



PARISH PROFILE OF THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF BYRON



*Byron Anglicans
We are one*

28 May 2020

Welcome to the Ministry Region of Byron. This Ministry Region is a newly established ministry area, which provides numerous opportunities for Mission and Ministry.

The Byron Ministry Region encompasses the townships of Bangalow, Byron Bay and Mullumbimby and their surrounding areas. It is a beautiful diverse region, which includes some spectacular beaches, amazing National Parks; traditional farm properties and of course some macadamia and coffee plantations.

We begin by thanking you for taking the time to look through our Ministry Area Profile.

About us – at a Glance

Bangalow: is perhaps perceived by some as a conservative community, but the reality is quite different. Whilst the worship style at All Souls Bangalow is that of traditional Anglican worship, the parishioners are not conservative in their view of the Scriptures, nor in their understanding of Mission. The gathered community genuinely welcomes all people and are active in giving voice to the voiceless in society. This part of the Ministry Area has close connections with The Buttery, which is a Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation Centre. It is also actively involved in supporting Refugees. The main street of Bangalow is always a bustle of activity with The Bangalow markets attracting tourists from across the region. There is currently a centre church, St Aidan's at Eureka as part of the Bangalow profile which is listed as 'proposed sale.'

Byron Bay: is a welcoming and caring community of residents that form the congregation within what is a tourist town for both domestic and international visitors. Although the congregation is ageing, they have been open to exploring new ways of being Church for the past few years and there is a desire to continue this journey of exploration. There is a desire to bring others into the church community and to this end, St Paul's has recently been carpeted, had chairs installed and is now being used during the week for a range of activities. The Byron Bay area is growing with retirees, younger people and families moving to the area for its beauty and lifestyle. There are also over two million visitors a year including a large number of young backpackers, some of whom stay for English language classes and work in local businesses. The challenge is to continue to cater for the current congregation, as well as be relevant to these new and transient groups. The two smaller centres situated at Ewingsdale (St Columba's) and Broken Head (St Oswald's) are currently marked for 'proposed closure' under the Diocesan Restructure process and their future is yet to be finally determined. The Parish also owns a modern rectory, as well as premises in the CBD of Byron Bay which is currently leased.

Mullumbimby: is the most northern part of the Ministry Region and is the administrative centre of the Ministry Area. Mullumbimby hosts a weekly Farmers Market and a monthly Craft and Produce Market. It has a vibrant Arts community with many musicians, writers and artists. Mullumbimby was once a typical rural community, however in more recent years there has been an influx of people to the area, bringing with them a diverse range of ideas. Hence it is now a very eclectic community, which presents the Church with both a great opportunity for mission and ministry and a great challenge. The gathered community of faith at St Martin's has been predominantly traditional in its worship style, but over the past five years or so has experimented with a diverse range of creative liturgies and service styles. This change has pleased some, but disappointed others. St Martins in Mullumbimby is well connected to the local Neighbourhood Centre and works with them in providing food for those in need. St Martins also offers food parcels for those in need, Courthouse outreach and an excellent Tent ministry which assists the community in providing shelter for the homeless. As part of the Diocesan Restructure the centre at Brunswick Heads is to be reviewed in three years' time.

The average attendance at each centre is usually around the 20+ mark on a given Sunday, with the average age around 70.

All of the buildings are all well maintained and are used by a variety of community groups, which not only provide the ministry region with an income, but also provides us with a mission opportunity.

As a newly formed region we are still exploring what the future might look like for us as we strive to witness to the presence of Christ in our midst. This is a challenging time, yet an exciting time for us as Church.

Like to know more?

As a newly formed Ministry Area we are keen to ensure that the Anglican Church, in this region, is seen and known by people in the area as a denomination that welcomes all people regardless of age, race, religion and sexual orientation.

Our **Vision Statement** is: To be a vibrant, united and loving Christian presence across the Byron Region.

Our main goals are centred around:

- Providing a diversity of worship experiences,
- Strengthening connections and partnerships in the wider community,
- To be known for our acts of loving service, providing welfare for the needy, and being advocates for social justice,
- Offering outreach to youth and supporting schools in the region.

Working with Us

Community Minister: Just recently, in consultation with representatives from the Ministry Area, the Bishop appointed a full-time Community Minister to work with us as we explore ways which we, as Church can create meaningful relationships with people in the wider Community. The primary focus of this appointment is to be that of Mission; i.e. creating and establishing relationships with The Spiritual but not Religious.

Central Administration: During the Diocesan Restructure process, the former parishes of this region agreed that it was essential that a full time Parish Administrator be appointed. This person is to be responsible for Administration across the region. The Ministry Area is in the process of completing a job description for this position.

Op Shop Co-ordinator: Our Northern Regional Op Shop coordinator is Mr John Adlington. John's responsibilities include:

1. Supporting each local Op Shop coordinator;
2. Governance and compliance;
3. Mission opportunities; and
4. Fellowship and care of the workers.

LLM Ministry:

There are currently 4 Licensed Lay Ministers in the region, each with different skill sets. Some lead worship and are happy to work across the region, others prefer to offer ministry at a more local level with a focus on pastoral care. They are valuable members of our community of faith and their ministry is greatly appreciated and affirmed.

Ecumenical Partnerships:

Strong ecumenical relationships exist across the Ministry Area and there is a genuine desire that these relationships be strengthened as we move into the future.

Parish Administrator: (Currently part-time)

Office Phone 0266 843552
Parish Mobile 0448 150 004
Office Hours Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9am – 5pm
Email Office angmullum@gmail.com

Worship in the Region

Current Service Times

Please note that these service times are subject to change in the near future as we live into the newly formed Ministry Area.

Byron Bay: Sunday 9am
 1st Sunday of the month Evensong 5pm

Bangalow: Sunday 9am
 Wednesday 10.00am
 St Aidan's 1st Sunday of the month 11.00am

Mullumbimby: alternating Saturday 5pm services between St Martin's Mullumbimby and
 St Thomas' Brunswick Heads

Centre Church Services

These are still to be determined, however it is envisaged that there will be a Sunday service in two of the centres each week, with possibly a Saturday evening service in the other centre. Currently Evensong is held once a month at Byron Bay on a Sunday and this could double as one of the Sunday services.

Nursing Home Services

Byron Bay: Monthly, services are held at Feros, RSL Life and Byron Aged Care.

Bangalow: Monthly services at Feros Village shared with Uniting Church.

Mullumbimby: Monthly services at Coolamon Villa (second Tuesday of the month).

Home Communions

Byron Bay: Approximately two home communions per month.

Bangalow: As required.

Mullumbimby: As required.

Main Groups and Ministries

Ministry of the Op Shops



Byron Bay

This Op Shop is located in the historic old church behind St Pauls. It is one of at least 5 Op Shops in Byron Bay and suffers from a poor location and competition. It is staffed by volunteers, about 50% of whom are members of the congregation.



Bangalow

Bangalow Op Shop is a purpose built, shed-like building and sits in a line with the Church, Hall and Rectory on Diocesan land. It is in a heritage listed area and opposite the Bangalow Heritage Museum and Tea Rooms. It is currently the only Op Shop in Bangalow and is well supported by the local community and many people visiting the region. It is staffed by approx 30 volunteers with 1 co-ordinator; currently 2 people are Centrelink volunteers and 8 are members of the congregation. It is open 5 ½ days per week and supports the Parish and the remainder a number of local charities including The Buttery and Anglicare North Coast. It is considered an important part of our outreach and mission to the community and an invaluable part in providing financial assistance to the Parish.



Mullumbimby

Mullumbimby Op Shop occupies rented premises in the main street of town. The shop opens 5 ½ days per week and is staffed by approximately 30 volunteers. The Op Shop is a point of outreach to those in need. Referrals come from the Mullumbimby and District Neighbourhood Centre for those experiencing special hardship e.g. fire, flood, homelessness etc. All goods are sorted washed and ironed before being priced and placed out for sale.

Study Groups

Byron Bay: Wednesday Wisdom weekly bible study.

Youth Ministry

This is an area that we would like to develop.

Music Ministry

The intention is to develop this ministry.

Byron Bay: St Paul's has a piano and an organ. There are 2 people who can be called on to play for services. The Church also has a sound system.

Bangalow: All Souls has an electric organ and keyboard. There is a baby grand piano in the hall. There is one organist who has been playing for services for over 70 years.

Mullumbimby: St Martin's Church is home to the only public pipe organ in the Byron Shire. There are 3 organists that play for services. The church and the hall are sought after venues by the Music community in the area. We have hosted 'Tony Backhouse and the Back Roaders', Byron Music Society, The Mullum Music Festival and various other musicians and groups. The church has a sound system and video set up.

Other

Byron Bay: ‘Guess Who’s Coming for Coffee?’ is a monthly get together with an invited guest. St Pauls is used as a homeless women’s refuge in times of extreme weather.

Mullumbimby: More Than a Meal

In early 2015 it was identified that there was a need in our community for people to access a wholesome cooked meal. Initially it was to be a meal prepared in partnership with the Anglican Parish of Mullumbimby and the Mullumbimby & District Neighbourhood Centre, two days per week. The meal would be prepared utilising donated food from various businesses in the area. (Food Rescue).

At the start of this project there were 10-20 meals served on a Tuesday and Thursday. Four years later and the program has grown to become a four day per week operation serving between 60 and 100 meals per day.

The service is designed to offer more than a meal, therefore reducing social isolation and promoting social inclusion. It is a space where people can come together, develop new friendships and share their stories.

Creating this space also facilitates a “soft entry point” for people who may need to access other services available at The Neighbourhood Centre: e.g. Community support, Women’s services, Legal Aid etc.

The program aims to offer a free nutritious meal to the community in an environment that is welcoming and non-judgmental. The criteria for people utilising the service: “Anyone who is hungry.”

Courthouse Outreach Ministry

Courthouse Outreach Ministry is a simple but valuable connection point in our community. Teams of 2 people once per month provide morning tea during Court sessions to people waiting for court appearances.

Food Pantry and Tent Ministry

Food Pantry provides a bag of basic groceries to people in need. They are able to come to the Parish Office and request assistance. Pantry foods are donated by parishioners or purchased by the Parish. Occasionally our quarterly Mission supports this outreach. We are supported by the local bakery who supplies bread each week and the Uniting Church Food Bank who occasionally source long life milk and other non perishables for us.

Tent Ministry: We have a stock of small 2 person dome tents which are available to those in need of emergency short term shelter. These tents are distributed in conjunction with the Neighbourhood Centre. A recipient must first be assessed by a Community Support worker at the Neighbourhood Centre and are issued a tent by us on receipt of a written referral from the centre.

Bangalow

Bangalow Social Housing Project – St Peter’s Place

With the funds from the sale of St Peter’s, Clunes, a Trust Fund is in place for the sole purpose of providing Group Housing on land adjacent to the Op Shop. A proposal is being prepared for the Corporate Trustees and a deposit already paid on one house. Following this, a DA will be lodged with Byron Shire Council to begin the next stage. The hope is to eventually have two houses which will be managed by The Buttery halfway house team as the target occupants are the Buttery residents who have completed their program and wish to move into transitional housing as they continue their recovery from addiction.

Financial Overview

The three Op Shops in the Ministry Area not only provide an opportunity for Mission but do provide financial assistance to the Ministry needs of the region. The annual revenue is approximately \$200,000 and has the potential to be grow.

The leasing of a property in the Byron CBD further assists the parish financially with an annual income of \$55,000. This revenue could be increased if the property was sold and proceeds invested.

There is a residence at 3 Eloura Crt, Ocean Shores which is permanently rented. St Thomas' hall in Brunswick Heads is commercially rented and houses a pottery business.

The Region also has investment funds that can be used for the seeding or extension of mission and ministry.

Financially secure Ministry Region

The Ministry Area is considered to be financially secure given the Op Shop revenue, property rental income and offerings. It also has substantial surplus property which can be sold to earn additional investment income.

Who are we looking for?

Someone who:

- is a strategic planner, who can lead us in discerning and developing a strategic, mission-focussed approach to ministry across the region, including a review of the current properties for mission and ministry;
- is able to continue the journey of exploration with us;
- is a visionary, with good listening skills and someone who will walk with us;
- is a team player who can facilitate and care for the members of the teams of the Ministry Area;
- is a creative leader who can celebrate diversity within the Anglican tradition;
- is able to manage their time and exercise good self care, recognising the need to balance work and life;
- is a clear communicator;
- is a priest who can encourage, empower and inspire us to live into the future that God has promised us;
- is interested in youth ministry and music;
- has an understanding of finance, technology and administrative processes; and
- has a keen sense of social justice.

St Paul's Anglican Church & Spirituality Centre – Byron Bay



St Paul's is the largest and most modern Anglican Church at the Byron Bay end of the Parish and was consecrated in 1961. It is situated in the CBD of Byron Bay and opposite the growing Byron Bay Primary School where we have had a long relationship. In the past few years the Parish Council has been considering its vision for a church more integrated into a changing local community. As part of this vision it has been carpeted and chairs installed so that the space can be used for multiple purposes. The church has a new sound system and large screen TV used during services. As part of this journey St Paul's was styled as St Paul's Anglican Church and Spirituality Centre, experimenting with different types of worship, meditation services, Evensong etc, with as yet very limited success. The idea was to try to cater for those members of the community who are spiritual but not religious. Currently these new types of worship have been curtailed with Evensong continuing to be enjoyed by a small number of the congregation. This journey will continue as we try to discover the best ways of mission and ministry for this area.

St Martin's – Mullumbimby



St Martin's is a war memorial church opened in 1925. St Martin's church bell tower was restored in 2009 with considerable support from the parish, the community and government and non-government agencies. The pipe organ leads worship and the Organ Restoration Fund supports the upkeep of the organ. There has been a move towards a more contemporary and language inclusive liturgy within the Anglican tradition. To facilitate this and for other special services, a screen, data projector and sound system was installed in 2014. Concerts are held in the church. The vestry was extensively renovated in 2010.

All Souls - Bangalow



All Souls is traditional inside with stained glass windows including the Good Shepherd window which was originally in Holy Trinity Church, Federal. It has traditional pews and organ and also a keyboard. Prayer and hymn books are used although there is a fixed screen for PowerPoint presentations. It is in good condition although some of the windows need minor repair. It has been used for musical events and meetings and is situated at the end of the main street. It has been opened daily for prayer which has been very well received by the community. The challenge to reach out to the many young families in the area is ongoing as Bangalow is a vibrant and growing area.

Parish Halls

Mullumbimby



The hall's industrial kitchen was refurbished in 2009. The hall is a highly sought after venue in town. It is used for parish functions and by a variety of different community groups. It has a 10kw photovoltaic electric system installed on the roof as a demonstration of the parish's environmental and fiscal responsibility.

Bangalow



The hall is a brick structure situated between the church and the rectory. It is a popular venue with good parking and regular bookings by diverse groups during the week. These include dance, drama, children's Steiner type playgroup, singing and quilters. It also supports regular NA meetings in the evening at a reduced rate and one off bookings for various events. The Hall raises approx \$10,000 annually and is used by the congregation for fellowship after services and on special occasions.

The Rectory



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 driving distance from St Paul's, 15 minutes from All Souls and approximately 30 minutes from St Martin's.

Census information regarding Byron Shire

2016 Census:

Population: 31556, 48.2% male and 51.8% female

Median Age: 44 years

Population Growth: 2%

Religion: 46.3% No Religion (up from 24.2% in 2001), 9.7% Anglican (down from 19% in 2001)



Area Map

Outer Centre Church Locations

St Columba's Church - Ewingsdale



St Columba's Church was built in 1914 and dedicated 1 March 1915. 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. St Columba's forms part of the Ewingsdale Community Precinct and is supported by a strong, active Community Association. St Columba's is marked for proposed sale under the diocesan restructure.

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. St Oswald's is due to be closed and sold as part of the diocesan restructure.

St Thomas' - Brunswick Heads



Situated in the middle of Brunswick Heads town, it is a wooden building in good repair. It is in walking distance of most of the township, although worshippers also come from rural areas and Ocean Shores.

The rear hall is permanently leased.

Brunswick Heads was originally a fishing village and now retains much of that character. It is now predominately residential, with a large proportion of rental properties and a holiday area. It has three large caravan parks and many holiday lettings. Just to the south is a small modern residential area named Bayside Brunswick.

St Aidan's - Eureka



St Aidan's at Eureka is located halfway between Bangalow and Lismore. This is one of the oldest churches in Byron Shire currently having a service monthly with a congregation of approx 5 and is marked for proposed sale under the diocesan restructure.