

ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF GRAFTON



*'We are empowered and guided by the Holy Spirit in Worship,
Service and Witness.'*



Parish Profile
Byron Bay
November 2019

ABOUT US

Thank you for taking the time to read our parish profile. We are an affirming congregation that welcomes all people from all walks of life. We are an innovative parish that enjoys building on the Anglican tradition with creative flourishes.

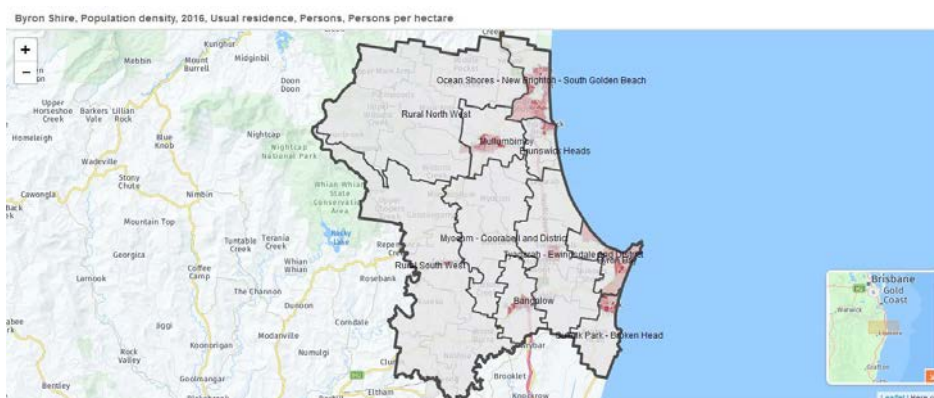
Here is a little about where we are situated: The Byron Shire is situated in far north-eastern New South Wales. It comprises most of the catchment area of the Brunswick River, and part of that of the Richmond River. It adjoins the shires of Tweed (to the north) and Ballina (south), and the City of Lismore (west). The Shire is bounded in the east by the South Pacific Ocean, in the south partly by Skinners Creek and Wilsons River, in the south-west partly by Coopers Creek, and in the north-west partly by the Nightcap Range. The area of the Shire is 567 square kilometres. The Shire was proclaimed, and its initial boundary described in detail, in the NSW Government Gazette of 7 March 1906. It was a creation of the Local Government (Shires) Act 1905, under which the whole of New South Wales, exclusive of the Western Division, the City of Sydney, and existing municipalities, was divided into shires. Byron Shire has an estimated resident population of **34,574 (June 2018)**. Its major urban areas are Byron Bay (with its satellites Suffolk Park and Ewingsdale); Brunswick Heads, Mullumbimby, Billinudgel, New Brighton, Ocean Shores and Bangalow. Although Aboriginal history is not within the scope of this profile, it is acknowledged that Byron Shire contains a wealth of Aboriginal cultural sites which include middens, stone arrangements, rock shelters, and tool-making sites. Additionally, many Aboriginal words have survived in the names of places within the Shire (e.g. Mullumbimby and Billinudgel).

2011 Census QuickStats for Byron Bay reveals:

Population 11769	Male 5673	Female 6092
Median Age 42	Families 2513	Av Child per family 1.7
Religion None or not stated 7539 64.1%	Anglican 1113 8.5%	

The population of Byron Bay area is growing faster than the national average at 1.2% pa. between 2011 and 2016. The main employment revolves around tourism with an estimated 2.2 million visitors per year. This makes Byron Bay a major tourist destination, second only to Sydney in NSW.

Byron is located 45 minutes from the Gold Coast by the Motorway. Also in proximity to great schools in Ballina and Tweed Heads as well as Universities at Lismore, Coolangatta and Southport.



Parish Services

St Paul's 9am every Sunday

St Paul's first Sunday of every month Evensong @ 5 pm

St Columba's 11am Second Sunday of the month.

St Oswald's 11am Fourth Sunday of the month.

BYRON BAY PARISH CENTRES

St Paul's Church Kingsley Street Byron Bay

The original St Paul's was dedicated on the 1st May, 1898 and was the first church in Byron Bay. This heritage timber clad building has been moved to the rear of the block and now stands as our successful op-shop. The new St. Paul's was dedicated on December 5th, 1961 and has a spacious light filled design for an uplifting worship experience. We are a warm and friendly group, and this being Byron Bay, we welcome many interstate and overseas visitors. Good coffee and morning tea after the service provides an opportunity to swap stories and strike up new friendships.

The bright and spacious carpeted worship space of St Paul's can hold up to 130 people with moveable seating. There is a ramp for disabled access at the entrance and also at right of picture below through the double doors is a well-equipped kitchen and meeting area with adjoining disabled toilet and baby change table plus a unisex toilet.

The vestry/office is staffed one day a week, there is also a sound system with personal clip on microphone and a new 75inch television plus android tablet. Above the narthex at the rear of the church is an area which used to house the organ and is often used for extra seating when required.



Spirituality Centre

In the last few years the Parish council have been considering its vision for a church more integrated into the local community. As part of this vision the St Paul's Church space has been carpeted and moveable chairs installed so that the space can be used for multiple purposes. As part of this journey the St Paul's Church has been re-named St Paul's Spirituality Centre, experimenting with different types of worship, meditation services, Evensong etc. with as yet limited success. This journey will continue as we try to discover the best ways of mission and ministry for this area. However, this Centre has reverted back to its previous name.



St Columba's Church Ewingsdale



St Columba's Church was built in 1914 and dedicated 1 March 1915. The centenary of the church was celebrated on 1 March 2015 with 180 guests joining together for this significant occasion – Rt. Revd. Dr Sarah Macneil presided at the Eucharist.

St Columba's Church is situated within the Heritage listed area on William Flick Lane, off Ewingsdale Road seven kilometres west of Byron Bay.

Adjoining the church are the Ewingsdale Community Hall, built in 1908 and the avenue of weeping figs planted by school children in the 1930's. This beautiful area offers a peaceful green rural setting for residents and visitors and is extremely popular as a wedding venue and used for a variety of celebrations.

The church, hall and grounds are beautifully maintained by the community and a real asset which provides a wonderful venue for many and varied options for future church activities. Currently a regular monthly Eucharist is held, however St Columba's is also available for weddings, baptisms and funerals on request.



The congregation warmly welcomes new members and visitors and has always been particularly caring and supportive of the incumbent clergy and their family. Church community members are open to exploring new opportunities for worship and encouraging young families and the broader Ewingsdale community to join in and be part of the new and exciting future for St Columba's.

Varied service formats especially music and children's ministry are options the church family of St Columba's look forward to exploring.

St Oswald's Church Broken Head



St Oswald's Church is situated on Broken Head Road and takes in the area of Broken Head, Suffolk Park, Byron Hills and Midgen Flat.

St Oswald's Church was built on 1 acre of land given by Mr Goard whose son was killed in 1917. Corporal Goard left a bequest of £50 which formed the start of the building fund. In 1921 the foundation Block was laid and in 1922 the Dedication was performed. The Church is truly a Memorial to a young man who served his country.

The church is situated on a bushy block surrounded by well-kept lawns and gardens. The church itself has an interior of varnished red cedar and traditional wood craft maintained by its loyal and dedicated parishioners.

All new and existing members of the congregation are warmly welcomed to our service with Holy Communion held on the 4th Sunday of every month at 11am followed by a delicious lunch usually held outdoors if the weather is fine.

We would welcome the opportunity to expand our activities with innovative ways in the future with a view to extending our congregation and spreading the word of the Lord. This beautiful heritage church is also the perfect setting for weddings, baptisms and funerals.

Special Services

We hold two special services during the year:

Patronal Festival celebrating St Oswald and the Christmas Service on the 4th Sunday in December.



Parish figures

	2017	2018	2019
Weddings	3	5	2
Baptisms	2	2	1
Funerals	7	3	0
Confirmations			
Overall attendances	8,500	5,500	3,576 till 6th Nov

Diocesan Restructure Proposal

The Grafton Diocese has proposed restructuring to form a Single Ministry Area that would serve the Byron Shire Area. This would combine Byron Bay Parish with Bangalow and Mullumbimby Parishes. In this process it is proposed to close and sell St Oswald's at Broken Head and close St Columba's Ewingsdale. Final decisions will be taken after a consultation period culminating with a special Synod meeting in June 2020. If the proposal goes ahead, the new parish would form with 2 full time positions available and administrative support.

The Rectory

The original Rectory next to St. Paul's was demolished in the early 1980's and a new one built. In line with Diocesan trends this building was sold and a new rectory at Bayside was purchased and dedicated by Bishop Sarah Macneil in 2017. This building is a brick 4 bedroom plus study residence surrounded by easy to maintain gardens, in a residential area 10 minutes from the Church.



The Op-shop and Properties

Our community boasts a successful op-shop. The parish owns a commercial building on the corner of Jonson & Kingsley Streets which is currently leased as a reception centre. These two premises provide a good income for the parish. St Paul's church, the Rectory and the commercial premises are in good condition and well maintained, however the op-shop is showing its age in places and is being repaired in stages.



Nominators:

Helen Brown and Prue Harrington

Wardens

John Watson – Parish warden

Ian White – Rectors warden

Helen Brown – People's warden

Financial Overview

The Byron Bay Parish Op Shop has a very dedicated team of volunteers and has grown and changed to meet the ever increasing needs of our community. For 2018 the op shop returned a figure of \$28,000. The Parish also has a rental property near the Byron CBD which has an annual income of \$55,000. The budget for 2019 is \$147,500. Financial figures available upon request.

With our ongoing diligence to Op Shop, property rental and cash investments the council is confident of being able to support a full-time Rector.



What we are looking for:

Our parish is passionate about connecting with the wider community and has been known for its loving service. We want a leader who will continue our vision and dream with us about the future and where God is leading us, someone who is naturally collaborative. We would love a priest who is pastoral and will listen to both the Church community and the wider community with an open heart and vision. We love sermons that are relevant and inspire us in how we live our lives.

Our Parish Prayer:

'Spirit of God, you bind us together and form us into the Body of Christ in this place. Renew our vision of your kingdom and lead us forward in fruitful mission and ministry. Stir up our desire for you; call us to prayer; send us out to share your love and make disciples for Jesus. Amen'.