



THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF THE NAMBUCCA VALLEY



PARISH PROFILE

Welcome to the Ministry Area of The Nambucca Valley. Situated on the Mid North Coast of N.S.W, halfway between Sydney and Brisbane, Nambucca Valley Ministry Area offers idyllic climate with natural and diverse rural and coastal beauty, and is a popular holiday, fishing and retirement destination. Hence, it is a ministry area experiencing much population growth.

Nambucca Valley Ministry Area is a planned new ministry area to be formed by restructure of the Nambucca Heads and Macksville Anglican Parishes. We are now looking for a **Ministry Area Leader** to join us on this journey and lead us into an exciting new era in the life of the Church in our valley.



The area is easily accessed by the Sydney – Brisbane XPT, the M1 highway, and by direct flights from both Sydney and Melbourne at the nearby Coffs Harbour airport. Major shopping, specialist medical support and wider employment opportunities are all less than an hour's drive on the M1 to the large regional centre of Coffs Harbour.



Education and schooling options are considerable. There are twelve Infant and Primary Schools and three Secondary Schools. Buses run to other Secondary Schools and Bishop Druitt Anglican College in Coffs Harbour. North Coast TAFE has a campus at Macksville, the Nambucca Valley Community College provides a range of vocational training courses, and U3A provides courses for mature people. Other higher education opportunities are available through the Coffs Harbour Education Campus which provides world class facilities & educational programs through a unique partnership with Southern Cross

University, Coffs Harbour Senior College and the North Coast TAFE.

The new Macksville District Hospital has just opened and includes 42 Inpatient beds plus Emergency Department, Perioperative Services and Day Procedure Unit, Maternity and Tresillian Services, and Allied and Community Health Services. The Coffs Harbour Health Campus which provides a broad range of specialist services and the majority of specialist medical and surgical services for the Network is currently undergoing a \$194 million expansion.



The Nambucca Valley Arts Council is one of the States most active Arts Councils. In addition, special community events include six local markets, and many festivals including the Annual Macksville Show, Rusty Iron Rally, Volkswagon Spectacular, the Nambucca Hotrod Show and others. Regular picnic races run by Nambucca River Jockey Club are a great family day out for both young and old.

About us – at a Glance

The main centres of the new Ministry Area are Nambucca Heads, Macksville, and Bowraville. Smaller villages are Stuarts Point, Scotts Head, Taylors Arm, Eungai and Valla Beach. Combining resources offers exciting possibilities of capitalizing on existing strengths and of pioneering new ministries within the growing communities.

Nambucca Heads: With many spectacular views of the Nambucca River estuary and coast, Nambucca Heads offers a fantastic range of activities to enjoy all year round; hence its popularity for many decades as an area of choice for retirement. The church of St John the Baptist is the newest church building in the parish being built in the 1960's and extended in 1980's.



Macksville: Macksville is a riverside town with beautiful country surrounds that is undergoing a renaissance after being bypassed by the M1 highway. The Nambucca Shire Council offices are located here and a new hospital to service the entire valley has just been opened. Holy Trinity Anglican Church and its Op Shop are valued and active parts of the community that are recognised for support of community organisations and welfare.

Bowraville: Bowraville is home to the original Church in the Nambucca Valley. It is a typical rural community with a long pioneering history. It is home to the Frank Partridge VC Military Museum as well as a local Folk Museum. Over the last few decades, the number of dairy farms has declined, and new people have moved in resulting in a more eclectic community. St. James, the most western (inland) worship centre, has served this community for over a hundred and thirty years and continues to do so.

Smaller Villages

Stuarts Point: Stuarts Point, 27 kms south east of Macksville, is a popular fishing and holiday village nestled on the banks of the Clybucca River, a tributary of the magnificent Macleay River, close to vast golden beaches, the lush forests and rich pastures of the Macleay Valley. All Saints Anglican Church is located here.

Scotts Head: is a village located on the coast 15 kms south east of Macksville. It is a surfing beach, a popular holiday destination, and is on the whale migratory route. Much growth has occurred in recent years and a new village centre constructed. Nevertheless, a parish church at Scotts Head struggled and was closed in late 2016.

Valla Beach: is a rapidly growing beachside village north of Nambucca Heads which offers potential for new mission outreach endeavours. There are several new residential developments in the area.

We are still exploring the detail of the new structure and what church might look like in the future in order to be the visible presence of Christ in the community. There will be changes, challenges, and exciting opportunities as we move into a new era in the life of the church and its expression in a rapidly changing world.

Like to know more?

As a proposed new Ministry Area, we are keen to ensure that the Anglican Church remains a vital part of the growing community and is recognized for its value and contribution.

Our ***Vision Statement*** is: Being the visible presence of Christ in the community.

Our **main goals** are centred around:

- Developing stronger presence in the wider community through partnerships, networking and by looking for what God is doing there already and joining in.

- Implementing a vital families and children's ministry in the whole area.
- Releasing and acquiring resources – people, time, and finances for mission and ministry.
- Growing and equipping individuals and teams for mission, pastoral care and ministry across the region.
- Developing our existing social media, interactive website capabilities and live-streaming services to better connect and engage with the younger generations.
- Creating a greater diversity of worship opportunities.
- Growing mission through our Op Shops and welfare support ministries.

Websites: www.macksvilleanglicans.com; nambuccaanglicans.tpg.com

Facebook Pages: Anglican Parish of Macksville; Macksville Anglican Op Shop; Nambucca Anglicans

Working with Us

The Ministry Area Leader will serve with the Bishop's licence to lead the Ministry Area with all the authority we associate with a 'Rector'. He or she will primarily be focused on training, equipping and leading the Ministry Area team. The Ministry Area Leader will have oversight of all the churches and ministries and be responsible for facilitating pastoral and sacramental services with the assistance of a ministry team.

A Team Ministry. The proposed team supporting the Ministry Area Leader is envisaged to be as follows:

Parish Administration. During the Restructure consultation period, the parishes agreed that it was essential that a full time Parish Administrator be appointed. This person is to be responsible for Administration across the region.

Community Minister. We envisage that each centre will have its own Community Minister (ordained or otherwise) who will be responsible for the pastoral and spiritual care of that particular community.

Pioneer Minister. Under investigation is the employment of a community chaplain or pioneer minister. This team member may be ordained or lay and would focus on creating and establishing relationships with people outside the church in order to form disciples and create new Christian communities that are suited to a changing culture. This is a vital link in the vision for growth.

Licensed Lay Ministers. We have a strong and capable team of eleven LLMs who are keen to be further mentored and trained to develop their skills in their various capacities including leading worship and providing pastoral care across the region.

Op Shop Manager/Coordinator. Macksville Op Shop is currently managed by a fulltime volunteer. Nambucca Heads Op Shop is managed by a fulltime volunteer coordinator supported by a committee. We are investigating the possibility of employing a fulltime Manager responsible for both shops.

Worship in the Area

Current Service Times: *Styles and times of services will be negotiated with the new Ministry Area Leader, and parishioners.

Nambucca Heads	Sunday 8:00 am, Holy Communion/ Prayer and Praise Wednesday 10.00 am more relaxed Holy Communion
Macksville:	Sunday 8:30 am, Holy Communion Wednesday 9.30am, Bible Study and Holy Communion
Bowraville:	Sunday 10:00 am, Holy Communion/Prayer and Praise
Stuarts Point:	Sunday 4:00 pm, Holy Communion

Centre Church Services. These are still to be determined; however, it is envisaged that there will be one Priest led Holy Communion service each Sunday. Arrangements for midweek and other services will be discussed with the new Ministry Area Leader and LLMs. Praise, Prayer and Proclamation or Communion using the reserve sacrament are sometimes led by LLMs at the present time.

Retirement Village Services. Monthly services are currently held at three Nursing Home / Retirement Villages.

Home Communions. A small number of regular home communions are conducted by the priests or LLMs and others are conducted as required.

Financial Overview.

The new Ministry Area is financially viable, primarily through support from the two Op Shops, investments and trusts.

Currently we employ the equivalent of two stipended Rectors (who will be replaced by the Ministry Area Leader) plus 2 part-time Parish Office Assistants. In the merger we are hopeful of employing a fulltime Parish Administrator, and a Community Chaplain/pioneer minister.

All of our buildings are very well maintained.

Both Op Shop properties are owned by the Church (Diocese).

A truck which is used as an Op Shop delivery vehicle is owned and Macksville Parish currently has an annual lease arrangement on a parish car.

While we have two rectories, one may be used to house the Pioneer Minister, used as a Ministry Centre, rented out or sold.

Who are we looking for to be our Ministry Area Leader?

We are seeking someone who is:

- someone who is a person of prayer and reliant on the Holy Spirit for guidance.
- willing to walk with us in our journey of exploration and discovery, building on the new initiatives that we have started and who will bring gifting to further develop a vision for growth.
- an entrepreneurial visionary, who is multigenerational and diversity sensitive and can lead us into new ways of being church, building on the internet presence which has been developed through Facebook, websites and during the recent Covid-19 crisis. It will also be important to create stronger links with the schools in the area, including greater involvement in SRE.
- a creative team leader with good listening skills who can facilitate, train, equip, release and care for the members of the teams.
- comfortable with an environment of uncertainty, ambiguity and emergence.
- able to celebrate diversity within the Anglican tradition, building on the variety of services that have already been developed.
- Able to be a key player in our financial, technological and administrative processes.
- a priest who can encourage, empower and inspire us to live into the future that God has for us.

Church Centres



St John the Baptist – Nambucca Heads

The congregation at Nambucca Heads is made up of faithful elderly folk (average age around 70) many of whom have been in Nambucca Heads for many years. The average attendance on Sundays is around 30+ while the Wednesday Service welcomes around 20 people.

Sunday morning services are usually 2nd order Holy Communion, but occasionally Prayer and Praise. In the absence of clergy, the LLMs run a Reserved Sacrament Holy Communion Service or Prayer and Praise Service. The Services are projected onto a screen using Power Point. The Church has a new clavinova and a piano, both of which are used.

Whilst the congregations have been predominantly traditional in worship style they enjoy a diversity of services, and are open to more reflective services and to exploring new and creative liturgies and service styles. The pews in the church have been replaced with chairs to enable more flexible seating. Contemporary music is often included in the service as a reflection after the sermon. New ministries are being established including establishment of St John's Food Services (Food Hub).



The Church hosts Chamber Philharmonia Cologne, a very important community event on a bi-annual basis in February.

There is a growing link between the schools and the Church. School are supported with money for an end of year award. St Johns has representation on an SRE Committee but provides no SRE teachers.

Holy Trinity – Macksville



The congregation, in Holy Trinity, many of whom are descendants of the early pioneers, are aging and low in numbers which limits their ability to engage physically. However, they are faithful people, who recognise the necessity for change and are ready to embrace new ways of doing and being church in this rapidly changing world. They have been

exploring new ways of connecting with younger generations and a Facebook page was set up in 2017 and a website with capability for interactive prayer, discussion and worship in 2018.



Whilst retaining the traditional 2nd Order Holy Communion liturgy, the services are projected using *Easy Worship* and any opportunity for themed services with imaginative prayer stations, such as *Creation Sundays* are embraced. An organ and a piano are both available and used. Confirmation classes were scheduled to commence in May 2020 but were postponed due to the coronavirus.

A strong link with the Macksville Public School (situated next door) has been established through SRE teaching and combined

SRE concerts have been held in Holy Trinity each Easter and Christmas. SRE teachers also attend two of the smaller parish schools. Money is provided to the five schools in the parish for annual awards, and (along with other Nambucca Valley denominations) we contribute to the salary of SRE teachers in the Valley High Schools.

A twice annual Hymnfest is popular with the community - music is provided by the District Band and children from a private singing school that meets in the church building contribute to the program.

Exciting new mission opportunities have commenced with the establishment of a High School bursary in partnership with Bishop Druitt Anglican College at Coffs Harbour, and support of the partnering initiative with the Stuarts Point *Art House* project.



St James – Bowraville



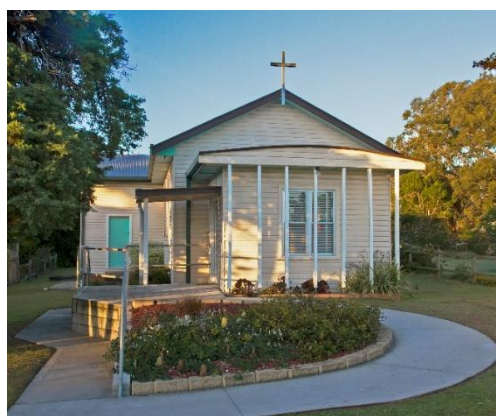
St James Bowraville is a centre with much potential. Numbers have increased and the viability of the centre at Bowraville is to be reviewed in three years' time as part of the Diocesan Restructure.

Consecrated in 1889, it is now the only Church at Bowraville that has a weekly service and offers assistance to the community. A very valuable Food Hub and St Jimmy's Kitchen (monthly community meal) are run out of St James' hall.

While some of the congregation are elderly long term residents, there are some young families attending on a regular basis and all are anxious to do more for the young families in the area and to develop children's ministry, such as Messy Church.

The Church is listed on the Heritage Walk brochure, but much more could be made of this. Plans to do this include opening the Church when the Tourist Bus comes to town, and having a local Aboriginal artist paint panels in the fence, creating a sensory and reflective garden on the land beside the Church to enhance the Church grounds and make a 'Wedding Centre' offering the Church, the gardens and the hall as a package. An Aboriginal Mission at Bowraville and several new residential development areas between Nambucca Heads and Bowraville are opening up potential ministry possibilities.

All Saints – Stuarts Point



All Saints Stuarts Point is currently marked for "proposed sale" under the Diocesan Restructure process because of a decline in attendance to 6-8 locals plus some supporters from Macksville. However, a recently commenced pioneering ministry endeavour, partnering with a group of young entrepreneurial parents, has opened up new and exciting connections and possibilities of engaging with the young families in the community.

Whilst weekly church services are continuing with the small congregation, All Saints is now the home of 'Stuarts

Point Art House' which provides activities and workshops for children and young mothers at various times through the week. Launched in February 2020 the program of Art House activities is growing with enthusiastic support from young people of a variety of faiths and spirituality. Therefore, a request to keep the church open for another two years has been submitted to the Diocese.



Main Groups and Ministries

Ministries of the Op Shops



The Ministry Area will have two Op Shops which provide most of the financial support. They are valued part of the community and contribute to the community by providing a resource from which the Anglican Church can provide welfare support to those in need and by providing a place where people can volunteer and enjoy social interaction. The Nambucca Heads Op Shop is situated a short walk from the Church in the centre of the shopping centre. The extensively refurbished Macksville Op Shop is situated beside the Rectory and Church.

Prayer and Study Groups

Nambucca Heads has a regular Prayer Group on a Tuesday Morning in the Church. Smaller casual prayer groups happen in people homes, in Nambucca and Bowraville. There is also an active Prayer Chain ministry in Nambucca, Macksville and Bowraville led by lay people.

An Education for Ministry (EFM) Group that recently completed a course of study for the Macksville LLMs continues to meet to support a new student who commenced studies in 2019. This group is Facilitated by an LLM from Macksville.

There are several Bible Study groups at Nambucca Heads, one in Riverside Gardens Retirement Village on a Thursday afternoon which attracts about 6 people, one at Valla Beach, one in Nambucca Heads and another in Bowraville along with several smaller casual Bible Studies.

A Bible Study is incorporated into the Wednesday Holy Communion services in Holy Trinity each week, followed by group coffee and chat in a tapas bar across the road.

People are happy to commit to special Bible Studies, eg Lenten and Advent Studies, Season of Creation Studies, ABM Voice in the Wilderness, and other mission specific Studies produced by Mission organizations. A good response resulted from Nambucca and Bowraville congregations' study in 2019 of the Mike Frost Bells Program (blessing, eating, listening, learning and sent).

Outreach Groups

An Anglicare Disaster Group is set up at Nambucca Heads and has members from all the Churches in the Ministry Area as well as several people from other local churches.



A monthly **Bloke's Breaky** has been running successfully at Bowraville on the 1st Saturday of the month. It attracts about 25 men. Guest speakers are drawn from a wide range of areas.

A Craft Group was established in 2018 as an outreach by offering to teach women needle work and craft skills. A small group of ladies meet in the Macksville Ministry Centre to work together on their projects and have a laugh and cuppa twice per month.

Craft Group is planned to commence at Nambucca Heads Church on Friday mornings as soon as the coronavirus restrictions have ceased.

Godly Gourmets, a mixed group of up to 20 people, meets at a different eatery around the Nambucca Valley on the first Sunday of the month.

Knit and Natter group meet at a local Bowraville Coffee Shop each Tuesday morning.

Ladies' Afternoon Tea has been attracting up to 20 ladies at the Nambucca RSL or a local coffee shop on a monthly basis.

A Nativity Trail was run very successfully in Nambucca Heads and Bowraville with good community participation. Each participant received a book about the Jesus' birth, some children's art and craft activities, and a novelty item. This is planned again next Christmas.

St Jimmy's Kitchen provides food and fellowship in the Bowraville church hall on the third Thursday of the month. It is run by a group of volunteers and usually attracts 50-60 people. The aim is to draw together the Bowraville Community. Food for the hungry is provided by the Food Hub and St John's Food Services.

The Valley Boomers attend social outings once a month. This group was just getting underway when the coronavirus restrictions stopped such gatherings. It will recommence as soon as possible

Women of Purpose organized by a committee from Nambucca Anglicans, meet quarterly over morning tea to encourage Christian ladies from various churches in the Nambucca Valley and usually attracts around 70 ladies. They meet three times per year at the Uniting Church and once at St James' Bowraville.

Soup with Friends in Macksville, a joint food and fellowship outreach with three denominations involved, has recently stopped due to difficulty in obtaining helpers. This may be restarted.

Magazine - Nambucca Heads has commenced a magazine which is issued 4 times per year. At present this is compiled and edited by the clergy, but the hope is that it will soon be produced by lay people.

Parish Halls



St John's Hall. St John's Hall is part of the office complex. It is currently used as a base for St John's Food Services and therefore not offered for hire or used by parishioners. However, a new home for St John's Food Services is being sought. The back section of the Church and adjoining Meeting Room is well suited to meetings.



The Hall has a window/servery into the office area, so that office staff can assist with community pastoral needs. There is also a kitchen with cooking facilities. The office is well equipped with a private interview room. Currently the Rector's study is located in the Rectory adjacent to the Office.

Macksville Ministry Centre. This Ministry Centre is located with the Parish office in a complex that also includes the Op Shop. It is well equipped with a kitchen, Wi-Fi and projection capabilities for meetings. It is currently used regularly for Diocesan Southern Parishes meetings, Diocesan workshops, Auslan classes and a Craft Group. Various community organisations have hired it from time to time, bringing in a small income.



St James' Hall. -St James Hall is located near the Bowraville Church and is a busy building. It has a large kitchen which is in the process of being refurbished and upgraded using funds from the sale of the Bowraville residence in 2018. In addition, a heritage grant is being sought to undertake minor repairs and a repaint. The Hall is often hired out and used for parish functions. St Jimmy's Kitchen (a community meal), Bloke's Breaky and other activities are based here as it is the largest hall in Bowraville. The Bowra St Jimmy's Food Hub occupies most of the



space in the hall, but negotiations are currently underway to rent a vacant shop in town. There are several regular bookings and many one-off bookings for a variety of functions.

The Rectories



The Macksville Rectory is a three-bedroom two bathroom 100 year-old 'character cottage', which is well maintained, situated between Holy Trinity and the Op Shop. The front bedroom is currently configured as the Rector's office. A two-car garage is a separate building. There is a large, well fenced backyard and well-developed gardens sometimes used for Parish morning teas. The rectory backs onto the Macksville Primary School.

The Nambucca Heads Rectory is situated beside the Church and is a comfortable four-bedroom house, with study, and large backyard. It has a patio in the front and a shaded area at the back. It is situated immediately behind the main shopping centre and is close to transport and all amenities. It has a single garage and covered space for a 2nd car. Additional parking is immediately to the side for the Office and Hall and gives easy access to the back of the house. The rectory also has a large backyard that is accessed from a laneway. A large lockable garden shed is located in the backyard.



2016 Census information for Nambucca Local Government Area

Population: 19,212, 49.0% male, 51.0% female. Of the families 30.2% were couple families with children, 48.5% were couple families without children and 19.6% were one parent families. Aboriginal people 7.6%.

Council records indicate that the Nambucca Valley is home to around 20,000 residents; Nambucca Heads around 10,000, Macksville around 5,000, Bowraville around 1,000.

Median Age: 51 years, 16.5% children aged 0 - 14 years, 27.6% aged 65 years and over.

Religion: 4,168 people (21.7%) indicated affiliation to the Anglican religion.

Area Map

