev'ds Bob & Christine Woolner** have been appointed Intentional Locums in the Parish of Nambucca Heads for a term of one year.

### FAREWELL

**Roz Rogers** concluded her ministry at CVAS as Lay Chaplain and her fixed-term appointment for her Cathedral ministry finishes in December.

### RESIGNATION

**Lawrence Outridge** has resigned as a Stipendiary Lay Minister in the Parish of Port Macquarie and his last day in the Parish will be 1 December 2019.

### PERSONAL

**The Rev'd Margaret Rose and Bob** have moved from Mullumbimby to Queensland.

### DEATHS

The Very Rev'd Dr Greg Jenks' mother died on 30 October in Brisbane. Please keep Greg and his family in your prayers.

Mrs Carol Holbeck died on 30 October. Carol was the wife of the Rev'd Jim Holbeck and the sister-in-law of Mrs Del Ezzy. Please keep the families in your prayers.

The Rev'd Alf Gurlack died in Toowoomba on 11 November 2019. Alf was a past Rector of the Bellinger Parish. His wife Shirley died six days before him. Please keep the family in your prayers.

### OFFICE ARRANGEMENTS OVER CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR

#### Registry

The Registry Office will close on the afternoon of Monday 23 December and will re-open at 9am on Monday 6 January 2020.

#### Anglican Funds Grafton Diocese

AFGD will be providing a part-time operation during that period with the exception of weekends and Public Holidays.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**23 December 2019** – Bishop's Registry closes for the Christmas holidays

**6 January 2020** – Bishop's Registry reopens after the holidays

**7 February 2020** – Clergy Conference

**8 February 2020** – LLM Formation Day in the north

**29 February 2020** – LLM Formation Day in the south

**11-14 May 2020** – Clergy Retreat

**27 June 2020** – Special Synod

**22-23 August 2020** – LLM Conference

**24-26 August 2020** – Ministry School

**4-6 September 2020** – Synod



## REFLECTIONS

# Reflection on Formation Program

**By The Venerable Tiffany Sparks, Diocesan Archdeacon & Ministry Development Officer**

In early November, we were delighted to host a formation intensive for four people in search for God's call on their lives and the possibility of ordained ministry. It is always a privilege to be part of people's faith journeys and to hear their story. Bright and early Tuesday morning we started out with Morning Prayer at the Cathedral as a lead in to the week of reflection, learning and discussion. The students were "invited" to lead and read at both morning and evening prayer. Over the course of the week, this aspect of the intensive came to be a giant part of the conversation, with much speculation about how to read the psalms. Do you pause? How long do you pause? How do you know if the pause is long enough? Who leads the pause? It is funny how the little things can be great topics of conversation and consternation. However, this way of bonding over worship set the tone for the next few days and positively impacted the group.

"My favourite part of each day of the formation intensive was beginning with Morning Prayer at the Cathedral. Everyone was very welcoming to us even though we had varying levels of experience in doing Morning Prayer," Grant said.

"I came away with a commitment to thoughtfully incorporate the practice of Morning and Evening Prayer into my daily contemplative and reflective regime," David said.

David from Ballina parish, Aaron from Kawana parish, Kassimiro from Coffs Harbour and Grant from the Cathedral were invited to sessions on liturgy, music, ministry to the sick and dying, Anglicanism in the Australian context amongst

other interesting topics. It was pleasing to see the depth of thought and conversation that occurred. This intensive was "live-in" so the students got to know each other by sharing a residence and breaking bread together.

"Many of our sessions touched on a common topic of "What does it mean to be an Anglican?" and we gave much thoughtful consideration on being a Christian in a largely secular Australia, and on being an Anglican Christian in Grafton," Grant added.

It was intense as the title proclaims, but it was enriching to see people who are faithfully exploring God's call on their lives to ordained ministry. It is also good to see parishes raising up future leaders for the church. If you have someone in your parish who you think is called for ordained ministry, tap them on a shoulder and affirm them. One of the most common movements of the Spirit is through people identifying gifts and calls in others and encouraging them.

We finished up on Friday with a pizza lunch at Epic Assist Job Seeker Agency for people with disabilities (part of the Anglicare group). It was good for the students to connect with the community and hear of some of the needs people have and contextual issues. We were warmly received by the staff and clients at Epic and it was a great way to finish four days of intensive learning and formation.

Many thanks to all who contributed their time for these formation days, for their observations, learnings and accommodations. Also many thanks to the students who took time out of their employment to explore God's call for ordination and for being open to learn. Here are some thoughts by the participants of



their experience.

"Spending time with ministry leaders taught me a lot and gave me new perspectives on everything from music in the liturgy, pastoral care for people in sickness and grief and how to read and understand the lectionary and Prayer Book for a variety of liturgies. It was great to be able to learn not just theology but also practical knowledge that we can really use in everyday ministry," Grant said.

"In simple prose I loved this experience. I loved each of the instructors and their instruction. I loved meeting Aaron, Kassimiro and Grant and pray God's blessing as they proceed along the path to ordination. I am hopeful that the new bonds of friendships that were created in our week of community together will mature and grow, and that our paths will intersect on many occasions in the future" David said.

"The welcoming, the accommodation, the food, and all the presentations by all our formators were all beneficial to me personally. I also enjoyed the accompanying of my three brothers in Christ Jesus



Mr Grant, David, and Aaron," Kassimiro said. "I was actually happy to be refreshed in my service to God and to do it with wisdom and reverence I need days like those days".

"When people come together in the name of Christ, for the purpose of Christ. Great things can and do happen. Such is the case with the final Grafton Intensive for the year. As one who attended, it is certainly no exaggeration to state that the entire time was full of blessings shared. From the blessing of new friendships gained,

the incredibly wonderful accommodation and food, and the wealth of knowledge shared. The time together was indeed a blessing. Thanks be to God for the time together, for all that was provided and to the hands that brought it all together. Through their considerable efforts, Grafton Diocese gave an exemplary example of Christian stewardship and fellowship and showed just how truly, wonderful things can happen when people come together in the name of Christ," Aaron said.

## PRAYING WITH THE SAINTS Richard Baxter, Pastor and Spiritual Writer

**By Rev'd Camellia Flanagan**

**DIED 1691  
FEAST DAY 8 DECEMBER**

Born on November 12, 1615 Richard had a limited education. Mentor and schoolmaster John Owen persuaded him not to attend university. Life in his time was influenced by The English Civil War, the ousting of the monarchy in the 1640's and its restoration which affected church and society. Richard studied theology with Francis Garget, the local clergyman and read widely, including Calvinist writers, orthodox Church of England theology, writings from conforming puritans and nonconformists. He became

master of the free grammar school at Dudley in 1638 and ordained and licensed by the Bishop of Worcester.

His best-known ministry was 17 years at Kidderminster where the town of about 2000 were converted, (apart from five years as a chaplain in Cromwell's army). It was impossible for Baxter to get to know them all. His ministry style of house-to-house visiting, discipleship, teaching catechism and pastoral counselling, transformed the town into a vibrant Christian community, and set an example of thoroughness and urgency in proclaiming and applying the gospel. The influence of

Baxter's Puritan writings which remain in print is not easy to measure; The Reformed Pastor published in 1656 is widely read. Baxter's views on justification and sanctification are considered controversial and unconventional within the Calvinist tradition because his teachings seem to undermine the doctrine of salvation by faith, emphasising the necessity of repentance and faithfulness.

In 1662 Richard married Margaret Charlton, who was like-minded, and when she died in 1681 he wrote the hymn *Ye holy Angels Bright* (TIS 108).

He became alienated from the church, regarded as a Presbyterian, and moderate

nonconformist, he is now described as an English Puritan church leader, poet, hymnodist, theologian and controversialist, and he endured persecution, imprisonment and illness.

Among his notable sayings are, "Prayer must carry on our work as well as preaching" and "Pastors must shepherd themselves before they can shepherd their flock".

In our time can we pray Richard's prayer?

"Eternal, Almighty, and most gracious God: heaven is your throne, and earth is your footstool; holy and reverend is your name; you are praised by the angels of heaven, and in the gathering of your church on

earth. Despite our unworthiness, you have invited us through our mediator, Jesus Christ, to present ourselves and our prayers to you. Receive us graciously. Help us by your Spirit. Let us stand in awe of you. Put your law into our hearts and write it on our minds. Let your word come to us in power, and help us receive it in love, with attentive, reverent, and teachable minds. Through your word, allow us to taste the flavour of eternal life. Make us fervent in prayer and joyful in praise. Help us serve you this day without distraction, that we may find that a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere, and that it is good for us to come near to God; through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. Amen."



# THREADS LAID BARE Water, Water Everywhere

By Rev'd Camellia Flanagan

In time of drought and subsequent fire we realise just how precious water is. And if we are surrounded by water which is not drinkable, we may have cause to think of Samuel Taylor Coleridge and The Rime of the Ancient Mariner. The Old Sailor on a becalmed ship is surrounded by salt water that he cannot drink. Water makes up

about 70% of the earth's surface. It is the earth's most abundant natural resource and is essential for life to survive and thrive, but if it is unavailable, all life perishes and not all water can sustain life. Understandably water can be a symbol for life, and as Christians we are baptised in water used as a symbol of life, but also a symbol of cleansing or purifying of our soul, and a symbol of dying

with Christ - drowning and rising to new life - so we can begin a new life guided by the Spirit of Christ. We have parables and stories in the Bible about water, such as Jesus walking on water and turning water into good wine. These stories point to a transcendence of our earthly condition demonstrated by the one who created it. And in Greek philosophy water is thought to be the original

substance from which all things are made. We read in *Genesis 1:2*, "In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters." Given enough time water can wear away stones and water in many places is collected in stone lined wells and

cisterns. Mentioned in the Bible is the pool of Bersheba (*Genesis 21:19*), Isaac's well (*Genesis 24:11*) the waters of Nephtoah (*Joshua 15:9*) The pool of Siloam (*John 9:7*) and Jacob's well (*John 4:6*). Significant is Jesus' conversation with the Woman from Samaria at Jacob's well when he told her, "The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life."

## ST COLUMBA ANGLICAN SCHOOL

### "Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God"

By Mr Terry Muldoon, Principal, St Columba Anglican School, Port Macquarie

Members of our Diocesan community who have not stepped onto a school campus over the last decade might be shocked to find how much today's teaching and learning, and how much the schools themselves, have changed.

At first glance the buildings are somewhat bigger and better designed, the learning environment more alive and energetic and the students more actively engaged in their learning.

Underpinning these changes is a truly significant shift in the educational environment and I am happy to say that our Diocesan schools are determined to remain educational leaders, refusing to accept the "truism" that regional schools lag behind their city counterparts.

I reflect on the words of Bishop Murray in his invitation to our community to the special Synod to discuss the future of the Diocese: "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."

The Bishop might just as well have been talking about education.

As we rush towards 2020 it may come as a shock to some that many schools and educators are still talking about how we can incorporate the so-called 21st century learning capacities into our education system.

We are 20% into the "new" century and many educators are still just talking!

In today's world, any school that claims to prepare its students for success cannot, should not and must not, be shackled to an outdated teaching and learning system

that prepares a student for a world that no longer exists.

"We've always done it that way" can no longer offer us comfort. In fact, doing things the same old way can result in our students being left behind and refusing them opportunities for the future that they so richly deserve. An act too catastrophic to contemplate.

While we adults may mourn the loss of certainty and the comfort of a style of education that gave them success in the past, we cannot betray the future of our children by failing to acknowledge that the world has changed and that the way education is structured must change with it.

St Columba will not do this! "Yearning for a new way will not produce it. Only ending the old way can do that."

In a society where the world of work continues to evolve at a rate never seen before, we can and will offer our children an education that focuses on the skills, knowledge and attitudes that we know will offer our students, your children, the opportunity to rise to the challenge of achieving success in this increasingly competitive and globalised world.

At St Columba, we will continue to offer our students the foundational skills of literacy and numeracy, continue to help them develop positive attitudes and skills that will make them valued members of the wider community, but we will go further than that.

Over the past two years, St Columba has been planning to meet this challenge. We have reviewed and changed our teaching and learning leadership structure to allow for greater innovation, coordination and flexibility.

We have researched educational movements, and visited schools and systems that have allowed us to see the best and learn from the best.

We have benchmarked our planning, efforts and goals against the very best in the world.



Today's Successful Learners (MCEETYA)

- Develop their capacity to learn and play an active role in their own learning;
- Have the essential skills in literacy and numeracy and are creative and productive users of technology, especially ICT, as a foundation for success in all learning areas;
- Are able to think deeply and logically, and obtain and evaluate evidence in a disciplined way as the result of studying fundamental disciplines;
- Are creative, innovative and resourceful, and are able to solve problems in ways that draw upon a range of learning areas and disciplines;
- Are able to plan activities independently, collaborate, work in teams and communicate ideas;
- Are able to make sense of their world and think about how things have become the way they are;
- Are on a pathway towards continued success in further education, training or employment, and acquire the skills to make informed learning and employment decisions

throughout their lives;

- Are motivated to reach their full potential.

Further than that, we are looking at ways of ensuring our students are successful after they leave our learning community. We are moving into partnership with Charles Sturt University to ensure that the old silo approach that sees schools and universities as separate and even disparate entities no longer applies to the lives of our students.

In terms of our wider community, there are a number of priorities that St Columba will be addressing over the next year. These include:

- Increasing and improving our involvement with the education of our indigenous community;
- Working in partnership with the Local Nautilus Senior College, who work with the most marginalised students in our community;
- Working with our local Council to be an energetic participant in the development of the Health and Education precinct;
- Working with our Diocesan Schools to ensure that we share our

collegial wisdom across the entire Diocese;

- Looking to grow so that St Columba does not allow its educational offerings to be denied, through limited enrolment places, to the growing number of families who seek to be part of our educational story.

"It shouldn't be that the family you are born into that determines your life chances, but to some extent they do. Lives are not predictable, human beings surprise. There may be a really good teacher. You might have access to a really good school." Dr Dina Bowman, the Brotherhood of St Laurence study that has followed a group of Australians for the past 29 years provides a fascinating insight into who gets a leg up in society.

Our schools are:

- Future-focussed
- Actively responding to the needs of their varied communities in ways that only independent schools can - not shackled by an urban-based bureaucracy
- Lively, innovative and agile
- On a mission to bring a lived Anglican ethos to the thousands of students who walk through their gates each day.



# ANGLICARE NORTH COAST CONNECTION

## Disaster Recovery Volunteers Swing Into Action

In the event of a major disaster such as an extreme weather event, Anglicare North Coast has a network of trained volunteers that, when activated by Family and Community Services, can work with other locally accredited organisations to assist in local emergency activations. These volunteers proved invaluable in the recent widespread bushfire emergency across our region.

Whilst Anglicare has been involved in disaster recovery for many years, the program really proved it's worth during this emergency, with unprecedented activations of volunteers. All told, Anglicare volunteers assisted at most of the 21 evacuation centres set up by Families and Community Services, working alongside volunteers from other agencies, such as The Salvation Army and The Red Cross. Well done and thank you to all our volunteers for their untiring work and strong commitment

to helping those in need.

Many Anglicare staff also went "above and beyond", assisting with a whole range of tasks, at times well outside of normal business hours. Owen Gray and Tony Auld both deserve a special mention for their efforts.

To become an Anglicare Disaster Recovery volunteer, it is essential to undertake a training course. These courses are run regularly in different locations across the Diocese by our Disaster Recovery Coordinator, Owen Gray. Training will occur early in 2020 and dates will be advertised on our website and in this newspaper. Please consider doing the training so that you are able to assist next time there is a disaster.

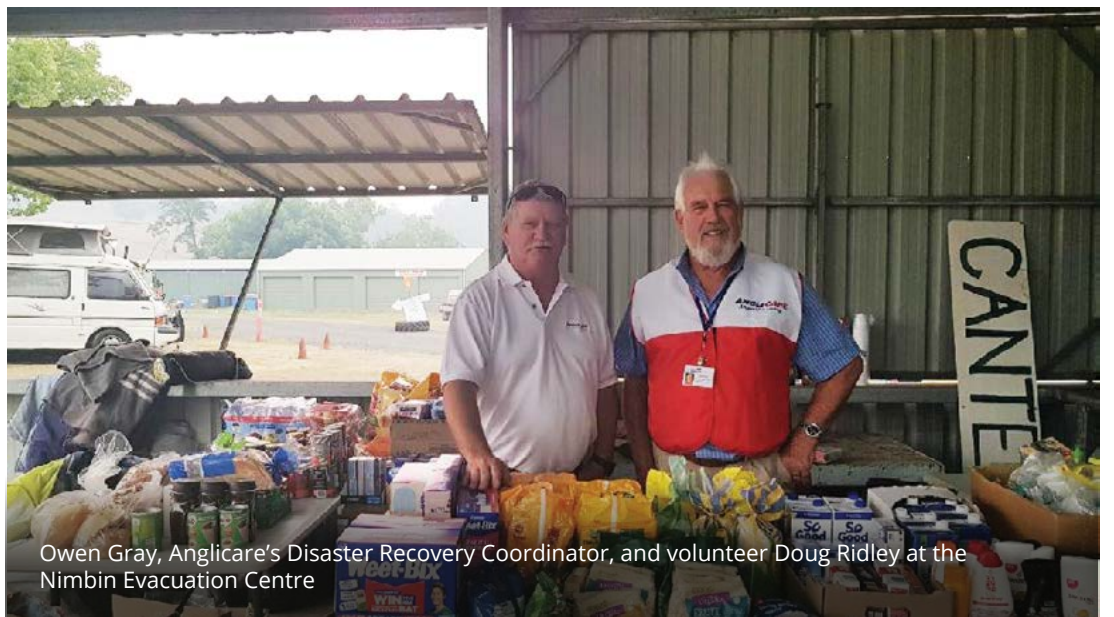
To register your interest, please email [oweng@anglicarenc.org.au](mailto:oweng@anglicarenc.org.au), with your name, location and contact details.



Roslyn Felsch, an Anglicare Manager, collecting donated goods from Coles in Goonellabah



Bill Johnston worked tirelessly as an Anglicare volunteer at the Grafton Evacuation Centre for many days



Owen Gray, Anglicare's Disaster Recovery Coordinator, and volunteer Doug Ridley at the Nimbin Evacuation Centre

## Research Paints a Gloomy Picture

Two recent research reports paint a very gloomy picture for our region.

The *Anglicare Australia Jobs Snapshot 2019* found that in NSW for each entry level position there were at least five people competing for the position.

Whilst the report did not delve into individual regions in the state, it is likely that the

situation on the North Coast is worse than the state average.

We know that across our region there are high levels of unemployment, particularly for youth, and that there are many barriers faced by those who are unemployed.

Barriers include transport and limited educational opportunities in many parts of the region.

When these barriers are considered in light of scarcity of jobs many people, particularly those with little or no qualifications and experience, are likely to be looking for work for a long time to come.

The NSW Council of Social Services report *Mapping Economic Disadvantage in NSW*, released in October, found alarming numbers of people

in our region who are living in poverty, or "significant economic disadvantage".

A few examples illustrate this point really well: across NSW 13.3% of people live in "economic disadvantage", compared to 24.2% in Nambucca Heads, and around 21% in Kempsey and Lismore; in Nambucca Heads 42% of children were found to be

in "economic disadvantage" and in Kempsey 20% of women were in "economic disadvantage".

These are statistics that it would be easier not to know about, but they demonstrate the reality of life for many in our region, thus presenting us all with a challenge – what can and should be done about this problem?



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