



# The Gippsland Anglican

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## Ena's memory honored at A'Beckett Park

THE memory of Ena Sheumack is set to live on in perpetuity in Gippsland. Ena, the late wife of Bishop Colin Sheumack, was well known for her love of people and her commitment to mission work and the ministry of women during her many years in Gippsland. At the time of her unexpected death, an appeal was launched to raise funds, which over the years has grown to almost \$50,000.

Recently, the current Bishop of Gippsland, Right Reverend John McIntyre, and Bishop in Council discussed with members of Anglican Women of Australia Gippsland a way to honor Ena's memory. They asked the funds from the Ena Sheumack appeal be used to develop the master plan for the redevelopment of A'Beckett Park and to refurbish the manager's residence.

Jane Macqueen, current president of AWA Gippsland, confirmed the funds would be made available. To date, the master plan has been completed (*see index*) and refurbishment is underway. A plaque will be erected on the residence to commemorate Ena's memory. The residence will be renamed the 'Ena Scheumack Community House'.

Jane described the community house as a centre for prayer, a place of retreat, a place of warmth and hospitality for friend, pilgrim and stranger.

"A place indeed that in its very function and being will demonstrate so many of the qualities of the lady for whom it is to be named," she said.

"Ena had a loving welcome for all she met. She always made time to listen to people's stories and had a special gift of hospitality. AWA looks forward to seeing the progress of the 'Ena Sheumack Community House' and are delighted that in this way Ena's deep love for people and for God lives on."

### Laurie appointed

THE announcement coincided with the appointment of Reverend Laurie McIntyre to the honorary role of spiritual adviser at A'Beckett Park and the return of

the park to the management of the Anglican Diocese of Gippsland.

An opportunity to meet Rev. Laurie will be the working bee organised for A'Beckett Park, at Raymond Island, on Friday and Saturday, July 24 and 25. The second day will conclude with a shared fellowship meal. Rev. Janet Wallis is organising the Clean Up @ A'Beckett Park and welcome dinner. Rev. Janet can be contacted on telephone 03 5662 5043 or email janetwal@bigpond.net.au

Rev. Janet recommends those attending come prepared to work on various cleaning and sorting jobs. Tools needed include gardening gear, cleaning equipment for washing and scrubbing and trailers to take away rubbish.

### Ena's love & ministry

ENA Sheumack, who passed away in 1994, is remembered by many as 'We took sweet counsel together and walked in the house of God as friends' (Psalm 55:14). Ena passed away as the result of a car accident not long after her and Bishop Colin retired after serving six and a half years in Gippsland and a total 40 years in ministry. Ena is remembered for her incredibly generous hospitality at Bishops Court, whether it was tea and cake with friends, a bed and meal for a local student nurse, a welcome for a visiting nun or one of the lunches or dinners Ena regularly catered for. This hospitality never varied, even when the Bishop would unexpectedly bring home two or 20 for lunch. All were welcomed in the same unfussy way.

In her last week in Gippsland Diocese, among the many final gatherings, Ena noted in a letter to a friend one which stood out. About 200 women gathered for the Eucharist at the Cathedral before taking her for lunch at a local motel.

At the time of her memorial service, Archdeacon Ted Gibson noted Ena was a woman of great character and strength and her life was characterised by kindness and many gifts of quiet ministry. He reflected that Ena's death was "the heart of the family had been

taken". Ena was the same with everyone she met, whether stranger or friend, old or young, rich or poor. She saw the Church as a society of friends.

Archdeacon Ted noted at the time that Ena's kindly and wholesome qualities would be with us to the end of our road. So it is with the memorial appeal; Ena's caring for other people, her warmth, her work in ministry and missions and her welcoming hospitality will continue to be remembered at A'Beckett Park.

Jane Macqueen recently reported the Ena Sheumack Appeal resulted in an outpouring of love and funds to approximately \$40 000 at the time of Ena's death. It was decided the money should be used in some manner for the refurbishment of A'Beckett Park to reflect Ena's love for the youth of the Diocese and of A'Beckett Park.

In the subsequent years the diocese has been in a period of uncertainty about the future of A'Beckett Park and so the money has remained, gaining interest and set aside to honor Ena. Recently, the Registrar confirmed this fund had grown considerably in the past 14 years.

The development plans for A'Beckett Park as a Centre for Spirituality and the Environment were tabled at Synod in Sale in May. The plans detail the development of buildings and spaces to house a residential Christian community living and working at the centre.

The Friends of A'Beckett Park has been reconvened and is coordinated by Rev. Janet Wallis. The Diocese has also established a fund, A'Beckett Park New Building Fund, to receive donations to support the new developments. Contact the Diocesan Registry in Sale for further details, telephone 03 5144 2044.

ABOVE right: Bishop Colin and Ena Sheumack during his time as Bishop of Gippsland.

Information supplied by Annabel Gibson, Ted Gibson, Jane Macqueen, Edie Ashley and past copies of *The Gippsland Anglican*.



### Bishop's Winter Appeal launched

THE 2009 Bishop of Gippsland's Winter Appeal in support of vulnerable families within the region was launched at Leongatha in May. The launch was held at the official opening of Anglicare Victoria's new Leongatha office.

At the launch were Bishop John McIntyre, Dr Ray Cleary AM, of Anglicare Victoria, and Cr James Fawcett, Mayor of South Gippsland.

Anglicare Victoria's new Leongatha office will enhance the agencies capacity to respond to the needs of vulnerable individuals and families in the Gippsland region. Services available will include foster care, disability support, family support and counselling, financial counselling, victims assistance services and youth justice group conferencing.

"Anglicare Victoria has seen an increase in the demand for services from families within the region. With the global financial crisis, the recent bushfires and the ongoing drought driving more people to our doors, our available resources are being stretched further all the time," said Anglicare Victoria CEO, Dr Ray Cleary.

"Anglicare Victoria has established itself as a vital member of the Gippsland community and our move to new offices will provide us with the facilities to grow further as demand for our services continues to increase."

"We have enjoyed strong local support for our work and we hope to continue to mobilise community good will for the benefit of those in need this winter."

The Bishop's Winter Appeal will be used to support the programs and services of Anglicare Victoria in Gippsland. *See insert inside TGA.*