

THIRTY EIGHTH SYNOD

FIRST SESSION

DIOCESE OF GRAFTON



REPORTS

Volume 2

June 2023

Reports to Synod 2023

Volume 2

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DIOCESE OF GRAFTON



MINISTRY ACTIVITIES

Episcopal Acts – 4 May 2022 – 31 May 2023

Appointments, Ordinations, Resignations and Retirements

Ordination of The Reverend Aaron Douglas Coates as Priest on 15 October 2022

Ordination of The Reverend Amanda Jayne Larkin as Deacon on 15 October 2022

Ordination of The Reverend Ruth Christina Pobjoy as Deacon on 15 October 2022

Diocesan Licences Issued

Name	Licence	Ministry Unit	Issued
The Rt Rev'd Dr Sarah Macneil	Locum Tenens	Ballina	1/06/2022
The Rev'd Ian Chaplin	Locum Tenens	Ballina	1/06/2022
The Rev'd Catherine Ridd	Associate Priest	Ballina	9/06/2022
The Rev'd Jesse Poole	Priest-in-Charge	Kempsey	10/06/2022
The Rev'd Clyde Appleby	ATO	Port Macquarie	15/06/2022
The Rev'd Dr Gregory Jenks	Locum Tenens	Casino	29/06/2022
The Rev'd Mark Sibly	Locum Tenens	Ballina	8/07/2022
The Rev'd Don Ford	Locum Tenens	Coffs Harbour	3/08/2022
Dean Emeritus Rodney MacDonald	Locum Tenens	Grafton	5/08/2022
The Rev'd Jesse Poole	Priest-in-Charge	Kempsey	24/08/2022
The Rev'd Rosemary Wynter	Associate Priest	Byron	24/08/2022
The Rev'd Sally-Anne Miller	Rector	Casino	21/09/2022
The Rev'd Jesse Poole	Priest-in-Charge	Kempsey	21/09/2022
The Rev'd Rosemary Wynter	Associate Priest	Byron	21/09/2022
The Rev'd Aaron Coates	Assistant Priest	Lismore	26/10/2022
The Rev'd Amanda Larkin	Honorary Deacon	Wauchope	26/10/2022
The Rev'd Ruth Pobjoy	Honorary Deacon	Orara Valley	26/10/2022
The Rev'd Jesse Poole	Priest-in-Charge	Kempsey	26/10/2022
The Rev'd Clyde Appleby	Diocesan Confessor for Hearing Confessions Involving Child Sexual Abuse		1/11/2022
The Rev'd Daniel Berris	Rector	Port Macquarie	1/11/2022
The Rev'd Clyde Appleby	ATO	Wauchope	3/11/2022
Dean Emeritus Rodney MacDonald	Locum Tenens	Grafton	10/11/2022
The Rev'd Catherine Ridd	Priest-in-Charge	Ballina	9/12/2022
The Rev'd Aaron Coates	Locum Tenens	South Grafton	16/12/2022
The Rev'd Simon Reeve	Priest-in-Charge	Northern Beaches Anglicans	16/12/2022
The Rev'd David Hanger	Associate Priest	Northern Beaches Anglicans	16/12/2022
The Rev'd Aaron Coates	Assistant Hospital Chaplain	Coffs Harbour Health Campus	22/12/2022
The Rev'd Roger Dyer	Locum Tenens	Coffs Harbour	18/1/2023
The Rev'd Kevin Booth	Rector	Sawtell/Bonville	27/01/2023
The Rev'd Roger Dyer	Locum Tenens	Kyogle	9/2/2023
The Rev'd Nathan Dean	Priest-in-Charge	Coffs Harbour	16/02/2023
The Rev'd Amanda Larkin	Assistant Curate	Ballina	16/02/2023
The Rev'd Leslie Fotakis	Associate Priest	Nambucca Valley	22/02/2023
The Rev'd Dr Greg Jenks	Locum Tenens	Lismore	1/3/2023
The Rev'd Aaron Coates	Locum Tenens	South Grafton	4/04/2023

The Rev'd Aaron Coates	Assistant Hospital Chaplain	Coffs Harbour Health Campus	4/04/2023
Dean Emeritus Rodney MacDonald	Locum Tenens	Grafton	28/04/2023
Mr Brodie John Marshall	Stipendiary Lay Minister	Port Macquarie	4/05/2023
The Rev'd Susan Crothers-Robertson	Locum Tenens	Grafton	23/5/2023
The Rev'd Graham Snell	Locum Tenens	Wauchope	30/5/2023
The Very Rev'd Rod MacDonald	Locum Tenens	Kingscliff	31/5/2023

Licensed Lay Ministers

Name	Ministry Unit
Wendy Irene Varcoe	Maclean
Mark Ian Stuckey	Alstonville & Ballina
Susan Ann Mifsud	Orara Valley Transitional Ministry District
Anne Gayleen Walker	Alstonville
Carolyn Anne Anderson	Lismore
Patricia Robyn Cooper	Casino
Beverley Anne Hendley	Casino
Susan Lollback	Casino
Kerry Maria Martin	Casino
Merelyn Anne Foy	Port Macquarie
Erica Judith Lake	Port Macquarie
Brodie John Marshall	Port Macquarie
Bruce John Nichols	Port Macquarie
Ronald Alan Pelley	Port Macquarie
Jack Daniel Salfus	Port Macquarie
Norman John Siggee	Port Macquarie
Robert William Tillott	Port Macquarie
Wendy Jacqueline Tillott	Port Macquarie

Confirmations

Church	Ministry Unit	Date	Number
St John's	Coffs Harbour	29/05/2022	1
St Cuthbert's	Tweed Heads	23/10/2022	6
All Saints	Kempsey	30/10/2022	1
St Matthew's	South Grafton	20/11/2022	1
Christ Church	Orara Valley	29/01/2023	1

Deconsecrations:

St Paul's Church, Coramba – 31 May 2022
 All Saints Church, Lawrence – 9 June 2022
 St Peter & St Paul's Church, Tregeagle – 14 September 2022
 St Peter's Church, Goonellabah – 31 January 2023
 St Thomas' Church, Wyrallah – 31 January 2023
 St Peter's Church, Frederickton – 20 April 2023

Appointments/Commissionings:

The Reverend Sally Miller – Rector, Parish of Casino.
The Reverend Daniel Berris – Rector, Parish of Port Macquarie.
The Reverend Simon Reeve – Priest-in-Charge, Northern Beaches Anglicans.
The Reverend Kevin Booth – Rector, Parish of Sawtell/Bonville.
The Reverend Leslie Fotakis – Community Minister, Parish of Nambucca Valley.
The Reverend Nathan Dean – Priest-in-Charge, Parish of Coffs Harbour.
The Reverend Sally Miller – Mission Support Officer for the North.
The Reverend Peter Shayler-Webb – Regional Archdeacon for the South.

Resignations:

The Reverend Sally Miller – Chaplain, Emmanuel Anglican College.
Miss Emily Brown, Stipendiary Lay Minister, Parish of Port Macquarie.
Mr Amkela Malaba, Licensed Lay Minister, Parish of Ballina.
The Reverend Christian Ford – Rector, Parish of Lismore.
The Reverend Leslie Fotakis – Rector, Parish of Kyogle.
The Rev'd Leanne Smith – Chaplain, Port Macquarie Base Hospital & Wauchope Palliative Care Unit.
Mr Chris Nelson, Registrar/General Manager, Anglican Diocese of Grafton.
Mrs Iona Rossely, Licensed Lay Minister, Parish of Murwillumbah.

Licensed Lay Ministers No Longer Licensed

Mr Brodie Marshall, Parish of Port Macquarie

Retirements:

The Reverend David Hanger – Rector, Northern Beaches Anglicans.
The Reverend Greg March – Rector, Parish of Kingscliff.

Departures from the Diocese

The Reverend Christian Ford.
The Reverend Stephen Clarke.

In Memoriam

The Reverend Timothy Waghorn
The Reverend Robert Date
Mr Darrin Johnstone
The Reverend Daniel Octigan
The Reverend David Curtis

Grafton Diocese Cursillo 2022 Report to Synod 2023

Our year began in early January to plan the year. The hard decision was made to cancel our normal Diocesan Ultreya in Grafton due to health concerns. We moved towards an Ultreya via Zoom. We knew this had been accomplished in Brisbane successfully, so information was sought from Alan Gray who had set it up.

Help was enlisted from Rev Christian Ford for help as St Andrew's Lismore had the facilities to provide the Zoom. The Ultreya was held on February 19th with a core group of people at St Andrews and a great cross section of our diocesan Cursillistas joining via Zoom for "Stepping out in Faith". There were some who had trouble with the Zoom, but overall it was very successful. Carol Vidal provided the music for the day and while songs were sung everyone was asked to mute their zoom.

During the Ultreya David Jones was De commissioned as Diocesan Lay Co-ordinator and Desley Ryan and Rodney Lollback were commissioned as joint Diocesan Lay Co-ordinators. Desley for one year to help Rodney in his first year.

Two Fire Days were held, the first in Nambucca Valley and the Second in Lismore. It was disappointing that the Nambucca Valley day was not well attended by the Southern end of our Diocese, but Lismore was quite successful.

We stepped out in faith and planned a Combined Cursillo weekend for the long weekend in June. For a change we held two training weekends rather the several days. This was very successful. The first was at Grafton and the second at Nuralamee, Corindi Beach at the centre where Cursillo was held. The recommendation is that this model be continued as the team building was invaluable. There were 5 candidates who all enjoyed the weekend. The followup day was held at South Grafton in July and those who attended were really inspired about their weekend. The team was made up with quite a few Secretariat members which was worthwhile for our first combined Cursillo but would not be recommended for the future.

Regener8 was held at the Grafton Cathedral Centre on the 22nd 23rd October. This was very well attended and everyone joined in all the activities with much passion and laughter. The weekend was opened to all past and future Cursillistas and the hope is that those who hadn't been to Cursillo may attend in the future.

We all attended the Sunday morning Eucharist at the Cathedral and asked the Cathedral Parishioners to join us for morning tea. It was a great time sharing with them.

At Cursillo, Followup day and Regener8 there was a Bookstall from the cathedral Bookshop. The stall was well patronized at each function.

All of our secretariat meetings have been held via Zoom which has saved us a few very early morning starts. We have found it works very well.

Carol has continued to keep our roll updated and has asked that Parish Care persons notify her of any changes.

Megan has continued to produce a very good Courier each quarter. It has been suggested that any Parish who know of the death of any Cursillista to please notify and where possible with

families permission to send a small tribute to Megan for inclusion in the Courier. Often it is the only way people get to know of the loss of our Cursillista family members.

This year we decided to subsidise the cost of Cursillo and only charged \$100.00 each for candidates and team members. It is hoped that this can happen again in 2024 but we need everyone to be conscious of contributing their birthday money. It has been suggested the \$10.00 be given to your Parish Careperson on "Show Your Colours Day". It was thought this may be easier than on your actual birthday. The Courier has details if you wish to direct debit into the Cursillo bank account or an address to post a cheque to our Treasurer.

Plans are underway for 2023.

De colores,
Ruth Morris,
Secretary.

Anglicare North Coast Report to Synod 2023

Anglicare North Coast is in its 24th year of service – as is written *not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interest of the others (Philippians 2:4)*

Sadly, the need for our services across our region continues. With the additional impact of the 2022 Floods across a large part of our Diocese, the circumstances of many disadvantaged community members are even more dire.

Year on year, it seems that the level of need for material assistance and social support services is only increasing in our regions. Shelter, along with food, are two of the most basic human needs, and tragically for an increasing number of households that is precisely where the pressure points are occurring. Our Anglicare Rental Affordability Snapshot in April 2023 showed in numeric terms just how difficult it is for households with modest income to find and keep a roof over their heads. This is not only true for households that depend on government pension payments, but now also for low-income wage earners. Precarious housing and the threat of homelessness causes numerous other financial, mental, and wellbeing problems for households that can easily spiral into dysfunction as a result.

Our services are directed quite specifically at meeting those basic human needs (food and shelter) as well as some secondary but no less critical needs through financial counselling, support to gain skills and confidence, referral to other services, and prevention of domestic violence. As well as doing what we can with limited resources to ease the pressures faced by households, we also advocate frequently to governments through the media and with research reports to achieve longer-term solutions that will benefit our community. Our advocacy in this regard is simple: the welfare safety net (Jobseeker) needs to be raised and the supply of affordable housing needs to increase. We will continue to make this case to commonwealth and state governments until we see an easing of the burden of poverty that is gripping our communities. And we will not stop providing 'hope in action' to the least of the King's brothers and sisters (Matthew 25:40) who struggle to get through the day, feed the kids, and keep themselves safe.

This year we have spent a great deal of our resources supporting our flood impacted communities both directly, and by establishing and supporting community hubs which have grown organically from local need and sense of community. However, the needs of those not directly impacted by flood have also increased due to increased cost in basic needs of shelter and food. We are seeing increased use of food pantries, requests for assistance with other day to day bills and waiting times for our financial counselling service increasing.

In the last few months, we have been piloting a change to our food service by extending a previous ad hoc mobile pantry service to a twice per week service across our footprint focusing on small underserved low-income communities. This service is being gratefully received, however, there is a financial challenge in maintaining this service. In a perfect world, we will transition this service to a volunteer base both by encouraging the local community to start a static pantry (with our support) and by using volunteers to take up the day-to-day duties of the mobile service. The food service has also been complemented by our "Thread Together" van which provides free clothing which is sourced from high end manufacturers and diverted from landfill. This service is unfunded in terms of human resource and the cost of putting the van on the road which will be a continued challenge.

In our Multicultural Hub in Coffs Harbour, working with migrant communities, our sewing group continues to grow in popularity with the participants creating supportive networks through this group. This in turn fosters their sense of inclusion and empowerment, leading to discussions about training and business opportunities. Our men's group welcomes men from

the migrant community and through the leadership of the facilitator, it promotes healthy relationships and role models for the participants. We are currently working on a series of videos, in language, devised and created by the men's group. These videos will talk about respectful relationships and aims to encourage these conversations within migrant communities.

Our board are working to finalise a new strategic plan which includes core pillars around housing first, community engagement, innovation, operational efficiency, and contemporary governance.

We are increasing our efforts to fundraise and diversify our revenue base to make us more financially resilient and less dependent on government contracts. In all these things we will prayerfully follow the One who came to give hope and life in abundance.

*And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.
Galatians 6:9*



CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL GRAFTON

open doors ... open hearts ... open minds ...

Cathedral Chapter Report 2022

The Chapter of Christ Church Cathedral is charged with the development and fostering of the Ministry of the Cathedral within the Diocese, including advocating to members of the Diocesan family the responsibility of all for maintenance of the Cathedral. The Chapter is to promote and safeguard the place and function of the Cathedral as the mother church of the Diocese for Diocesan and civic services. It is also to assist in facilitating the Cathedral's wider ministry beyond its role as a parish church in Grafton.

Membership of the Chapter in 2022

After the elections of Synod 2020 and subsequent appointments, the Chapter of the Cathedral in 2022 was comprised of:

- The Right Reverend Dr Murray Harvey (President)
- Locum Deans
- The Venerable Tiffany Sparks (Diocesan Archdeacon)
- The Venerable Zoe Everingham (Dean's clergy appointment and Chapter Clerk)
- The Reverend Canon Dr John Barrett (Bishop's clergy appointment)
- The Reverend Canon Naomi Cooke (Synod elected)
- The Reverend Canon Michael Ridge (Synod elected)
- Canon Heather McKinnon (Bishop's lay appointment)
- Canon Phillip Bonser (Dean's lay appointment)
- Canon Robert Weatherby (Synod elected)
- Canon Terry Shorten (Synod elected)
- Mr Chris Nelson (Registrar)
- Mrs Lyn Johnston (Cathedral Churchwarden)

Work of the Chapter

Relationships and communication

The Chapter met once face to face in May in Edwards Hall and twice by Zoom videoconferencing: in February and September 2022. In-between meetings, the Chapter progressed matters by exchange of email.

The Chapter farewelled the Dean, The Very Reverend Dr Greg Jenks at the end of 2021 and welcomed the following Locum Deans throughout 2022: The Right Reverend Dr Sarah Macneil; The Reverend Jenny Simson; The Reverend Canon Dr Marian Free; The Very Reverend Rod MacDonald.

Throughout 2022, Christ Church Cathedral served the Diocese in creative ways, through live streaming of events and services, the continuation of regular communication between the Cathedral, parishes, schools and the wider community. Live streaming of events continues to attract a broad audience from across Australia and overseas. We are grateful to The Reverend Grant Sparks for his oversight of the technical aspects of the Cathedral's outreach.

The Cathedral continued the practice of inviting a variety of clergy to lead or preach at services, thus enriching the worship experience of congregations across the Diocese. The Cathedral online community met together each day for Morning and Evening Prayer by Zoom.

Events and hospitality

Chapter is always keen to sponsor events based at the Cathedral that could be a resource for the wider Diocese and foster a sense of collaboration and hospitality. During 2022, the

following events were held: Diocesan Cursillo Ultreya; CVAS Leaders Induction Assembly, year level services and Valedictory; Clergy Conference; Induction of CVAS Chaplain Nic Hagon on Ash Wednesday; CVAS Easter and Christmas Services; Stations of the Cross Reflections recorded and live streamed; ABM Sunday; Men's Retreat; Chrism Mass and renewal of vows; Senior Clergy Retreat; Cursillo training day; Ordinand's training; Installation of Lay Canon; Thanksgiving service for the life of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II; Ordinations of Deacons and Priest; Cursillo Regener8; Jacaranda organ recital; Bells tolled for COP27; Mother's Union Triennial Celebration.

The Chapter facilitated a Synod dinner at Opal Cove as in previous years. Also, the Chapter organised a diocesan Labyrinth workshop at St Stephen's Church Hall, Dorrigo with an excursion to the public labyrinth at Dangar Falls.

Engagement with the Five Marks of Mission

Chapter is committed to being a resource for giving voice to, and taking action on, the five Marks of Mission into our parishes and schools and across the Diocese. The Cathedral Chapter achieved this goal in 2022, through worship and pastoral services enhanced by live-stream broadcasts; relationships with CVAS and other schools through the presence of Canons on school councils; raising awareness of social justice issues through seeding two motions to Synod: (1) formulation of a diocesan Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP); (2) partnering with Anglicare to explore a diocesan response to the Affordable Housing crisis on the North Coast of NSW.

Cathedral maintenance funds

Each year parishes are invited by Chapter to contribute to the Cathedral Maintenance Fund. This is in fulfilment of a Synod resolution of 1985 agreeing that all parishes in the Diocese should share in the responsibility for the preservation and maintenance of our Cathedral church and be encouraged to contribute to its significant maintenance and repair.

The suggested financial contribution requested from parishes is determined by the Chapter. In 2022 the suggested contribution was \$500 and we thank virtually all parishes across the diocese for their contribution. In 2023, the suggested contribution is \$525, and in 2024 it will be \$550, however it is open to parishes to contribute what each can afford in any year.

Apart from general maintenance, a major heritage works program is project managed by The Reverend Canon Camellia Flanagan, Associate Priest, to whom we are indebted for the systematic approach to heritage maintenance and grant applications. Conservation work to replace gutters and failed slate to redress the result of water damage by rain events in the Southern Transept of the Cathedral, the Deans Vestry and the servers/flower vestry, commenced in 2021 and continued throughout 2022. The works will be completed in 2023 and the total estimated cost is over \$184,000, partly covered by a Heritage Grant. Major repairs were also undertaken to the Doberer fountain at a cost of \$40,198.00.

Chapter plans for 2023

In 2023 Chapter will continue to discern ways to best support the Diocese in its mission and ministry to our communities. Our intention is to see the installation of a 'Peace Pole' near the fountain come to fruition, facilitate the sharing of resources with diocesan schools, support the indigenous Reconciliation and Storytelling project, provide cultural awareness training for clergy, hold a 'Godly Play' awareness workshop, host a quiet day/retreat, facilitate a couple of fund-raising days and host events that gather clergy and laity together from across the diocese.

The Venerable Zoe Everingham
Chapter Clerk

Chaplain - Coffs Harbour Health Campus

The Coffs Harbour Health Campus continues to be an increasingly busy environment. Even with the extra beds the redevelopment created, the hospital is always filled to capacity. Patients come from a wide catchment area, taking in Grafton, to Kempsey, Dorrigo and sometimes beyond these areas as well.

Many of those who receive a pastoral visit are not practicing Christians and some have little or no faith, while others find great comfort from a pray or conversation with attention on their faith journey. Therefore, the ministry of chaplaincy continues to be a wonderful opportunity for outreach into the broader community.

In the past 12 months we have seen some exciting changes to the provision of Spiritual Care in Coffs Hospital. Previously health funded the Chaplain's position only one day per week, however since the end of May 2022 we have received extra funding to allow for a fulltime position. This has since been filled in a shared role by myself first with Rev'd David Morgan, then Joanne Sherwood, an experienced lay person who is trained in CPE. Since January 2023 I have shared the role with Rev'd Aaron Coates. Rev'd Aaron works Thursday and Friday and I work 20 hours in the facility from Monday to Wednesday with some cross over time with Aaron on Thursday.

It is significant that Health is recognising the need for holistic care for patients and their families. Also, the need for staff to have available support has become very evident during the last three years as we journeyed throughout the pandemic and continue to live in an ever-changing world.

Visiting restrictions have mostly lifted, although, we are still seeing wards or rooms closed at times because of Covid or other Respiratory illness, and some wards are still a little hesitant to allow extra people into their areas. That said, it has been great to be able to re-establish much ministry into the broader realms of wards and departments.

The pastoral volunteer group is beginning to regenerate itself. Presently we have five volunteers from a variety of denominations who come to visit patients on a regular basis. The volunteers are accountable under the Chaplain's department and I offer them training every six weeks and meet with them regularly. The local clergy attend to 'their own', thus adding to the level of care available within the facility.

We visit all areas of the hospital including the Mental Health Unit, the Emergency Department and the Intensive Care Unit. The staff and patients are usually very receptive to pastoral visits and at times we are able to build relationships that open avenues for some wonderful conversation.

Ministry with those who are facing the end of life can be an important time when questions are asked and hearts are opened. Unfortunately, it is not until a person is facing their own mortality that they look up to God!

Please continue to pray for and support the Chaplaincy work that we might bring those in difficult times into a knowledge and hope of God's amazing love and the life he offers.

Yours in Christ
Rev'd Anne Goode

Chaplain - Port Macquarie Base Hospital

The Chaplaincy department at Port Macquarie Base Hospital continues to offer spiritual care to all patients, families, and staff within the hospital. The Chaplaincy team also supplies support to the Palliative Care Unit within Wauchope District Memorial Hospital.

Chaplains have been able to offer spiritual and emotional support to staff as they continue to bare the weight of caring for patients within the ongoing COVID pandemic. Chaplains can supply a safe space where staff can reflect and find the strength resources needed for the continuation of care they provide.

Furthermore, Chaplains continue to play a vital role in the multidisciplinary team aiding staff in supplying understanding of the patients need for spiritual support in times of stress and uncertainty.

Chaplains continue to offer in-services to fresh staff supplying and understanding of the role of the Chaplain and the services the chaplaincy offers. Chaplains also teach third year doctors the benefit of spiritual care when caring for the patients.

Ms Bronwyn Dillon has stepped into the position as Assistant Chaplain. Bronwyn has been an assistant to the Chaplain for the last twelve months continuing to define her role offering pastoral and spiritual support and growing into her role.

It is with great sadness that I that I have resigned from the role of Hospital Chaplain due to a diagnosis of lung cancer and the need to continue my own healing process. It has indeed been a great privilege to serve God and the community, journeying with patients, families, and staff. To partnership with Christ in this work is indeed has been a great blessing. I am ever thankful to our Lord Jesus Christ who brings hope in times of confusion, and darkness.

Every Blessing
Rev Leanne Smith

Household of Deacons

We deacons are a varied lot and I think this, words from our ordination, tells it all.

You are to be ambassadors for Christ, serving God as you serve others in Jesus name. Proclaim the good news of Gods love, so that many may be moved to faith and repentance, and hearts be opened to do justice., love mercy and walk humbly in the presence of God. Let the reforming love of Jesus be known to all among whom you live and work, strengthen the faithful, teach the young, search out the careless and indifferent. Encourage the members of Christs body by word and example, ministering among the sick, the needy and all who are oppressed or in trouble.

Together with your bishop, priest and people, you are to take your place in public worship, assist in the administration of the sacraments and play your part in the life and councils of the church. You are to preach the word of God in the places to which you are licensed and pray and work for peace and justice in the world.

As a deacon you are to model your life according to the word of God. Study the scriptures reflecting with Gods people upon their meaning, that all may be equipped to live out Gods truth in the world. Put away all that does not make for holiness of life. Be faithful in prayer, that you may have strength to run the race that is set before you.

Now that's a tall order indeed!

Throughout the diocese a deacon is acting out their command to live and serve God. We can be found in schools, aged care facilities, hospitals, service clubs, scouting around places where the homeless gather and sleep rough and working with people with disabilities. We ride the boundaries, finding those who need finding and connecting them with those who can assist them materially and spiritually. Often you don't see much of us as we are the outriders of our church. Could I suggest we are spiritual jacks of all trades?

Each of us has found the niche into which God wants us to fit. We are the servants available to carry out the tasks necessary for the maintenance and spiritual well being of the Diocese. Although we are "the household of deacons" we are like grown up children. We have all left home and are doing what God would have us do independent of each other to a large extent, but of course all ministering under our Lord and Saviour.

Reverend Pam Stone
For the Household.

Licensed Lay Ministers

The current roll of Licensed Lay Ministers within the Diocese of Grafton shows a total of 44 females and 35 males serving in 20 parishes/ministry units.

Since the last Report to Synod LLMs have had the opportunity to attend their Annual Conference held on 10-11 September 2022 and one Formation Day in February 2023. Guest speakers on these occasions were Bishop Stephen Pickard, Dr Carlos Raimundo, and Jonathan Sargeant.

Subjects covered at these events were;

- Collaborative Leadership
- The Christian Journey in the Image of God
- The Language of Leadership
- Mission 360 "Opening the Circle".

The Formation Day scheduled for November 2022 (a Zoom meeting) was cancelled and LLMs encouraged to attend the Diocesan Governance Conference on 5-6 November. Positive feedback and comments were made by LLM attendees.

The LLM Annual Conference for 2023 is scheduled for 2-3 September in Grafton with guest speaker/s to be announced. An additional Formation Day later in the year may be arranged.

Attendance at mandatory Formation Days runs at 60% with apologies (for varied reasons) 10%.

It continues to be a source of disappointment that approximately 30% of Licensed Lay Ministers do not respond to these Formation Days.

Our thanks go to Archdeacon Tiffany and our Rectors for their ongoing support for our ministry.

Stephen Hall
LLM Lismore
On behalf of
Licensed Lay Ministers
Diocese of Grafton

Northern Archdeaconry

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. Romans 8:28

The Northern Archdeaconry includes all parishes and schools from South Grafton to Tweed Heads. I was collated as Archdeacon of the North at Christ Church Cathedral in April 2022 to follow on in the fine footsteps of The Venerable Matthew Jones who served in that role until June 2021 and The Reverend Canon Judy Edwards who acted in the role in the interim. An exciting recent announcement was that the Reverend Sally Miller, Rector of Casino, has been appointed as MSO for the North. Sally has been collated for her new role at this Synod session's Eucharist.

Meetings together

I am still learning to balance the duties of an Archdeacon with those of a rector in a busy parish of three centres, all of whom worship every Sunday. Therefore, we only met twice in the last 12 months, rather than the three prescribed. Meetings are scheduled for the rest of 2023 that will bring us up to date. As well as the necessary 'business' of these meetings, I hope that they will be a time of sharing and mutual support and encouragement.

Restructure

Conversations continue in the Northern Region about Networking possibilities. Many delays have been experienced due to floods (still affecting several parishes) and vacancies.

The Byron Ministry Area has a Mission Plan for whole Ministry Area and is working on sourcing a Property Master Plan.

Ballina, Emmanuel Anglican College and Alstonville have been planning together - and with Dr Carlos Raimundo. Some combined worship initiatives have started and they have an LLM licenced to the Network rather than a particular parish.

Casino and Kyogle (Summerland Network) have begun some combined worship and reviews of two centres are due in September 2023.

Lismore has one review due in September 2023.

Murwillumbah, Tweed Heads, Kingscliff and Lindisfarne Anglican Grammar School (Tweed Network) are working very well together with representatives meeting informally for discussions and a monthly combined service being held at the school. There is a review of one centre due in September 2023.

Grafton, South Grafton, Maclean and Clarence Valley Anglican School (Clarence) Network are moving forward very slowly. Currently two of the three parishes are operating with locums – and have been for a long time. Grafton and South Grafton have begun to combine some worship services, and the school and the Cathedral are fostering a closer relationship. Maclean has done some informal work with South Grafton. A review of one centre is due in September 2023.

Vacancies and New Appointments

Departures:

- The Reverend Christian Ford resigned in February 2023
- The Reverend Greg March retired at the end of April 2023

Arrivals:

- The Reverend Mandy Larkin was appointed Assistant Curate in Ballina following her ordination to the Diaconate in October 2022
- The Very Reverend Naomi Cooke was announced as the next Dean of Grafton Cathedral in May 2023. We are eagerly awaiting the beginning of her ministry there

Vacancies to Date

- Lismore
- South Grafton
- Grafton Cathedral
- Kyogle
- Kingscliff
- Emmanuel Anglican College

Changes:

The Reverend Sally Miller moved from Chaplain of EAC to Rector at Casino in October 2022. The Reverend Cathy Ridd moved from Associate Priest to Priest in Charge at Ballina, in December 2022. The Reverend Aaron Coates moved from Assistant Curate at the Parish of Lismore to Locum at South Grafton as at 1st January 2023. The Reverend Leslie Fotakis moved from Rector of Kyogle to Community Minister in the Ministry Area of Nambucca Valley.

We give thanks to all our locums who have assisted ministry units in their time of interregnum. The gifts, talents and time of our locums are very gratefully received. At times it has been difficult to fill even the locum vacancies, and we are also very grateful to clergy and LLMs from outside the relevant parish who have filled roster holes in addition to their regular commitments.

Conclusion

Whilst the real pain of COVID 19 hopefully lays behind us, some restrictions still apply and we are learning to navigate in a space where we are 'just getting on with it'. The damage from the 2022 floods is still being very much felt in some of our Parishes, with over 6000 people still not back in a normal home. They are in caravans, container homes, or staying with relatives and friends. Ministry to those affected still continues and some of our own property is also under repair. We have a high proportion of parishes searching for a new incumbent which places a great deal of stress and extra work on the laity, especially in places that have not been able to source a long term locum.

Despite all this, there are many exciting and vibrant stories of mission, ministry and worship and there is a sense of God's people working in and for God's world. Throughout the Archdeaconry, clergy and laity continue to share insights with each other, support and encourage one another as we respond to God's call.

The Venerable Kay Hart
Archdeacon North

Southern Archdeaconry

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. (Hebrews 12:1-2)

The Southern Archdeaconry includes ten parishes, one transitional ministry district and two schools (Bishop Druitt College, Coffs Harbour; St Columba Anglican School, Port Macquarie) located between Woolgoolga and Port Macquarie. The role of Mission Support Officer (MSO) remained vacant throughout 2022.

Clergy of the Southern Archdeaconry, including incumbents, assistant/associates, Stipended Lay Ministers (SLM), retired priests (optional), school and hospital chaplains were invited to meet three times during the year at Holy Trinity Church, Macksville: in March, July (with LLMs in attendance) and September. The meetings provided opportunities to pray together, support one-another collegially for mutual wellbeing, talk about ministry in our churches and share resources such as Advent/Lenten Studies, book club material, and outlines of new mission initiatives. We also discussed presentations made at Clergy and LLM Conferences and provided feedback to the Diocesan Archdeacon/MDO to assist with her future planning of Professional Development events.

Restructure conversations

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. (Jeremiah 29:11)

With respect to the Diocesan Restructure, The Southern Archdeaconry comprises one Ministry Area, the Nambucca Valley formed in January 2021, and three Networks for collaborative ministry: Coffs Coast (Coffs Harbour, Northern Beaches and Sawtell), Mountain View (The Bellinger and Dorrigo) and Hastings-Macleay (Lower Macleay, Kempsey and Wauchope). Port Macquarie may join the latter network once the new incumbent has settled in. Meetings for the Coffs Coast were on hold during 2022 as Coffs Harbour and Sawtell were vacant and seeking to discern new incumbents. The Coffs Coast network meetings will resume in 2023 and welcome the participation of the Orara Valley Transitional Ministry District as well. Across all networks, ways of working together were discerned and insights were shared in the Southern Archdeaconry meetings.

Ministry Unit life

The Reverend Daryl McCullough resigned from Coffs Harbour (effective January 2022) to move closer to family in western NSW, leaving three parishes vacant in the Southern Region. I would like to acknowledge and thank the Locums, retired clergy and dedicated lay people who supported the parish of Port Macquarie during a difficult period, as well as the parishes of Coffs Harbour, and Sawtell and Bonville.

The Parish Presentation Boards prayerfully and patiently discerned who God may be calling to these positions, and as a result Port Macquarie welcomed The Reverend Daniel Berris as their new Rector in November 2022. Around the same time, the new incumbents for Sawtell and Bonville (The Reverend Kevin Booth), and Coffs Harbour (The Reverend Nathan Dean) were announced, with commencement to take place in early 2023.

Hospital Chaplain The Reverend Leanne Smith, also retired from Port Macquarie Hospital and we wish her well in her retirement.

Post Covid Recovery and Floods

Although no longer navigating Public Health orders and restrictions, parishes engaged in post-covid recovery and the need to encourage congregations to return to worship in Church rather than only on-line. Covid isolation had resulted in loneliness and grief at the loss of contact with friends. Church community life was seen as important to re-establish, for the wellbeing of individuals and the collective.

In February and March, the mid-North Coast was again impacted by floods. In the southern region, heavy rain caused minor water inundation for some, but major flooding was avoided in Coffs Harbour and the Nambucca Valley.

Summary

This is my last report as Archdeacon for the South. It has been a privilege to connect with ministry colleagues (both clergy and lay) in the Southern Archdeaconry over the past two years, to share insights with each other, support and encourage one another as we live into our calling. As always we give thanks for being empowered by God's Spirit to face the challenges of ministry in all its diverse forms. May the Lord continue to prosper the works of all our hands.

**The Venerable Zoe Everingham,
*Archdeacon South***

DIOCESE OF GRAFTON



SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION

Grafton Anglican Schools Commission

Annual Report to Synod - 2023

Part 1: Operation of the Schools Commission

1. Membership

The membership of the Grafton Anglican Schools Commission (GASC) during the period since reported to Synod 2022 has consisted of Mr Phillip Bonser, Mrs Anne Bryce, Mr Martin Drevikovsky, Bishop Murray Harvey, Reverend Sally Miller, Mr Bruce Rixon, Ms Anne Marie Troutman and Mr Ian White.

Note that:

- Mr Phillip Bonser resigned December 2022 and has been appointed as Chair, Clarence Valley Anglican School.
- On the resignation of Mr Phillip Bonser, The Right Reverend Dr Murray Harvey assumed the Chair of the Commission.
- Mrs Anne Bryce resigned April 2023.
- Reverend Sally Miller appointed January 2023.
- Mr Bruce Rixon appointed February 2023.

Meetings held in 2022:

- 10 March
- 2 June
- 8 September
- 10 November
- 20 December – Special Meeting

Commission Member Attendance 2022			
Name	Category of Membership	Number of Possible Meetings to Attend in 2022 Total of 5 meetings	Meetings Attended
The Right Rev'd Dr Murray Harvey	Bishop	5	4
Mr Phillip Bonser	Chair	4	4
Mrs Anne Bryce	Member	5	4
Mr Martin Drevikovsky	Member	5	3
Ms Anne Marie Troutman	Member	5	5
Mr Ian White	Member	5	5

2. Support

The Commission continues to be supported by Mrs Angela Mula - Deputy Registrar/Executive Officer – Schools (40% of position) and is also supported by Mr Chris Nelson - Registrar and by Mrs Kaytrina Jessup (minutes secretary) from the Registry staff.

3. Priority Areas for the Grafton Anglican Schools Commission

The following status summary is provided for the Priority Areas the Commission previously identified. Note that priority areas previously reported as complete have been removed.

2022-2023	
Priority Area	Status
Improve Communication (Internal)	ONGOING <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chairs continue to meet with the GASC • Diocesan Schools Network meetings take place quarterly • Facilitation of shared information through the EO - Schools • Improved monitoring of School Council membership
Improve CAPEX approval process	COMPLETE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revised policy approved by BiC 23 February 2023
Generate emphasis on induction of new council and board members to an understanding of the GASC	IN PROGRESS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Induction program for new Commission members complete • Induction program to be piloted with CVAS Council in first instance

4. Policy Development

Since reporting to the last Synod, the Commission has:

- a. Completed the review of GASC-002 Capital Development and Expenditure - Schools
- b. Revised the Nomination Form associated with GASC-004 Appointing and Reappointing Members of Governing Bodies of Diocesan Educational Institutions
- c. Implemented the new policy GASC-005 School Chaplaincy

Recommendations for changes to The Schools Commission Ordinance 1997 were also approved by the Bishop-in-Council at its meeting held 27 April 2023. The modest changes were to increase the maximum number of members to 9, to better fit with the requirement that two-thirds of members are to Members of the Anglican Church and amendments to Clause 10.4 to clarify co-opting persons to assist the Commission. See The Schools Commission Ordinance 2023 Amending Ordinance 2023.

5. Financial monitoring and reporting – 2022 year

- a. The Commission is able to report that as at 31st December 2022:
 - i. All schools were able to pay their debts as and when they fall due.
 - ii. All schools were meeting their current commitments to make capital and interest payments on their loans.

6. Clarence Valley Anglican School

As required by Bishop-in-Council, the Commission continues to monitor and support the progress of CVAS towards ensuring improved financial stability and sustainability. The School's overall financial position has improved since last report to Synod.

7. Lismore Parish Centre Preschool

The Lismore Parish Centre Preschool no longer reports to the Commission following changes made by the Bishop-in-Council to the Lismore Parish Centre Preschool Constitution 1989 Amending Ordinance 2023. The Preschool will report directly to the Bishop-in-Council. The Commission will undertake a review of all GASC policies for any required revisions to policy scope.

8. Advising Bishop-in-Council on capital expenditure proposals.

Since the report for Synod 2022, the Commission recommended the following projects for approval to Bishop-in-Council:

- a. Bishop Druitt College – Master Plan Project Part A
- b. Lindisfarne Anglican Grammar School – Purchase of land at Sunshine Ave, Tweed Heads South

9. Appointment and re-appointment of School Council members.

During the year since the last report, the Schools Commission has approved a number of new appointments to School Councils following nominations received from the Councils. The Commission acts under delegation from Bishop-in-Council as per GASC-004 Appointing and Reappointing Members of Governing Bodies of Diocesan Educational Institutions. Details of each Council's current membership (as at 31 March 2023), is provided in Part 2 of this report.

10. Diocesan Schools Network Meetings

The Chairs, Principals, Business Managers and Chaplains of the schools have continued to meet during the period. Diocesan Schools Network (DSN) meetings usually take place the day following GASC meetings to facilitate networking opportunities, shared experience and a joint meeting of the GASC with School Council Chairs. Since the last report, meetings have taken place at:

- St Columba Anglican School (9 September 2022)
- Lindisfarne Anglican Grammar School (11 November 2022)
- Emmanuel Anglican College (10 March 2023)
- Bishop Druitt College (25 May 2023).

Bishop Murray Harvey | Chair

Lindisfarne Anglican Grammar School

ENROLMENT (as at 31 March 2023)	Primary Secondary Total	695 1182 1877
STAFFING (as at 31 March 2023)	Teaching staff (Full Time Equivalent) Non-teaching staff (FTE) Total	130.9 84.19 215.09
FINANCES (as per 2022 audit)	Income (after discounts) Expenditure Declared surplus	\$43,258,654 \$35,505,502 \$7,753,152
DEBT (as per 2022 audit)	Total Borrowings Repayments	\$16,709,748 \$930,009
CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT (as per 2022 audit)	Capital Grants Capital development expenditure and purchase of plant and equipment	\$700,000 \$10,922,202

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP as at 31 March 2023

Mrs Dominique O'Neill (Chair)	Mr Bill Adler (Deputy Chair)	Mr Joshua Bedser
Mr Kruse Carter	Rev Dway Goon Chew	Mrs Sandra Hawken
Mr Peter McAuley	Rev Lyndon Mulholland	

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS¹

- Enrolments continue to grow in 2023 are 1879 K-12 and 80 in Preschool as at 28 February 2023.
- Construction of the new Early Learning Centre building at Sunshine Avenue was completed and students commenced using the Facilities in Term 1 2023. The formal opening and blessing of the Building will take place on 17 May 2023.
- The School is purchasing a residential property adjacent to the Sunshine avenue campus to allow for further development of this campus. Settlement on the purchase of the property is on 17 May 2023.

¹ Information about the educational performance of the school is available in the school's annual report which is available on the [school website](#) and on the Australian Government [My School website](#).

Emmanuel Anglican College

ENROLMENT (as at 31 March 2023)	Primary	384
	Secondary	460
	Total	844
STAFFING (as at 31 March 2023)	Teaching staff (Full Time Equivalent)	61.3
	Non-teaching staff (FTE)	41.62
	Total	102.92
FINANCES (as per 2022 audit)	Income (after discounts)	\$18,820,362
	Expenditure	\$16,632,942
	Declared surplus	\$2,187,421
DEBT (as per 2022 audit)	Total Borrowings	\$12,699,668
	Repayments	\$611,897
CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT (as per 2022 audit)	Capital grants	\$650,000
	Capital development expenditure and purchase of plant and equipment	\$1,127,627

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP as at 31 March 2023

Mr John Bryen (Chair)	Adjunct Prof Barbara Rugendyke (Deputy Chair)	Mr Matthew Ainsbury
Mrs Cathy Angus	Dr Nicholas De Marco	Mr Paul Hickey
Mr Christopher Lomax	Rev Cathy Ridd	Mr Phillip Silver

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS²

- Incredible generous and compassionate response of the community to those of the region impacted by the catastrophic flooding on March 2022.
- Blessing and Opening of the College multi purpose centre; the Lindsay Walker Centre.
- Hosted the Archbishop of Canterbury, The Most Reverend Justin Welby for his community address on peace and reconciliation.
- Excellent HSC results with 20% of students achieving an ATAR of 90 or above and one student achieving First Place in a Course.
- Blessing and Opening of the Discovery Centre Extension, the construction of which was supported by \$650 000 from the Block Grant Authority
- Continued expansion of the Integrated Experiential Curriculum with new initiatives in Years 2,5,6,9 and 10 in 2023.
- The creation and performance of the highly successful College musical, Matilda

² Information about the educational performance of the school is available in the school's annual report which is available on the [school website](#) and on the Australian Government [My School website](#).

Clarence Valley Anglican School

ENROLMENT (as at 31 March 2023)	Primary	169
	Secondary	193
	Total	362
STAFFING (as at 31 March 2023)	Teaching staff (Full time equivalent)	29.3
	Other Staff (Full time equivalent)	14.7
	Total	44
FINANCES (as per 2022 audit)	Income (after discounts)	\$7,964,294
	Expenditure	\$7,767,403
	Declared surplus	\$456,508
DEBT (as per 2022 audit)	Total Borrowings	\$3,987,345
	Repayments	\$421,223
CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT (as per 2022 audit)	Capital grants	Nil
	Capital development expenditure and purchase of plant and equipment	\$485,272

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP as at 31 March 2023

Mr Phillip Bonser (Chair)	Rev David Morgan	Mr Des Schroder
Mr Vishal Sharma	Mr Stephen Timms	Mrs Margaret White

NOTE: Council has permission from Bishop-in-Council to operate with less than 7 members for a period up to 6 months (passed by Flying Minute 14 March 2023)

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS³

- Retirement of Reverend Greg Jenks as Chair of Council.
- Phillip Bonser, former Chair of the Grafton Anglican Schools Commission appointed Chair (December 2022).
- Enrolment growth continuing and exceeding budget in 2022
- Feedback from parents and students suggests that the demand for enrolments has continued to increase partly because of the renewed focus on Teaching and Learning.
- Pastoral support programs and student engagement significantly improved
- Years 3 and Year 4 re-located to the Clarenza Campus.
- Significantly improved operating Surplus and Cash on hand for 2022 year.
- Commencement of banking arrangements with AFSA, with all repayment schedules achieved.
- Commencement of the Business Services Agreement with Bishop Druitt College 1/7/2022
- Lodgement of DA for development of Farnworth Outdoor Education Centre
- Mr and Mrs Clarke retire from Farnworth
- Sub-Lease of Farnworth to BDC

³ Further information about the educational performance of the school is available in the school's annual report which is available on the [school website](#) and on the Australian Government [My School website](#).

Bishop Druitt College

ENROLMENT (as at 31 March 2023)	Primary Secondary Total	524 706 1230
STAFFING (as at 31 March 2023)	Teaching staff (Full Time Equivalent) Non-teaching staff (FTE) Total	91.5 57.5 149
FINANCES (as per 2022 audit)	Income (after discounts) Expenditure Declared surplus	\$26,522,313 \$24,009,915 \$2,512,398
FINANCING (as per 2022 audit)	Total Borrowings Repayments	\$7,550,000 \$600,000
CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT (as per 2022 audit)	Capital Grants Capital development expenditure and purchase of plant and equipment	Nil \$4,416,418

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP as at 31 March 2023

Mr David Ford (Chair)	Mr Darren Jameson (Deputy Chair)	Mrs Bethany Carpenter
Rev Zoe Everingham	Mrs Hayley Harris	Mr Ben Hodgson
Mr Leslie Juhasz	Mrs Tanya McManus	Professor Stuart Smith

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS⁴

It has been exciting for our community to return to the “normal” range of college events post-COVID lock down restrictions.

The following is a selection of achievements outlined during the 2022:

Student Engagement - Teaching and Learning

- Continued to develop our Career’s Hub to host guest speakers and build internship partners
- Developed our Entrepreneur’s Odyssey project with a special Year 7 focus
- Launched the BDC Basketball and Rugby Academies
- Rolled out additional Chromebooks and ipads for primary years and laptops with ADOBE suite in the iHub
- Re-established Round Square and other international student exchanges and tours
- Employed a Performing Arts Manager to support the co-curricular student experience and opportunities

⁴ Information about the educational performance of the school is available in the school’s annual report which is available on the [school website](#) and on the Australian Government [My School website](#).

- Launched the new Dance Academy
- Improved teaching and learning outcomes as evidenced by NAPLAN growth and outcomes and independent external assessment tools - top school in the region.

Wellbeing and Community Engagement

- Established the Fathering Project with termly events
- Launched the Parent Ambassadors Program
- Engaged AISNSW to support continued growth in wellbeing (COMPASS project) and Aboriginal student outcomes (Waratah project), including a full time Aboriginal Education Officer
- Addition to the Wellbeing team of a School Nurse
- Supported growth in our Co-curricular service groups and activities
- Completed 360 degree college survey with outstanding feedback
- Created a host of new positive partnerships including Charles Sturt University, Australian College of Physical Education, the Liverpool Academy and Macquarie University
- Launched the 2022/2023 Reconciliation Action Plan
- Hosted the Twilight Fete and Primary Art Show
- Established free community playgroups to support young families in Valla Beach, Urunga, Emerald Beach and BDC
- Conducted some Alumni events
- Continued to rollout college vape detectors

Facility Improvements

- Completion of our Margaret's Field Playspace with upgraded access bridge, fencing and adventure playground
- Completion of our New Senior Hub Building - The David Ford Centre (Officially opened on 19 May 2023)
- Installation of new flexible furniture to five more classrooms across the school
- Opened iHub - refurbished library spaces and innovation centre including Virtual Reality Room

The college continues to grow enrolments over the last three years moving from 1071 in 2021 to 1175 in 2022 to 1235 in 2023. The college now has waiting lists in most age groups.

St Columba Anglican School

ENROLMENT (as at 31 March 2023)	Primary Secondary Total	528 674 1202
STAFFING (as at 31 March 2023)	Teaching staff (Full Time Equivalent) Other staff (Full Time Equivalent) Total	100.3 47.7 148
FINANCES (as per 2022 audit)	Income (after discounts) Expenditure Declared surplus	\$30,653,013 \$27,797,674 \$2,855,339
FINANCING (as per 2022 audit)	Total Borrowings Repayments	\$11,419,207 \$1,973,057
CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT (as per 2022 audit)	Capital grants Capital development expenditure and purchase of plant and equipment	Nil \$1,193,003

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP as at 31 March 2022

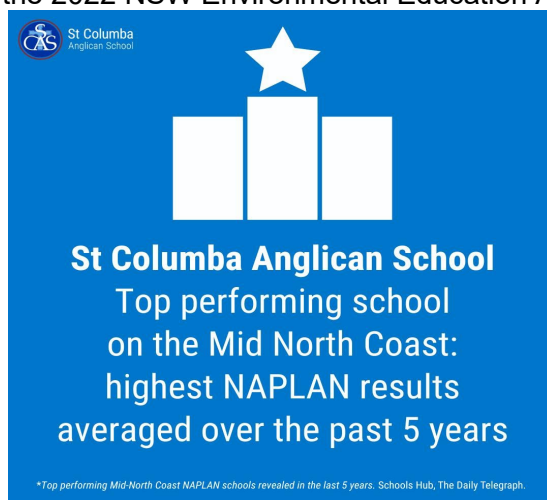
Mrs Heather Norton (Chair)	Mr Ian Wilbore (Deputy Chair)	Dr Stephen Begbie
Rev Dan Berris	Mrs Chen Gaul	Mr Graeme Kightley
Mr James McIntyre	Dr Allison Stansfield	

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS⁵





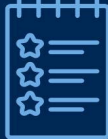



- **Celebration:** 20 years
- **Melbourne University New Metrics** : SCAS was announced as a partner in the collaborative research venture. Headed up by internationally recognised academic researchers and thought-leaders, this partnership aims to reimagine and influence schooling across Australia.
- **NSW All Schools Canoe Slalom Championships** Luke Delaney won the U14 K1 (Kayak) and C1 (Canoe) slalom events and combined with his brother Matt to win the C2 slalom. Matt placed 2nd in both the K1 and C1 divisions and won the 3km downriver sprint. Kate took out the U14 Girls title in K1, C1 and placed 2nd overall in the Mixed C2, with her older brother. In the end, SCAS was awarded the Perpetual Shield for the champion
- Newcastle Permanent Maths Competition Regional Awards: Riley Hill was the winner of the Hastings Region for Year 6, and Kirsten Hii was the winner for Year 5.
- **Banksia Foundation NSW Sustainability Awards 2022:** SCAS Year 6 finalists

⁵ Information about the educational performance of the school is available in the school's annual report which is available on the [school website](#) and on the Australian Government [My School website](#).

- **Plan Your Own Enterprise Competition:** Year 11 student Riley Dowd runner up at the NSW State Final.
- **Campus:** New LED oval lights, allowing playing hours to be extended into the night.
- **2022 Port Macquarie Hastings Sports Awards:** Hayden Johnson awarded the Regional Australia Bank Award for Sporting Excellence for his achievements in volleyball and Trent Alley received the Wayne Richards Sporting Scholarship for athletics and cross country.
- **Cultural immersion trip:** Indigenous Liaison Coordinator and Secondary Teacher, Mr Chris Tejcek, and Year 7 Patron, Mrs Sarah Wallace, attended a cultural immersion trip to the remote North East Arnhem Land homeland of Nyinyikay with Culture College.
- **AICES Basketball Tournament:** Year 7 students Daisy Dunbar and Bianca King and Year 8 student Flynn Gillespie represented SCAS in the HRIS U15s teams
- **Nominations for OnSTAGE:** Eight of our SCAS HSC Drama students have had their work nominated for OnSTAGE, the annual showcase where the best of the best from across NSW are given the opportunity to perform their work at the Seymour Centre in Sydney.
- **Shape 2022 Nomination:** Pippa Davis, who has been nominated for Shape 2022, an annual exhibition of exemplary Major Projects developed by HSC Design and Technology students.
- **HSC Industrial Technology:** Multimedia student Adam Plant nominated for SHAPE 2022
- **2022 University of Newcastle Business Plan Challenge:** Evangeline Martin,
- **Sustainable Schools NSW Teacher of the Year, 2022:** Science and Sustainability Teacher, Ms Ann-Kathrin Kiehn, who has been named as Sustainable Schools NSW Teacher of the Year in the 2022 NSW Environmental Education Awards.



- **Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award:** Jesse Beard (Class of 2021)
- **Executive Staff:** Appointment of Mr Allan Guihot as the third Principal of St Columba Anglican School.
- **NSW Country Junior Chess Champion:** Year 12 student Jacob Mills
- **Interschool Chess Challenge:** Both the SCAS Senior and Junior teams took out first place.
- **SchoolAid:** Anatoli Tobin raised \$500 for He received a certificate of appreciation from the organisation the Governor General.
- **2022 HSC:** 101 placing

 <p>99.20 highest ATAR score</p>	<p>Two students placing in the top 10 in the state for Textiles & Design</p>  <p><small>6th and 10th in NSW for HSC Textiles and Design</small></p>
<p>Number 1 ranked school on the Mid North Coast</p>  <p><small>in SMH 2022 HSC School Rankings</small></p>	<p>66 Band 6 results</p> 
 <p>One third of students placing on Distinguished Achievers List</p>	<p>One of the top ranked schools across all of regional NSW</p>  <p><small>in SMH 2022 HSC School Rankings</small></p>
<p>53% of student examination results were a Band 5 or 6</p> 	<p>TWO All Rounders</p> <p><small>Students who received Band 6 in their ten best units</small></p> 

- **FRC Southern Cross Regional Robotics:** Iona Fusion robotics team competed against 38 teams from schools and universities across Australia and the Asia-Pacific region as part of the event taking second place.
- **Executive Staff:** Ms Emma Bylsma appointed as the School's new Deputy Principal.
- **Year 12 students,** Georgia Stanfield-Gates and Aarohi Deshmukh, competed in the North Coast Plain English Speaking Competition finals, with Georgia progressing to the state round.
- **Christian Studies:** Year 9 students attended an excursion to the Christ Church Cathedral in Grafton. Both the Bishop of the Anglican Diocese, The Right Reverend Murray Harvey, and The Reverend Canon Camellia Flanagan, Canon Pastor of the Cathedral, praised the students for their enthusiasm, good behaviour, and participation.
- **Sport for Jove Shakespeare carnival:** SCAS won five of the six categories in the regional event.
- **Mid North Coast Region Science and Engineering Challenge:** SCAS won, continuing our strong legacy with 15 wins out of the last 16 years of entry in the competition.
- **Netball NSW Schools Cup:** 9/10 Girls took 1st and 2nd place, with the 9/10 Boys also taking the top spot. The 7/8 Girls teams finished 1st.
- **Da Vinci Decathlon:** Year 11 SCAS team and Year 6 SCAS team claimed overall victory
- **GoIT program.** Year 8 Participated in Tata Consultancy Services sponsored_GoIT program. GoIT is a signature digital innovation and career-readiness program that engages students from diverse backgrounds to bridge the learning curve with STEM, computer science, design thinking, and digital innovation.
- **Port Macquarie Business Awards: SCAS** sponsored of the Childcare, Education & Training category.



Our Anglican foundation at Bishop DrUITT College is built upon the values of mutual respect, service, inclusivity, integrity, courage, justice and generosity of spirit. These values have underpinned our regular Chapel services throughout the year.

In March 2022, Rev Nic Hagon was inducted as Chaplain to our school community, joining Rev Naomi Cooke in the Chaplaincy Team. She has a deep connection to the land, a passion for inclusivity across faiths and cultures, and creativity across the ways we reimagine our Anglican identity and practices. Rev Nic is also Chaplain to Clarence Valley Anglican School in Grafton.

We gathered for whole school liturgies and services of Holy Communion for Ash Wednesday, Easter, New Leaders' Induction and Christmas. Students were reminded that our Christian rituals and sacraments are inclusive and welcoming. Year 12 Academic Captain Abdulqadir Abdullah helped shape and lead the addition of an Interfaith Welcome for all our services. We are grateful to the clergy and Licensed Lay Ministers from across the diocese who joined us for these major services, in particular for Mr Allan Reko, Mr David Ford and Rev Carol Ford.

St John's Anglican Church at Coffs Harbour hosts very special services for our school each year: Graduation services for years 6 and 12, a Commencement service for the new year 12 students commencing their final year, and the end of year Staff Service. This is a special time for our local Anglican parish to host and provide sacred space for our most special times of beginnings and endings.

The Chaplains helped lead the annual Year 12 Retreat, with an emphasis on affirming our own story in the context of being part of a community moving together through the final year of schooling.

When the devastating floods hit the Northern Rivers region early this year, our school families were quick to respond. Year 8 leaders worked with Mrs Meegan Bruggemann and Mr Simon Doyle to coordinate collection of goods that were donated to flood affected communities in consultation with Anglicare North Coast.

Godly Play is a story based learning and interactive program in which Kindergarten to Year 4 participates within their weekly REP time. Godly Play promotes the processes of getting ready, listening and responding, meaning making, and honouring the sacred stories in each of us.

The Human Rights Group, Goori Group and Environment Group joined together to travel to Brisbane to participate in the Anglican Schools Goodji Festival in August 2022. Our first stop was an immersive visit to St John's Anglican Cathedral, Brisbane. For most students, this was their first visit to a Cathedral, and they were quite taken by the physicality of the space, evoking transcendent spirituality. The students were inspired by conversations with The Very Reverend Dr Peter Catt and The Reverend Dr Ann Solari, hearing stories of activism and daily acts of justice on a macro and micro community level. Service Captain Matilda Watson reflected:

"We headed on a tour of the beautiful building where we learned the history, heard stories, and learned about how the cathedral makes a positive impact on the community and inspires

change in the world. St John's Cathedral aims to raise awareness surrounding climate change, refugees, homelessness, and so much more. We got to be a part of this change when we folded blankets for the cathedral's program 'rough sleepers', where homeless people in Brisbane can sleep at the cathedral to ensure they have a roof over their heads."

Bishop Druitt College is isolated geographically from other Anglican schools, and connecting to students from Anglican schools across borders created a new sense of Anglican identity.

A collection of students and staff were honoured to attend a very special address to the Grafton Diocese by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, on "Building Peace in Robust Diversity" in October 2022. One of the students reflected, "He explained to us how important it is to make peace and compared it to global warming, saying 'If we can't find a way to make peace with the climate, then sooner or later it will begin to destroy us.' He told us his three steps to reconciliation: to be curious, to be present, and to reimagine; reminding us 'Reconciliation is not about agreeing. It is about learning to disagree well.'"

Of course, there were stories about interactions with the Royal family and about the England/Australia cricket rivalry. However, more important was the worldwide leader of Anglicanism's compassion for those impacted by the bushfires and floods in our region in recent years, and his passion to bring faith leadership to both the climate action and peace negotiations processes.

Our annual Christmas Hamper appeal provided toys and food items that were donated to Warrina Women's and Children's Shelter and the Uniting Church Soup Kitchen.

BDC Students Mikal Tesfamariam, Rataj Abdullah and Jenna Haley participated in All One Under the Sun, a 12 month project of art, music, dance and a youth action collective. It is described as "a youth-led, anti-racism project promoting social inclusion, connection, belonging and education; it is based on Gumbayngirr Country in Coffs Harbour." The project created a 25 minute documentary showcasing the stories of local youth, including Rataj, Mikal and Jenna. The project also created a very high quality song and music video. <https://www.alloneunderthesun.com.au/> We launched the project at BDC at an assembly, with students invited to watch the full documentary at lunchtime in the Chapel. This powerful initiative has ongoing funding, and we hope more BDC students will be involved in future years.

The Human Rights Group fundraised and donated \$1000 to the local branch of STARTTS, The NSW Service for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture and Trauma Survivors, with a plan for next year to visit their youth group.

Act for Peace Ration Challenge participants included 25 students, two staff and a number of supportive parents, with the BDC group managing to fundraise \$14,450 which will support refugees in crisis. Bishop Druitt College was placed as the 8th highest fundraising school in Australia, which is a huge achievement! Even more than fundraising, this was a learning experience in understanding the challenges faced by refugees living without stability in impermanent accommodations around the world.





Report to the 2023 Synod

I am pleased to provide this report on the exciting developments at our school, Clarence Valley Anglican School (CVAS). We have experienced a significant growth in numbers, with the current student population being the largest the school has ever had. The projected numbers for next year are even higher, which is a testament to the quality of education and the positive environment that we provide at CVAS.

Our staffing situation has stabilised, and we are fortunate to have experienced teachers who teach in every class. Our teachers are committed to the School and to our students, and their dedication is evident in the academic achievements of our students.

At CVAS, we strongly believe in Restorative Practices, and this approach has had a positive impact on our students, staff, parents, and visitors to the School. Many have commented on the positive environment that they have experienced at both campuses, which is a testament to the hard work of everyone involved.

This year we are developing a Whole School Wellbeing Program through a grant with the Association of Independent Schools, where we build on the good work already occurring in the School and supporting students, staff and the school community to build for the future. The Wellbeing Hub and Library building should be completed during these school holidays, enabling us to create some much-needed classroom spaces for our growing school.

We are now in the process of developing the next phase of our School Improvement Plan, which involves accessing data to make informed decisions and developing a clear way forward. Our partnership with BDC Business Services has been a significant factor in ensuring that our finances are managed well, and we have a healthy surplus.

We are also pleased to report that our community engagement efforts have been successful. Reverend Nicole Hagon has continued to spread the word of the Gospel throughout our community, and we have celebrated various Christian occasions with the support of The Very Reverend Rod MacDonald, Reverend Cannon Camelia Flannery, and Reverend Naomi Cooke. Our students have supported the op shop on Fridays as part of CASS, which is an important part of our community engagement efforts.

Our CASS program has enabled our students to develop relationships with Pre-schools, aged care facilities, and community service within the Grafton area. This program has been eagerly embraced by our students, and we are pleased with the positive impact that it has had on our community.

Our Years Pre-K – Year 6 Godly Play, and the Year 7 - 9 Religion, Ethics, Philosophy program have been successful in supporting our students in the reflection of the Christian tradition, scholarship, reason, and experience. We also offer a Studies of Religion program for Years 10 - 12, which allows students entering Year 11 to accelerate an HSC subject and sit for the examination at the end of

Our Easter service at Christchurch Cathedral was a wonderful celebration attended by all staff and students K - 12, conducted by Reverend Nic and supported by Camelia and Rod.

The Easter Hat Parade was also a highlight, drawing together our CVAS community with a cuppa and a hot cross bun. Our community engagement continues to be strong and we had almost 200 visitors attend.



Following the resignation of our Chair of School Council, we are grateful to have Mr Phillip Bonser agree to support our School Council as the Chair. Phillip has a wealth of experience as a former principal and as a member of the Grafton Anglican Schools Commission, and we appreciate the expertise he brings to the position.

In conclusion, we are proud of the many achievements of our school, and we look forward to continued growth and success in the future. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Karin Lisle
Principal



As for most of the communities within our region, the last 12 months of College life has been shaped by the impact of natural disasters, the pandemic and the efforts we have made in response to these challenges. While there have been some difficult times, there has also been much to celebrate.

One of the highlights of the last 12 months for our community took place on 13 October 2022, when the College had the privileged opportunity to welcome the Most Reverend and Right Honourable Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury and his wife, Mrs Caroline Welby who were in Australia for 10 days to learn more about the life of the Anglican Church in Australia.

Archbishop Justin visited our region in response to the devastating floods that ravaged the area in March and April earlier that year. As part of his visit, he also wanted to connect with those working in the mission and ministry in the Anglican Church of the Grafton Diocese. Remarkably, a visit to Emmanuel Anglican College was included on his itinerary.

Over 700 people from across the Diocese and beyond attended his public lecture which was held at the College in The Lindsay Walker Centre. His great personal warmth, humility and wisdom rang through as he spoke about building peace in a diverse world. He reflected on the importance of keeping the lines of communication open, even during conflict, as a conversation can create empathy and compassion which are the foundations to reconciliation and peace. He also provided some sobering thoughts about the impact of climate change and the threat it brings to world peace as the number of climate refugees grow. Following his address was a 'Q&A' session led by the Bishop of Grafton the Right Reverend Dr Murray Harvey. During this session, Archbishop Justin's lovely down to earth manner really shone through as he joked with the audience and shared a number of funny anecdotes including a couple about his experiences with the Royal family.

The Archbishop also took time to meet a number of students from the five Anglican Schools of the Diocese that attended the event. As part of the evening, the Emmanuel College Band performed, and they were simply brilliant. Numerous people, including the Archbishop were taken aback by the standard of performance and commented on how much they enjoyed the music.



It was an honour and privilege to have Archbishop Justin Welby visit our College and he even left a couple gifts including a signed copy of his latest book “The Power of Reconciliation” and a signed photo of him in Canterbury Cathedral.

With the appointment of Rev Sally Miller to the Parish of Casino, we have embarked on the search to find a new College Chaplain. Sally made an extraordinary contribution to the College over more than 8 years of service. Her earthy spirituality and charismatic nature connected broadly and deeply with all our community. Her capacity to meet the challenges of the pandemic and her strong and compassionate leadership during the flood disaster simply reinforced the giftedness with which our community was blessed through her ministry. While yet to formally fill the role, we are confident of making an appointment in the second half of this year.

In the interim, I am delighted to say that a number of members of the existing staff have embraced the opportunity to play a role in the religious life of the College and fill some of the void left while we search for a new Chaplain. In 2023, the College has celebrated Chapel Services for the commencement of the College year, Induction of Student Leaders, Foundation Day and to commemorate the events of Holy Week. The Rev Greg Ezzy has taken significant leadership for the sacramental life of the College and extended his hours of employment to expand his role as Staff Chaplain.

We have also been involved in some positive discussion with representatives from the Parish of Alstonville and the Parish of Ballina about developing opportunities for ministry as part of the Ballina Regional Anglican Network. The group has invested in the services of Dr Carlos Raimundo to help facilitate discussion. Prior to Synod 2023, the group will meet again as we discuss our hopes (and fears) about the future of ministry in our region and also face really challenging questions about the needs of our region and how we can faithfully live out our Christian call to service.

Finally, on 8 March 2023, the College formally celebrated Foundation Day and 25 years of learning, living and leading in the Ballina region. It was a wonderful community celebration as we looked back over the 25 year history of the College and acknowledged the brave and inspiration founders and pioneer families that committed themselves to building a Kindergarten to Year 12 College that delivered a high quality education within a Christian environment. We were blessed to have Mrs Joan Pickup, the inaugural teacher, give the Foundation Day Address and speak about the incredible people who help bring the College together and turn the vision into reality.



Robert Tobias
Principal



It is with great pleasure that I present this report to the Anglican Diocese of Grafton's Synod 2023 as we continue to progress the following objectives as presented in our School Constitution.

To develop a school community that draws together pupils, staff and parents in a Christian environment

The 2022 school year at Lindisfarne Anglican Grammar School was full of significant achievements, activities, and events. Despite the ongoing challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and the extreme flooding and devastation that occurred throughout northern New South Wales in February and March of 2022, the school remained committed to continuous improvement, strengthening its Anglican identity and ethos, enhancing teaching and learning, expanding the co-curricular offering, building on community engagement, and supporting student wellbeing.

To better support our students, we added two new Houses, St Hilda and St Margaret, and appointed additional Year Coordinators in the Middle School to support students' wellbeing. We also reflected on the enormous contribution of the late Matt Fydler and honoured his legacy by naming the Matt Fydler Sports Academy.



ST HILDA ST MARGARET

The care and support of our students, staff and families are underpinned by our Christian ethos, and Christ's love for all people remains the yardstick for our encounters and dealings with one another. Our students meet regularly during Chapel Services for prayer, silence and reflection as well as to celebrate and mark significant times of the Church's liturgical year; our staff meet weekly/termly for Eucharist, prayer and reflection; we laid the foundation for a Religious Education and Spiritual Development Programs in the Junior School and Middle School beginning in 2023; people of other faiths are encouraged to celebrate and mark their significant religious festivals, and we support all our students to nurture their spiritual life and to exemplify lives of compassion, wisdom, respect, dignity, hope and justice. Services are also held for ANZAC Day, Reconciliation and NAIDOC weeks, Remembrance Day and Foundation Day.

To foster among pupils, staff and parents an understanding of and commitment to a Christian way of life according to the principles and traditions of the Anglican Church.

Our 2023 Strategic Action Plan has a set of priorities which include our Anglican Identity.

Strengthening our Anglican and Christian identity implies focusing on the holistic development of our young people, which includes 'integrating the processes of thinking,

feeling and doing', as well as having a strong focus on the intellectual, emotional, physical and spiritual development of our students. During the Diocesan School's Network meeting hosted in Term 4, we explored what it means to be an Anglican School with Fr Richard Browning, capturing the essence of Anglican Schools as 'values-based and story-driven'. The success of our Christian Schools is firmly underpinned by our Christian story, which is the source and summit of our educational endeavours.

At Lindisfarne, we encourage our students to use their gifts for the good of others and "to see the needs in our community and do something about them," as St Mary MacKillop said. [Video link for more details](#) Service Learning initiatives undertaken by Year 10 students fortnightly provide them with the opportunities to use their privilege for service and to put our school and Christian values into action. We now have a solid partnership with Fred's Place and Agape Outreach Centre, which work with and provide support for those experiencing homelessness in the Tweed Shire.

Furthermore, our School progressed its Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) to foster and deepen our relationship with our First Nations Peoples with the appointment of Ms Narelle Urquhart as the First Nations Cultural Engagement Coordinator. Already, Ms Urquhart is assisting our school in building bridges with our local First Nations community as well as sharing Indigenous art, culture, history and lores.

We continue to strengthen the bonds of our friendship with The Reverend Dway Goon-Chew and the parishioners of St Cuthbert's, Tweed Heads, who founded our school 42 years ago. The Reverend Dway's ongoing support of our students and staff through the School Council work is very appreciated, as is the work of the Reverend Lyndon Mulholland. Stronger connections and ties with the parishes of the Tweed Valley, including Kingscliff, Pottsville and Murwillumbah, have deepened through a joint monthly 'Spiritual Gym-Family Service' at the Mahers Lane Chapel.

In conclusion, we are grateful to God for the opportunities and privileges our students are given at Lindisfarne, and we are committed to working in partnership with our community to educate the students in our care to be smart, clever, innovative, compassionate, sensitive, wise, resilient, adaptable and flexible in a rapidly changing world.

If you'd like to see and know more about the amazing work being done at Lindisfarne Anglican School, please watch this [video](#)

Stuart Marquardt
Principal
Lindisfarne Anglican Grammar School

Please note - Links referred to in this Report

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wDDMiAASp1T07BG4pQkTnk9Gvn-3MJ_h/view

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GOz90Q5tKU324gIXhMgN10bcdMWsSBq_/view



St Columba Anglican School Report to 2023 Synod of the Anglican Diocese of Grafton



To develop a school community which draws together pupils, staff and parents in a Christian environment.

“Stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong.”

1 Corinthians 16:13

Wellbeing is a key component of the life of St Columba Anglican School. A significant part of this is what we refer to as Spiritual wellbeing. As a school who welcomes all who respect our (Grafton) Anglican foundation, we believe that important keys to spiritual wellbeing include creating positive relationships, having clear and enacted values, and leading a meaningful and purposeful life.

Our goal is to offer to our students, staff and community an example of a lived expression of the Anglican faith, offered to all members of our community, whether they are Anglicans or not. We hope our students can act in truth, with compassion and respect for others and in doing this follow the greatest of commandments.

“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in The Law?” Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: “Love your neighbour as yourself.”

Matthew 22:37-39

To foster among pupils, staff and parents an understanding of and commitment to a Christian way of life according to the principles and traditions of the Anglican Church.

Christian education at St Columba Anglican School is both a curriculum based subject (Christian Studies and Christianity in Context) and an educational endeavour to discover, understand and celebrate the world that God has made. Authentic Christian values underpin our philosophies of teaching and learning approach, while meeting for Chapel allows students to think about God and the big questions of life.

Christian Studies and Christianity in Context classes, taught from Kindergarten to Year 10, offer a structured forum for students to learn not only about Christianity, but also broader ethical principles and other major faith systems, thinking critically about their role in modern societies.

Christian Studies and Christianity in Context classes are specifically tailored in structure and content across different age groups to reflect the cognitive level of students and challenge them appropriately in their skills of higher order thinking. In earlier years, Christian Studies introduces students to the fundamentals of Christianity. As they progress into senior years more sophisticated themes of ethics, alternate world beliefs and social justice begin to emerge, encouraging students to analyse issues of faith in the broader environment.

In the Secondary School, Christianity in Context classes assume a more discussion-based structure and encourage students to critique a range of ethical philosophies by using the Christian worldview in a modern context.

The School environment brings a community together in a way that nearly no other scenario can. Implicit in this community is the concept of neighbour. In Christianity in Context classes, students are taught to engage with the Gospel and then apply it to their lives. Units on Ethics, Morals, Anglican Ceremonies, Christian Foundations, Biblical overviews and Film reviews are all examined through the lens of *Matthew 22:39*.

Each unit of work addresses one of five strands in the Christian Studies in Context curriculum; Biblical Knowledge and Understanding, Christian Worldview, Biblical Skills, Christian Apologetics, Christian Living. Each of these strands interconnects to form a cohesive cord of understanding that grows stronger as the students progress through their years of learning.

Underpinning every lesson is the goal that every student in every class will engage every time with the eternal message of the Gospel as enunciated by Jesus.

The core principle underpinning Christian Studies and Christianity in Context at St Columba is that we seek to encourage our students to explore Christianity in the context of a fast-paced, multi-faith society.

Lismore Parish Centre Preschool

The preschool has been operational now for almost 50 years as a not-for-profit outreach of the Lismore St Andrew's Anglican community to provide an excellent service for children 3 to 5 years old. Our proud tradition has been appreciated by hundreds of local families.

There are 29 children each session and about 65 families. We proudly accept children with special needs as has been our practice for almost 50 years.

The preschool was originally set up under the auspices of the Lismore Parish Council and was most successful over those years.

Since 2014, the preschool has been operating under a constitution that was inappropriate for the format of the preschool and required oversight by the Grafton Anglican Schools Commission. The 2014 constitution impeded the smooth governance of the preschool.

After consultation on the best form of the preschool's constitution, I can report that as of April 2023 the Preschool now has a revised constitution which restores the relationship between the Lismore Parish and the preschool. We extend our appreciation and thanks to Mr Chris Nelson and The Reverend Christian Ford, among others, who facilitated this transition.

The committee is now focussed on improving governance standards, ACNC reporting, and the working relationship between the management committee and staff.

The preschool committee has introduced an Employees Assistance Program to support the director with professional supervision and the staff with assistance as required.

Financially the preschool is in a very strong position. Government funding of preschool places for 4-year-olds has been generous so plans for the refurbishment of the playground area is underway.

Following the successful implementation of the playground refurbishment, we will look to enhance the inside area. A particular focus is the location of the children's toilets to enable adequate supervision during playground activities.

Ann Helmrich
Chair
Lismore Parish Centre Preschool

DIOCESE OF GRAFTON



MISSION SUPPORT

Anglican Board of Mission Committee and Auxiliary in the Diocese of Grafton

Eagle eyed Anglicans will have spotted Archbishop Hosam Naoum, Archbishop of Jerusalem in the film coverage of the Coronation of King Charles III. The Holy Oil used for the anointing of the King and Queen was from olives picked in Christian gardens on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem. It was consecrated at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem and Archbishop Hosam was entrusted with the honour of presenting the oil in Westminster Abbey.

During Lent ABM focused our attention on the Diocese of Jerusalem, in particular on the Anglican Hospital in Gaza. The Anglican Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza has been described as, “an oasis of kindness and care in the chaos and destruction of Gaza City.” The only Christian hospital in Gaza it serves people of every faith and ethnicity.

Our two Vice Presidents Greg Jenks in Casino and Jackie Draffan in Port Macquarie were able to join in the ABM Zoom conference which launched the Lent Appeal. The Director of the Hospital Suhaila Tarazi left her bed in the early hours of the morning Israel time to join the Zoom meeting. As she spoke to us Gaza was under bombardment.

Members and friends in the Diocese of Grafton continue to support the work of ABM in Gaza, Northern Australia, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and other places around the world. Many individuals and Parishes make generous donations of money and a special thanks is due to those who make handicrafts and grow plants for sale in aid of ABM. Donations of stamp collections and albums to be sold through the Philatelic Society in Sydney are an interesting and valuable source of funds.

President Janice has been very busy representing ABM around our Diocese and beyond. Her travels have included the following:

July 2022 Attendance at ABM National Diocesan Representatives Conference in Sydney, August 2022 ABM stole presentation to Rev. Greg March at Pottsville, October 2022 ABM Stole presentation to Rev. Sally Miller at Casino commissioning, October 2022 ABM Stole presentations to Rev. Aaron Coates, Rev. Mandy Larkin and Rev. Ruth Pobjoy at their ordinations, October 2022 sermon spot talks at both Kingscliff and Pottsville, November 2022 stole presentation to Rev. Dan Berris at commissioning in Port Macquarie assisted by Vice President Jackie Draffan, December 2022 sermon slot talks at Kyogle, Woodenbong and Urbenville, December 2022 ABM presentation to Rev. Kathy Ridd at commissioning in Ballina/Lennox Head, January 2023 ABM presentation to Rev. Simon Reeve at commissioning at Woolgoolga/NorthernBeaches, January 2023 ABM stole presentation to Rev. Kevin Booth at commissioning in Sawtell, February 2023 ABM stole presentation to Rev. Nathan Dean at commissioning in Coffs Harbour, February 2023 ABM stole presentation to Rev. Leslie Fotakis at commission in Nambucca Valley, March 2023 ABM Sunday (Lent 2) a video message specially made for Grafton Diocese by ABM national office was emailed out to all parishes, March 2023 ABM stole presentation at a deaconing in Narracoorte, Diocese of the Murray, South Australia was made by Janice, March 2023 represented ABM at Lady Day Service at Cathedral in Grafton, May 2023 ABM stole presentation to Rev. Angela Dutton at Wauchope.

Our three ABM standing banners are out and about in the Diocese and are available to borrow. One depicts the Five Marks of Mission, the second St. Georges Cathedral in Jerusalem and the third represents Papua New Guinea. Please talk to Janice or Jackie at the ABM display stand if you wish to book a banner for your Parish.

Jacqueline Draffan
Vice President with Secretarial Duties.

Anglican Mothers Union Australia - Grafton Diocese - Report 2023

After the shutdowns and other disturbances of 2020/2021, I was hoping that our final year of our Triennial would be a great year. In my last report I wrote about having many more hurdles to jump, but no one predicted the tragedy and turmoil that would occur in February/March 2022.

One of our groups closed due to the flooding – Goolmangar. It was very sad to know that this group who had been such a wonderful support to each other and the wider Mothers Union community over many years was no more.

Our Lady Day celebrations were planned for both the north and south of the diocese – Kempsey and Casino. Casino, so soon after being flooded was able to hold a service with a celebration lunch at a local pub where members from the north of the diocese came together. In the south, Kempsey had a wonderful celebration day, four new members were enrolled, and several received Long Service Certificates. Kempsey were hoping to have a picnic lunch in the grounds of the church but there were far too many puddles after heavy rain to even think of doing that. The church hall allowed us to still mingle and fellowship together.

Some of the year's highlights were as follows:

- I visited Port Macquarie where a group of Diocesan or Lone Members from the Port Macquarie and Wauchope area came together for an MU service and fellowship afternoon tea. One new member was enrolled, and two members were presented with Long Service Certificates.
- At our annual Synod in June 2022 Mothers Union was able to have a small display of merchandise for sale in conjunction with the Cathedral Bookshop. This proved to be a very worthwhile project with lots of customers and enquiries about Mothers Union.
- I attended on behalf of Mothers Union, Grafton, a Service of Thanksgiving for the late Queen Elizabeth 11 at Christ Church Cathedral. The Queen had been the Patron of the worldwide Mothers Union for many, many years.
- I accompanied my husband (who was a rep for Grafton Diocese) to General Synod on the Gold Coast and was able to sit in as an observer at several sessions. Two sessions were centred on the Anglican Family Violence Research Project and Marriage, Human Sexuality and Same-sex Relationships both subjects which many members of Mothers Union are working on for better outcomes particularly for women and girls around the world.
- I attended the Australia Council of Mothers Union in Melbourne last November. This was a triennial meeting where a new leader was elected as president of Mothers Union Australia – Dr Robin Ray. There were several new faces on the executive which I believe, augers well for the future. I found the time very beneficial, meeting new people and catching up with friends I've known and not seen for years.
- Our Celebration Day in Grafton in late November was a Triennial Meeting so elections were held with some new faces coming on to our executive. Many thanks to those who had contributed much during their time on executive and had stepped down. Our guest speaker was Lesley Grant from Anglicare who shared her experiences of the recent floods and her daily work with Anglicare.

We continue to meet throughout the year as an executive by Zoom. Many thanks to Kaytrina Jessup from the Diocesan Office who is always there with a happy smile and necessary advice for each of us to become a "competent" users of Zoom.

Special thanks to Bishop Murray Harvey for his continuing support and encouragement to Mothers Union in our diocese. It is much appreciated.

A big thank you to the Grafton Cathedral Bookshop who so generously carry Mothers Union stock, particularly our diaries and Christmas cards which they order, collate, and send out to our branches each year.

I believe each of our groups, some small, all function as loving and caring groups within their parishes and communities. Their projects are varied but are always suited to local needs. I appreciate the friendship they give to me when I visit their groups or when I meet any of them at other diocesan functions.

The Mothers Union worldwide is grounded in prayer and members find great comfort in the daily prayer cycle which continues around the world at all times bringing together members' dioceses all mentioned over a twelve-month period. Mary Sumner's personal prayer is very close to all members hearts and is said at many members' gatherings.

All this day, O Lord, let me touch as many lives as possible for thee; and every life I touch, do by thy Spirit quicken, whether through the word I speak, the prayer I breathe or the life I live. In the name of Jesus, Amen

(The personal prayer of Mary Sumner, the founder of Mothers Union)

Gae Shorten,

Diocesan Leader,
Anglican Mothers Union Australia,
Grafton Diocese.

