

The Gippsland Anglican

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Croajingolong welcomes Jude Benton

Jan Down

The Rev'd Jude Benton was inducted as Priest in Charge of the parish of Croajingolong, at St Peter's Mallacoota, on Thursday 14 June.

Jude comes to the parish after serving as locum at Tambo for the previous five months. Her husband Andy now works in Mallacoota as a Fisheries Officer.

The Rev'd Heather Cahill has been locum priest in Mallacoota for the past year, and her ministry has been greatly appreciated.

People travelled considerable distances to attend the induction. There were representatives from Tambo; from Jude's previous parish of Tatura in northern Victoria; and East Gippsland clergy, including Archdeacon Edie Ashley and Dean Susanna Pain from St Paul's Cathedral, Sale. The Rev'd Caro Field and Debbie Bye represented the Uniting Church Gippsland Presbytery.

Archdeacon Philip Muston

preached on the readings from Matt 5: 20 – 6: 20-35 and 1 Kings 18:41-6, with a focus on the way God stretches his people, and how this leads to growth.

Applying this to the parish, Archdeacon Philip said "You've been praying for God's choice of a new minister, and although you knew God would be faithful in answering your prayers, He's kept you at it for a while. And now, here she is! Love her, as she loves you.

"I know Jude comes with excitement and a sense of adventure because this is not just an ordinary, traditional rural parish, but an unconventional and different community in all sorts of ways. One where there is the possibility of developing new ways of ministry that might shine a light forward for the whole Diocese as we struggle to discover God's model for church in the 21st century.

"It'll be very different from the 20th century – and here in Mallacoota and Cann River you have the freedom to experiment and try new things."



A joyful welcome for the Rev'd Jude Benton and her husband Andy

From New Zealand to Gippsland

Jude is naturally aware of the challenge due to the remoteness of the parish in terms of meeting with colleagues – the nearest being Bairnsdale, which is three hours' drive away. She said she would be "intentionally prioritizing" any opportunities to meet with colleagues.

Having grown up in Marlborough, New Zealand, where sailing, mountains, sea and forest were part of her life, Jude is pleased to be back on the coast and near the bush.

Speaking to *TGA* before the induction, Jude said that as a priest, what she appreciates is being able to "engage in people's lives in a way few other people can" – especially in times of celebration or sadness. And she enjoys finding "creative ways to engage with scripture, so that people can start to think about it in a new way".

She looks forward to getting to know the people and the area, and to discovering "how God leads us to serve these communities, building on the work that Heather has done as a locum".

Jude grew up in a Baptist church, where her parents were very involved in the worship team. She said "they have always been a great example of people whose faith is alive and active", and when she was a teenager they encouraged her to find her own church. She then attended an Anglican church, began teaching Sunday school and running the youth group while she was still at high school herself, and preached her first sermon there at age 17. She then started Bible College studies by correspondence, with the expectation of becoming a youth pastor or missionary.

Then during a gap year after school, at a youth conference in Northern Ireland, Jude

explains, "I heard God very clearly telling me when I went home to "Go to Auckland and go to Bible College".

After graduating in 2005 she found a position as Associate Pastor at an Anglican Church in suburban Auckland "which opened the door to Anglican ordination".

Jude was ordained deacon in 2009, and priested in 2010, then serving a two year curacy at the Nelson Cathedral. This was where she met and married Andy. Jude then worked for the Nelson Diocese as their "Children and Families Ministry Enabler".

In 2014 Jude and Andy were both offered work in Tatura, near Shepparton. For the following 3½ years she was Priest in Charge of the Tatura Parish, and also became the community aged care chaplain for the local rest-home and hospital. From there the couple moved to the Gippsland parish of Tambo.



The Rev'd Jude Benton and her husband Andy

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Embracing change

Sometimes it seems every week these days is claimed as being owned by some good cause or other. And many Sundays get claimed as special Sundays: not for any liturgical reason, but just as promotional platforms.

One worthy organization this year made the unfortunate choice of trying to make Pentecost Sunday their special Sunday – not one that was likely to get a lot of take-up!

But there are a couple of good “days” around at this time of year.

I'm looking forward (with Cathrine) to joining the Rev'd Phyllis Andy and other members of the indigenous community at the NAIDOC week service at Lake Tyers Trust on the afternoon of July 8.

Each year, along with Reconciliation week in June, NAIDOC week is an opportunity to learn about and reflect upon the essence

of our nation and what we owe to the original custodians of Australia.

Then there is UN World Environment Day, which this year is encouraging us to embrace change in our use of plastic as a convenience, whether for shopping or eating and drinking.

Up to 5 trillion plastic bags are used each year, many of them with other plastic items ending up in the ocean, resulting in the death of 100,000 marine creatures each year. 10 per cent of all human-generated waste is plastic, which takes a century to degrade.

What have these shocking statistics got to do with Anglican faith? When God brought about creation, and developed human beings to be stewards of this wonderful

planet, He said: “This world is good. You're in charge: look after it!” We have a duty to God to obey that charge. Plastic was a marvellous invention, but we've let it

get way out of control and now we have to prevent it from taking over and destroying God's creation.

Well, it's only a little over a month now until we welcome our new Bishop, Richard Treloar, to our Diocese at his installation at St Paul's Cathedral, Sale, on 18 August at 11:00 am. Richard will have been consecrated (made Bishop) at St Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne, on 21 July at 10:30 am.

All Gippsland people are very welcome to be present at each service, and we hope most of our people will be able to be present at one or other of these joyful occasions.

In the meantime, let's be praying for Bishop-elect Richard, his wife Leanne, and children Rachel and Nicholas. All are looking forward to the adventure of coming to Sale,

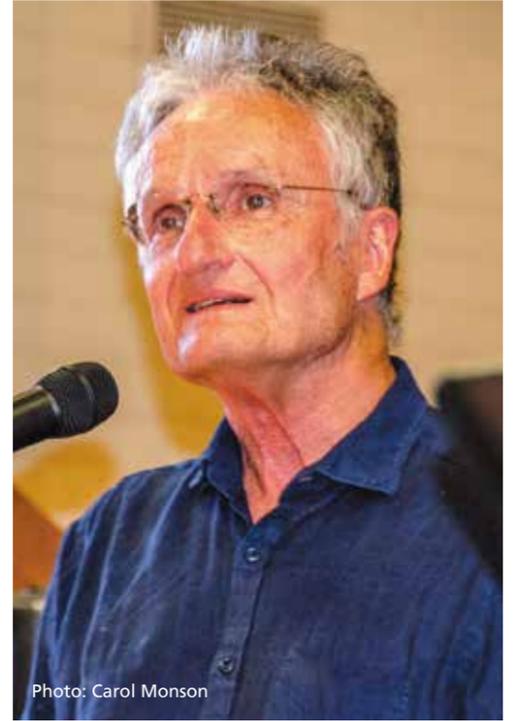


Photo: Carol Monson

Archdeacon Phillip Muston

but I'm aware of the challenge it will be for each of them in different ways.

The last six months have been a reminder to me of what a demanding role the Bishop's is. In times of change and upheaval like ours, church leadership at diocesan level is highly pressured, and can be punishing in its demands on a person's (and by extension their family's) physical and emotional resources.

Philip Muston

“...He said: ‘This world is good. You're in charge: look after it!’ We have a duty to God to obey that charge...”

Parish to Parish: praying for each other

“...That we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith...” (ROMANS 1:12)

This diocesan prayer diary features three parishes each month, appearing in alphabetical order. Diocesan organizations are also included. Each parish sends in its own profile and prayer needs.

MORWELL WESTERN REGION

St Mary, Morwell
Rector: The Rev'd David Head

St Mary's Morwell continues to be a happy, inclusive, busy parish that seeks to meet the needs of both our membership and of our Morwell Community. We have two Sunday services, a mid-week service, and a strong caring ministry to the local nursing homes, assisted by lay people.

Prayer points:

1. Pray for ongoing wisdom, vision and grace to meet the changing demands of Morwell as it transitions into new directions.

2. Pray for our “Fossick and Find” opportunity shop and its wonderful band of volunteers as it serves our community and supports the parish.

3. Pray for our parish leadership and their spiritual nurture and wisdom, and for our range of social and occasional study activities.

NAR NAR GOON AND CARDINIA LAKES (EPISCOPAL DISTRICT) WESTERN REGION

St John's, Nar Nar Goon & Cornerstone, Cardinia Lakes
Rector: The Rev'd Chris McAleer

The railway town of Nar Nar Goon (population about 1000) is 3 km east of Greater Melbourne's urban growth boundary. St John's (built 1894) has a child-friendly family service at 10:00 am on Sundays. Cornerstone Anglican Church meets in the rectory at

Cardinia Lakes, a new estate in Pakenham East, for Bible Study and Prayer at 7:30pm on Thursdays. The opportunity shop, which has been a connecting point with the community, is a stone's throw down Main Street.

Prayer points: for more young families to discover our Family Service and Sunday School at St John's; continued growth of the Men's Breakfast every 4th Saturday; continued involvement with community groups in Cardinia Lakes & Nar Nar Goon; an early start and completion of the new Parish Centre/Opportunity Shop; and boldness to joyfully keep sharing the good news as we grow together in faith.

NEERIM SOUTH WESTERN DISTRICT

Cooperating churches of:
St John, Neerim South
St James, Buln Buln
St Andrew, Noojee
Rector: The Rev'd Dr John Batt

Give thanks for:

1. The opening of the new Opportunity Shop and Ministry Complex in December last year.
2. The higher than projected op shop revenue and the positive impact that this has had on parish finances.
3. The Ministry Complex which is being used regularly by the parish youth group as well as for other community groups such as a pre-school music and movement group, the CWA and other local organizations.
4. The continuing strong connection of the parish with many different aspects of local community life.
5. Op shop volunteers who have stayed for the long haul and the good number of new volunteers who have offered to assist since the opening of the new op shop building.

Please pray for our young people and the youth leadership team, especially the team leader, John, and his family.

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Please contact the editor for all advertising submissions, costing and enquiries, including about inserts in the newspaper. A full advertising schedule can be sent out upon request.

It is now one year since the First Nations representatives who gathered at Uluru released their *Statement from the Heart*, which was supported by the Anglican Church, the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council, the National Aboriginal Bishop, Chris McLeod, other Christian denominations, and a group of eminent Australians, among others.

But the call for a First Nations Voice was rejected by the Prime Minister, Malcolm Turnbull. As we look back at Reconciliation Week and forward to NAIDOC Week, the Statement is reprinted here for reflection and prayer.

Uluru Statement from the Heart

We gathered at the 2017 National Constitutional Convention, coming from all points of the southern sky, make this statement from the heart:

Our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tribes were the first sovereign Nations of the Australian continent and its adjacent islands, and possessed it under our own laws and customs. This our

“mother nature”, and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who were born there from, remain attached thereto, and must one day return thither to be united with our ancestors. This link is the basis of the ownership of the soil, or better, of sovereignty. It has never been ceded or extinguished, and co-exists with the sovereignty of the Crown.



We seek constitutional reforms to empower our people and take a *rightful place* in our own country. When we have power over our destiny, our children will flourish. They will walk in two worlds and their culture will be a gift to their country.

We call for the establishment of a First Nations Voice enshrined in the Constitution.

Makarrata is the culmination of our agenda: the *coming together after a struggle*. It captures our aspirations for a fair and truthful relationship with the people of Australia and a better future for our children based on justice and self-determination.

We seek a Makarrata Commission to supervise a process of agreement-making between governments and First Nations and

truth-telling about our history.

In 1967 we were counted, in 2017 we seek to be heard. We leave base camp and start our

trek across this vast country.

We invite you to walk with us in a movement of the Australian people for a better future.



Archdeacon Philip Muston, Cathrine Muston, and VCE student Roshana at the Drouin Reconciliation and Healing Service (see page 5)

ancestors did, according to the reckoning of our culture, from the Creation, according to the common law from “time immemorial”, and according to science more than 60,000 years ago.

This sovereignty is a *spiritual notion: the ancestral tie between the land, or*

How could it be otherwise? That peoples possessed a land for sixty millennia and this sacred link disappears from world history in merely the last two hundred years?

With substantive constitutional change and structural reform, we believe this ancient sovereignty can shine through as a fuller expression of Australia’s nationhood.

Proportionally, we are the most incarcerated people on the planet. We are not an innately criminal people. Our children are alienated from their families at unprecedented rates. This cannot be because we have no love for them. And our youth languish in detention in obscene numbers. They should be our hope for the future.

These dimensions of our crisis tell plainly the structural nature of our problem. This is the *torment of our powerlessness*.



Auntie Kathy Dalton, Aboriginal Priest for the Latrobe Valley, gave the Welcome to Country at the opening of the Anglicare Children’s Art Competition for Reconciliation Week (see page 9)



Lighting of the Paschal candle near the Aboriginal cross and framed Apology to the Stolen Generations at Paynesville (see page 5)

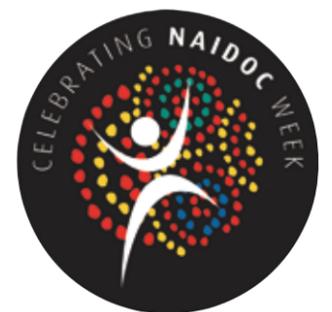
NAIDOC Service invitation – 8 July



The Rev'd Phyllis Andy and the Lake Tyers Community invites everyone to mark the commencement of NAIDOC week with celebration and prayer.

The NAIDOC SERVICE will be held at 2:30 pm on Sunday, 8 July at St John’s Church, Lake Tyers Aboriginal Trust. All welcome!

Directions: Follow the Princes Highway through Lakes Entrance. Turn right at Rules Road and follow along to the Lake Tyers Aboriginal Community where you will see the spire of the St John’s church.



BECAUSE OF HER, We Can!

8-15 JULY 2018

2018 National NAIDOC logo

For more information: Phyllis Andy 0420 377 539 or Edie Ashley 0423 400 359.

GIPPSLAND DIOCESE VACANT PARISHES:

EASTERN REGION

- Heyfield
- Orbost
- Tambo

SOUTHERN REGION

- Yarram

WESTERN REGION

- Churchill / Boolarra / Yinnar (Church of Christ appointment)
- Warragul



June Treadwell

100 Years of Change

1650–1750

June Treadwell will be the presenter on one hundred years of change in music, art, religion and journalism, at The Abbey, Raymond Island, July 13 to 14, starting at 5:00 pm on the Friday evening and ending 4:00 pm on Saturday.

Participants will learn about musicians Barbara Strozzi, GF Handel, Francesca Caccini and the music making nuns. They will spend time with Johannes Vermeer in Delft and follow the accounts of diarists Pepys, Evelyn, and Dr Nathaniel Hawthorne as they describe the Plague and the Great Fire of London,

finally joining with George Fox and William Penn at the Quaker Meeting House in Jordans, Bucks.

Cost per person: residential, including dinner Fri, breakfast and lunch Saturday, twin/share accommodation: \$135. Single accommodation: additional \$35. Non residential, including dinner Fri, breakfast and lunch Saturday: \$85.

For all bookings and further information please contact The Abbey on (03) 5156 6580 or email info@theabbey.org.au. Facebook: TheAbbeyConference and Accommodation Centre.

Op shop on the move

Martin Shaw
Korumburra / Poowong

“Onwards and Upwards”, our op shop has moved. Not very far geographically, about fifty metres, but we have more space to allow better accessibility for all, as well as being able to enhance the displays of items for sale, and improved parking.

On the day of the move we turned up and got stuck in.

We had plans, knew exactly where things would go – it would take place like clockwork. Not quite how it happened; it was bedlam! We couldn’t believe how much there was to move and we all had our own ideas on the best place to put things.

Teamwork prevailed however, and by Saturday afternoon, not only had all of the stock been shifted to its new address, the old shop that had served us well was

looking good. Sunday arrived and by magic the wand had been waved. Dedicated souls had worked hard putting the new shop into good order, ready for opening on Monday morning. It was a great effort by all and in some strange way, we had Fun!

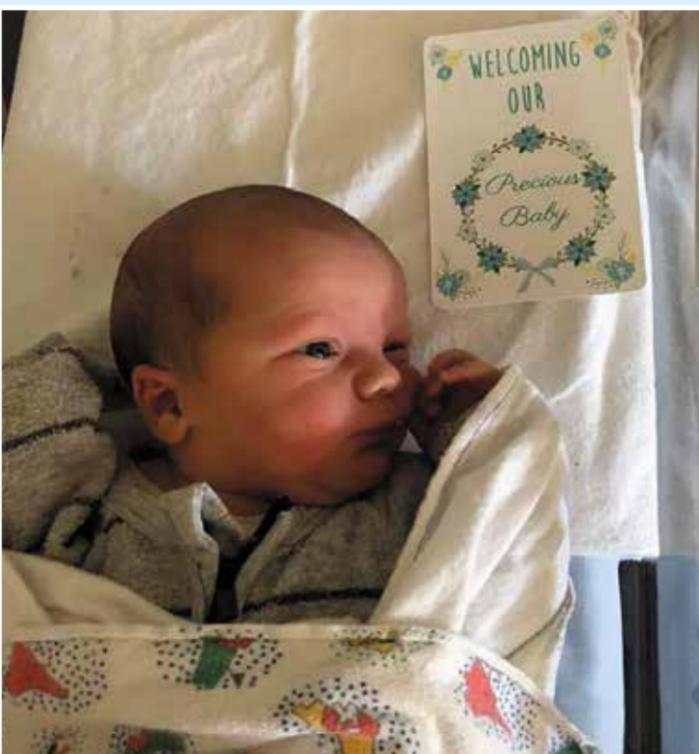
This new improved op shop will, importantly, better serve our community. It is more spacious, and seating is available for those simply wanting to take a load off and have a chat. There is always someone ready with a coffee or tea.

Our Rector Fran reminded us, when blessing the shop after Sunday’s service, of all the benefits the shop brings not only to our parish but to the community. Fundraising for both the parish and for mission are key elements, but equally so is hospitality and the opportunity for social inclusion. This in itself is a ministry, bringing friendship, faith-sharing and much more, and this process of revitalization is a real opportunity to grow our church within the community.



Celebrating the move with the community

New baby Perryman!



Avon

The Rev’d David and Emma Perryman have welcomed a third son to their family: Jacob Raymond Perryman was born on Thursday 24 May – a brother for Timothy and Elijah. Mum, Dad and baby are all doing well.

Bairnsdale thanks retired ministers

Ursula Plunkett

St John’s parishioners, together with the churchwardens, said a big thank you to our three “retired” ministers, The Rev’d Canon Gordon Cooper, Archdeacon Ted Gibson and the Rev’d Robert Johnston.

Unfortunately, Robert had to spend time in Melbourne and at home recovering from an emergency heart operation with complications. We continue to pray for a complete recovery.

At a special breakfast on 20 May the ministers were presented with gifts by our churchwardens. Their wives received flowers (isn’t there always a good woman behind a man?)

Archdeacon Ted and Canon Gordon worked diligently to keep everything on track in this large parish: services on Sundays

and Wednesdays, visits and services at four Nursing Homes, and funerals. There were also services at Bruthen and Buchan.

Canon Gordon continues with the Chaplaincy at the hospital.

Our Rector, the Rev’d Brenda Burney added her thanks and said that the task of finding her feet in her new parish had been made much easier with the help of the ministers.



L–R: The Rev’d Canon Gordon Cooper, Archdeacon Ted Gibson, the Rev’d Robert Johnston

Prayers for Reconciliation

**Edie Ashley
Paynesville**

We, at St Peter's by the Lake, are keen to take our place each year with the many people and communities of faith throughout Australia who pray and work for reconciliation between Australia's first peoples and later arrivals.

This year we set aside time for prayer and reflection at our regular services.

Our midweek Eucharist is a smaller occasion. It is usually a time when the lectionary reading is discussed among those present and different points of view explored. Prayer is personal, immediate and informal. In this context we reflected together and made our prayers for reconciliation at the Wednesday mid-week Eucharist.

The Sunday Eucharist at St Peter's embraces a more formal liturgy. On Sunday 3 June the liturgy was specifically prepared to celebrate Reconciliation Week: to tell the history, to say our prayers, and to hold the longing for reconciliation in faith and trust.

At the church of St Peter by the Lake there

is a small token that acknowledges Australia's first peoples and reflects our longing for reconciliation. One of the stained glass 'Peter Windows' bears the inscription "To the glory of God. In acknowledgement of the original custodians of the land". Adjacent to that window the Apology to the Stolen Generations, passed by General Synod in 1998, hangs framed and displayed as "our apology". Additionally a beautiful small Aboriginal Cross, designed and painted by Aboriginal Elder, the Rev'd Robyn Davis, is affixed to the wall nearby. This cross makes its own statement.

On Sunday 3 June – as part of the celebration for Reconciliation Week, the Paschal candle was placed next to the window, cross and framed apology. The sermon spoke to some of the issues of reconciliation, the prayer was read, and parishioners were then invited to come and stand around as the Paschal candle was lit.

Most of the congregation responded to the invitation to participate in the prayer.

The lighting of the Paschal candle was a prayer deeper than words. In the hushed silence of the flickering light of the candle, in the presence of God, the people prayed for reconciliation.

We now look forward to the celebration of Aboriginal culture and the gifts they bring as we celebrate NAIDOC day on 8 July 2018.

*Archdeacon
Edie Ashley is
Archdeacon of the
Eastern Region,
Abbey Priest
and Priest at
Paynesville.*

*More information:
naidoc.org.au*



Aboriginal cross, framed Apology, Paschal candle and window acknowledging the original custodians of the land



The Reconciliation Dinner at Christ Church, Drouin

Large crowd at Reconciliation Eucharist and Dinner

**Dean Spalding
Drouin**

This year, Trinity Sunday, 27 May was also the first day of National Reconciliation Week. In collaboration with Kurnai Nations and the Baw Baw Shire Council, Christ Church Drouin had invited elders and other members of the Kurnai community and other Aboriginal tribes to join with church folk and other visitors to a special Eucharistic service – a service of "Reconciliation and Journey of Healing". This service built upon the successful service that we inaugurated last year at Christ Church Drouin.

The service also drew upon this year's Reconciliation Week theme "Don't keep history a mystery", and this year's NAIDOC theme "Because of her we can".

Scripture readings were chosen which celebrated indigenous women who brought about positive outcomes for their families – including Rahab (Joshua 2:2-5, 12-14), who was an indigenous woman of ancient Palestine and, according to St Matthew on the first page of the New Testament, one of Jesus' ancestors; and the Canaanite Woman (Matthew 15:21-28),

who is presented in Matthew's Gospel as the catalyst for the expansion of the Gospel from a sectarian concern (Matthew 15:24) to a universal offer characterised by impartiality (Matthew 28:19). We also read other NT readings that demonstrated the impartiality of the gospel: Luke 4:24-26, Acts 10:34-35.

The homily in the service paid tribute to great local Aboriginal women elders of the past including: Kitty Johnson (Perry), Regina (or Gina) Rose, Irma Pepper, Euphemia Mullet, and Joyce Dow. These women exemplified Aboriginal people who were great proponents both of Aboriginal cultural preservation and the pursuit of formal education. They often worked in times of great challenge and complexity, demonstrating cultural and political awareness in the way they found pragmatic strategies to afford their children and grandchildren protection (including protection from being stolen) and a future that preserved culture and allowed for success in contemporary Australia.

The reconciliation service

was followed by a dinner for everyone in the parish hall, catered for by the Baw Baw Shire Council. Just as the time for dinner approached, more guests arrived – it began to feel quite biblical, as the throng expanded, the food stretched and there was more left over! We had about 80 folk attend the service and just over a hundred for the sit-down dinner which followed.

Local Kurnai elder, Cheryl Drayton, fielded an open Q & A, with help from her sisters, Linda and Pauline. The responses from the various Aboriginal elders were wise, balanced and diplomatic – a real exercise in generous and reconciliatory dialogue. Cheryl challenged Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal folk alike to read historic accounts of what had transpired locally – not as an exercise of apportioning blame, but to foster greater understanding. Suggested local reading for those living on Kurnai land might include *Jackson's Track* (1999) and *Jackson's Track Revisited* (2006).

*The Rev'd Dr Dean Spalding
is Rector at Drouin.*

You are warmly invited to the
**Installation of
Bishop Richard Treloar**

as 13th Bishop of Gippsland

11:00 am Saturday 18 August

St Paul's Cathedral, Cunninghame Street, Sale

Watch for further details:

gippsanglican.org.au

or  Anglican Diocese of Gippsland





The Wild Goose sculpture, created by Alex Griffiths, hangs on the side of the organ

Wild Goose sculpture dedicated at Pentecost – Sale

create the sculpture, with costs covered by the Friends of the Cathedral.

Chef Canon Jeff Richardson and helpers from St James Traralgon cooked a scrumptious roast meal, followed by delicious sweets for around 55 people.

The lunch was held in the cathedral, with pews moved to the back and the sun shining through the windows, while Anthony Hahn played the organ for background music. The tables had Pentecost flame serviettes, small red candles and red autumn leaves. Many came wearing flame colours.



Pentecost lunch at St Paul's Cathedral, Sale

St Paul's celebrated Pentecost with lunch, a flying goose (but not a cooked one!) and the first birthday of Messy Church.

At the Pentecost service on 20 May, Alex Griffiths' sculpture, the "Wild Goose", was dedicated. Bishop John McIntyre introduced the "untamed and uncontrollable" wild goose as a Celtic symbol of the Holy Spirit in his memorable 2006 Synod sermon. Cathedral Chapter decided it would be good to have something more permanent and inspiring in the cathedral than the wild goose poster that has hung there since that time. Alex was then commissioned to

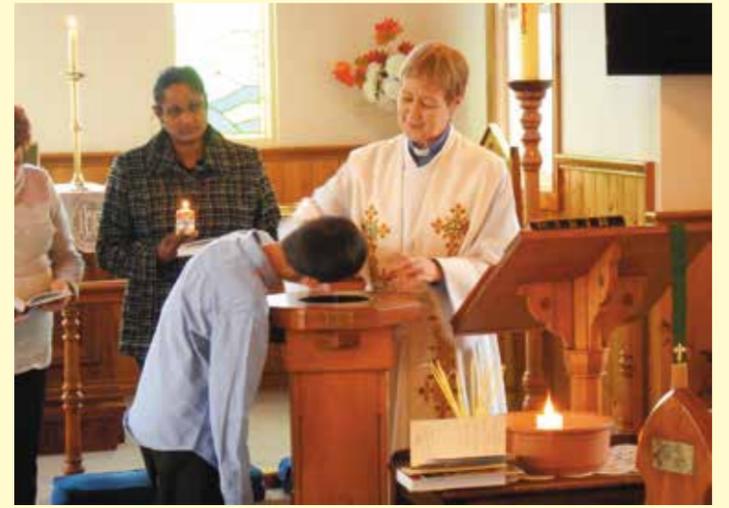
Special baptisms

Sue Jacka, Rector
Trafalgar

We have had a couple of encouraging baptisms lately at St Mark's Yarragon. Each person has decided to follow Jesus.

Kaelan Ablett loves coming to church with his grandmother Sue Newcombe, even planning to stay at Gran's so he can make the 8:30am service – and breakfast afterwards! He was baptised on 22 April.

Sandy and Jordan Edwards came in contact when Kevin, husband and father had terminal cancer. The parish was able to offer support in various ways and there were plenty of discussions about life, God and meaning. Kevin sadly passed away 18 months ago and Sandy and Jordan have been regulars at JAFFAs, our children's church on Tuesdays afterschool. They were baptised on Sunday 10 June.



Baptism of Jordan Edwards

Diocesan Retreat – come, be renewed

The 2018 Diocesan Retreat, open to both laity and clergy, will be held in September at The Abbey on Raymond Island and Anglicans across the Diocese are encouraged to participate in this opportunity for spiritual renewal.

The Retreat will be conducted by the Right Reverend Garry Weatherill, Bishop of Ballarat and will commence on Friday 7 September at 5:00 pm and conclude at 3:30 pm on Saturday afternoon.

The cost of the Retreat

has been contained with a fee of \$135 including shared accommodation and all meals from dinner Friday through to the Retreat conclusion. A single accommodation supplement is also available.

Whether a regular retreat attender or someone considering coming for the first time, all are welcome as we take time together for a period of reflection and prayer.

For further information and bookings please contact Anna at The Abbey, 5156 6580 or info@theabbey.org.au.



Find space for growth – on retreat at The Abbey

Volunteer Sunday

Carolyn Raymond
Morwell

Oh our volunteers, what would our community do without them?

As our Rector, the Rev'd David Head describes them, "They are the glue in the community"; they bring us together, they help where help is needed and reach out to support others. They share God's love with others who are in need, whatever that need may be.

At the end of Volunteers Week we held a service at St Mary's Morwell to acknowledge the work of all who volunteer in our congregation and in our community. Without volunteers our services would be worship imposed from the top, not a group of the faithful worshipping together with joy and praise.

We know that at St Mary's and in so many other parishes we rely heavily on the work of volunteers in our op shops. So many of our congregation and also people from the community and other

churches volunteer at Fossick and Find, St Mary's op shop. Their commitment to raising money for our church and reaching out to those in need of cheaper, good quality goods is really appreciated. Their support for people in need in the community is incalculable.

At St Mary's as in all our parishes, we rely heavily on the generosity of all who volunteer in our churches. We acknowledged the time, dedication and love they bring to their work.

During the service Rev David asked all who volunteer to stand up. He listed many of the organizations where people volunteer: Anglicare, Meals on Wheels, Lifeline,

Schools, Kindergartens, Red Cross, teaching English to Migrants, sports clubs and so many other community organizations. Nearly everyone in the congregation stood up.

Rev David gave thanks for our work and prayed for and with us, celebrating the work we all do to share God's love around.

After the service we all enjoyed a celebratory morning tea together.



Two volunteers at morning tea: Anita Coulter and Dot Darby



Inspecting the old Lang Lang Church

Lang Lang restoration – not just about the building

**Colin Oakley
Westernport**

Many of the people in Lang Lang have a heart for the old run down Anglican church in Whitstable Street.

The old church has its place in Lang Lang history as the oldest

church in the town. Once the new church was built, the old church continued its work, still being used for Sunday school classes and a gathering place for parents who had children in the kindergarten across the road. The Guild used it for meetings. It had been the centre for the

spirituality of our fore-parents.

But as with a lot of old buildings, it got to a point where its condition had deteriorated, and it had to be sealed up. This was a shame as it had had many years of faithful worship.

It also has a reputation with the youth in the area as being

haunted. (I've been in there at all hours and Casper has yet to show his face).

But the Lord is good, and its time has come around again.

With the introduction and partnering of a charity, (the ARK of Veterans, with the RSL), it will be restored and back in business serving the faith community. It will be a slow journey. The aim is to assist Post Traumatic Stress Disorder affected returned veterans to retrain (through TAFE) working on the building as they also work through issues under the guidance of those who care for them.

The building offers an opportunity to gain skills whilst studying and building their confidence and well-being. They become a part of a community which they have served and which now hopes to serve them. (The ARK of Veterans also offers car restoration and other areas in their retraining scheme. Building work is just one of their arms.)

We've heard a lot in the media about the need to help

those at risk in the services. It's a responsibility of our country to assist those who get harmed in the protection of its boundaries and overseas duties. This also includes our internal forces such as the emergency services who also can suffer PTSD.

This year will see the start of the old church restoration.

At our ANZAC service in Lang Lang, the man heading up the ARK of Veterans, Shaun Matheson, spoke passionately about the history of those serving in the country, particularly in Lang Lang.

He is the co-ordinator for this project, and a veteran himself.

We aim to see this lovely building back at work for its intended function and serving the community. Our first step is to restore the old, then hopefully connect the two together so that the old church is again part of the worship space. We'll keep you up to date with its restoration.

The Rev'd Colin Oakley is Priest-in-Charge, Westernport.

"World Challenge" for conservation



St Paul's Year 11 student Phoebe Weichelt with primary school children at the village of Sigapiton on Lake Toba, Java

Croajingalong farewells Heather Cahill

Liz McKay

When Heather Cahill's departure as a locum was announced in church, there was hardly a dry eye. Heather had won the hearts of practically all of Mallacoota. She was a member of the Senior

Citizens, the walking group, and a volunteer in the op shop as well as participating in many other activities.

She and her husband John were loved by all and we wish them well. Her last service on Sunday 10 June was followed by a luncheon at the hotel. This

was attended by many of the St Peter's Mallacoota congregation, a couple of the Cann River people, the Catholic community and Senior Citizens.

We will all be sorry to see Heather and John leave us; however, we welcome the Reverend Jude Benton as Priest-in-Charge.



The Rev'd Heather Cahill, her husband John, and the congregation of St Peter's Mallacoota

A group of 10 students from St Paul's Anglican Grammar School recently completed a 19 day World Challenge expedition to Java and Sumatra in South East Asia to undertake conservation work.

During their journey the students assisted with combatting deforestation by planting trees and working to build a toilet block for a primary school.

They also educated children about the environment in "Green Class" a weekly class for 70-100 children set up by locals to educate and inspire the younger generation to protect the environment in Bukit Lawang, North Sumatra.

Year 11 student Jenna Wright said, "We are so lucky to have had the opportunity to be immersed in the culture of such a beautiful country. We learnt so much about Indonesia and ourselves. Not only did we create lifetime friendships with our peers, we made great connections with the locals who helped us break through the language barrier and become connoisseurs of nasi goreng and 'nanas'".

The World Challenge experience has developed real-world leadership and communication skills that these St Paul's students will use in every aspect of adulthood including the workforce and further study.

Kids' opinions and choices valued

**Lyndon Phillips
Rosedale**

JAFFA at Rosedale continues as an exciting time in parish life. Primary school age youngsters gather to enjoy fellowship, sharing, craft and outdoor play under supervision.

JAFFA stands for Jesus a Friend For All. JAFFA or something similar has been part of our ministry at Rosedale for a number of years, with a couple of our current helpers being amongst the early JAFFA youngsters. The aim of the program is to share Jesus

with young people as being a regular part of life, involved with and in all that we do.

Bible stories and songs are generally part of our afternoon program. At the start of each year the youngsters set the guidelines of behaviour through discussion and then self

check. Often our craft or activities are decided through discussion with the young people, which empowers them to see that their opinions and choices are valued, as they are valued.

Currently the favourite outdoor activity is attempting to throw or kick a basket ball over the huge branches of the gum tree outside the parish centre; it's amazing how high some youngsters are able to throw the ball. Indoor

activities this year have included Sing Star Contests, slime making, hairy heads constructions, cooking, crafts and billiards.

This term our discussions have been based around our individual understandings of gratitude and appreciation, with the youngsters and helpers sharing their thoughts for the current week.

*The Rev'd Lyndon Phillips
is Priest-in-Charge,
Rosedale.*

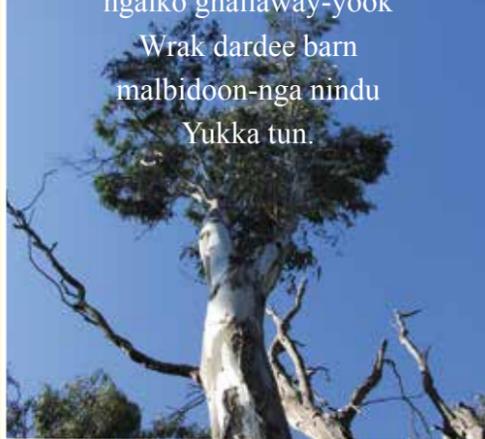
Works of Pat Waters showing in Bunyip

Running at the Gippsland Gallery in Sale until July 15 is a retrospective exhibition of the work of Briagalong artist, Pat Waters, whom the gallery's director describes as "the matriarch of Gippsland artists". A small selection of Pat's work will also show at Bunyip in St Thomas' hall during July and is available for viewing on Sundays and Wednesdays.

The Lord's Prayer

Gunai Kurnai language

Mungan booloot nindethana
yenna munder ngetal ngingal
back na innga wrak dardee ngingal
wrak work work booloot ngingal
wurrin kan watha dangan nindedana
ngeelaloong denbon werna
Wannik ngalko millaway, wannik
ngalko gnallaway-yook
Wrak dardee barn
malbidoon-nga nindu
Yukka tun.



Translation by Dr Doris Paton, reprinted with permission
Photo by Christine Morris



Making Hairy Heads at Rosedale's JAFFA club



The finished product!



A LASTING GIFT: A bequest to the Anglican Diocese of Gippsland or your parish

The Church, over the years, has been blessed with the generosity of Anglicans and others in support of its mission. One way you can support this ideal in a relatively easy way, is to make a gift through your will. In the first instance, of course, you will consider carefully the needs of your immediate family and friends before proceeding with a bequest to the church.

We offer a way of helping you to carry out your wishes. Your gift, through your bequest, will be very much appreciated. You may wish to support the Diocese of Gippsland as a whole, or your own parish, or for a particular purpose.

Making your bequest in your Will is a simple procedure, although in preparing or amending your Will you should always consult a solicitor. The Registrar of the Diocese of Gippsland has information to assist you in making a bequest, including the form of words you and your solicitor might want to use.

Telephone Brian Norris on 03 5144 2044, or go to www.gippsanglican.org.au and search 'bequests'.



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Beyond our memes

Daniel Lowe

I found myself wondering recently if cemeteries of the future would be filled with gravestones adorned not with solemn or whimsical epitaphs, but with satirical memes instead.

This strange thought was prompted by the observation that our default response to difficult or complex questions and topics is often to resort to memes. I witnessed this recently in an Ethics class when students were invited to contribute answers on a social stream to the question “What is life?”

The first response from



Daniel Lowe

many students was to post or quote a meme. Interestingly, as the discussion progressed, these meme responses became increasingly inadequate to address the complexities of the question. Now don't get me wrong, a thoughtfully constructed meme can be

a powerful communication device. I'm not anti-meme. I am even tempted to argue that Jesus created one of the first memes when he held up a Roman coin and asked “Whose face and name is this?” (Matthew 22:20). But memes seem to have become so ubiquitous (since 2008, Know Your Meme's staff has indexed some 11,228 memes!) that they actually hinder serious thought and engagement.

A quote taken from an article about political meme culture illustrates this perfectly. Susie, an 18 year old English Literature student says, “A lot of people don't have time to write a whole article or

make a whole stand-up special really getting into the grit of political conversations but most people have time to make a meme”.²

So why is the chaplain concerned about memes? Because I think we have a tendency to dismiss Christianity without thinking beyond the meme version of it. There are plenty of “Jesus memes” out there and some of them are quite funny. There are plenty of damning “church memes” out there and sadly some of them are probably deserved. But too often that is where we stop. In our aggressively secular culture it can feel like Christianity is being “memed out of existence”.

But are we willing to look beyond the memes? How many of us have actually read

the Bible ourselves? How much do we really know about Jesus? When was the last time we actually visited a church? How willing are we to discuss matters of faith and belief with a genuinely inquiring mind?

I suspect the words of G K Chesterton still hold true today. “Christianity has not been tried and found wanting; it has been found difficult and not tried.”

Perhaps that would make a good meme...

The Rev'd Daniel Lowe is Chaplain at St Paul's Anglican Grammar School.

1. “Why is millennial humour so weird?”
Elizabeth Bruenig
August 11, 2017
2. “How Meme Culture is Getting Teens into Marxism”
Hannah Ballantyne
April 28, 2017

Anglicare Fare

Reconciliation Week Children's Art Competition

Cathrine Muston (Anglicare Community Development Officer)

Young people from around the Latrobe Valley have showcased their art work as part of the Reconciliation Week Children's Art Competition. The competition, held by Anglicare Victoria and Latrobe City Library was a way for the community to become involved in acknowledging National Reconciliation Week, with the theme being “Don't Keep History a Mystery”.

Winners were announced at the launch of the display at Moe Library on Wednesday 30 May. Aunty Kathy Dalton gave a Welcome to Country and Acting Regional Director, Dennis Minster spoke about the importance of providing an opportunity for young people – both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal – to reflect on what they understand of our shared story and to consider a future where friendship can grow and develop.

Judging the artwork in each age category were Linda Petho from Anglicare Victoria and Christine Johnson, a local artist. They said decisions were difficult as there were so many good entries and they were impressed by the depth and thoughtfulness of the children's work.

Anglicare Victoria supports Reconciliation Week because it is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the relationship we



Ava Thomas – student from St Mary's Catholic Primary School Newborough. Highly Commended Year 5/6 category. Her drawing was in response to a story, The Burnt Stick, by Anthony Hill.

share with our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. By holding an art competition we are also able to encourage children to reflect on what reconciliation might mean for them and to provide an audience for their artwork. Often our

young people can lead us in reconciliation because it is their future that we are creating.

The Artwork will be displayed at Moe Library for two weeks, giving members of the public an opportunity to view the children's work.



Nicholas Cassar – student from St Mary's Catholic Primary School Newborough. First Prize in Year 5/6 Category. His drawing was “We grow as one. Growing together like a tree”.

ABC Radio National's Religion Programs

Frequencies: Bairnsdale - 106.3 FM (3ABC RN)
Melbourne - 621 AM (3RN)

Religion and Ethics Report

Andrew West Wednesday 5:30 pm
– repeated: Thursday 5:30 am and Friday 11:00 am

The Spirit of Things

Rachel Kohn Sunday 6:00 pm
– repeated: Wednesday 1:00 pm

God Forbid

James Carleton Sunday 6:00 am
– repeated Sunday 10:00 pm and Monday 2:00pm

For more details: abc.net.au

Distracted? God remains the centre

Jeff Richardson

A few months ago, I took my children out for dinner. It was a lovely occasion, filled with great conversations and laughter. I was surprised, however, that during the meal all my children, at the same time, were using their mobile phones! This then led to a conversation about how using mobile phones en-masse at dinner was a distraction to the possibility of good dinner conversations.

Is it possible to go through life without distractions? Of course not! They occur in any place and at any time and may have either a positive or negative effect on our lives.

Our spiritual lives are not immune from distractions. Most of us yearn for times of uninterrupted devotion without the irritating distractions that break the rhythm of silence and peace.

In Luke 10: 38-42 we meet two very devout believers and friends of Jesus: Mary and Martha. Martha invited Jesus to their home. Mary chose to listen to Jesus while reclining at his feet. Martha should have also reclined, but became distracted by preparing a meal for their guest. Seemingly bothered by Mary's inattention regarding the preparation of the meal, Martha in her frustration insists that Jesus intervenes. Jesus, however, pointed out that Martha is "worried and distracted by many things", indicating therefore that Mary has "chosen the better part". There's nothing to suggest at this point that Martha could have stopped her work for the time being and joined Mary at Jesus' feet.

Sometimes we are faced with similar decisions, either to be in a time of uninterrupted devotion or become distracted by an important matter of ministry or issues in life. But in both cases the underlying reality of our spirituality is that God remains the centre of our lives, whether in prayer or service.

And because of this when we find ourselves distracted by the things of life, whether in times of devotion or in service to God, we are always guided by the Holy Spirit to continue our spiritual encounter with God as if



there had been no interruption at all.

One of the good things about the dinner with my children was that after they had turned off their phones there were no further distractions. Our conversations were far more focussed and there was a real experience of giving and receiving of joy and love. Perhaps this is what we also experience when there are no distractions during our time with God!

The Rev'd Canon Jeff Richardson is Rector at Traralgon.

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EDITORIAL

"Love, not solutions"

Brooke Prentis, Waka Waka woman and Aboriginal spokesperson for Common Grace, points out on her video message for Reconciliation Week that 90% of Australians don't know an Aboriginal person. She believes that we need to rethink Reconciliation to see it as friendship. "If you don't know us, how can Reconciliation happen?" she asks.

Brooke sees the church as the perfect context for friendships "as the Bible calls us to friendships and 73% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are Christian."

She says, "I look into your eyes looking for love for my peoples, not solutions, because as Aboriginal peoples we have those. The governments and the church structures of our nation just don't want to listen".

The findings of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse are having a profound effect on the churches of most denominations – as they should. There has been a recognition that abuse suffered in childhood has a life-long impact on people.

Now church leaders of all kinds must attend safe church training. There are many changes being made to the way things are done at every level of church life. The response to the Royal Commission has been quick and comprehensive.

Why then is our nation so slow when it comes to addressing the trauma of indigenous peoples, the continuing injustices, and the need for a treaty?

There is progress in the church (witness this edition of TGA) but we still have a long way to go. Reconciliation Week started as a week of prayer. Perhaps that is what we need to return to. Perhaps what we need are individual RAPPs: Reconciliation Action and PRAYER Plans.

This first Week of Prayer for Reconciliation (27 May- 3 June 1993) was initiated to support two significant milestones in Reconciliation with Aboriginal Peoples – the anniversary of the successful 1967 referendum and the Mabo decision in 1992.

Brooke's answer to why we still need Reconciliation was "Because of the blood on the wattle. Because of the wound on our nation's soul. Because we have not dealt with our history... Our nation is divided"; the people and the land need healing, she said, and quoted 2 Chronicles 7:14:

If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

Let's pray.

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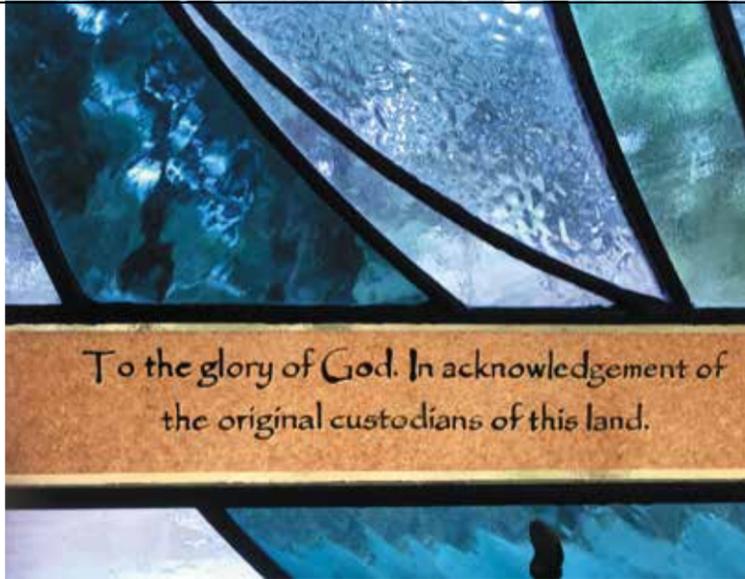
Edie Ashley

We are now living in the Season of the Church Year that is denoted as “After Pentecost”.

Our lives have been turned upside down by the in-breaking of the Holy Spirit, the “tongues of fire” that broke down the walls of division and in a most astounding way enabled people to communicate across race and culture – to hear in their own language!

This is now our every day. We are Pentecost People.

But, if we are honest, when it comes to our relationship with Australia’s First Nation’s people we – the “late arrivals people” – have found it hard-going.



Window at St Peter by the Lake, Paynesville

One key token of this can be seen in relationship to *The Australian Constitution*.

Drawn up at Federation in 1901, the *Australian Constitution* effectively excluded Aboriginal Australians from taking their place as citizens in this country.

It was not until the 1967 National Referendum that changes were made to the *Constitution*. Indigenous Australians were now counted in census and population counts; they were no longer excluded from laws made by the Commonwealth Parliament.

But there was still more required for First Nations people to be fully recognized in the *Constitution*.

Since 2007 successive governments have been talking about constitutional reform. Communities of faith have prayed. Community groups support the cause. But progress has been slow and circular.

The Referendum Council, formed in 2015, initiated a process of dialogues and consultation across the land that culminated in a National Convention at Uluru from 23-26 May 2017, attended by over 250 delegates.

They issued the *Uluru Statement from the Heart* on 26 May 2017.

As I read this statement, it seems to me that as participants came to the strong realization of who they were, “the first sovereign Nations of the Australian continent”, so their question changed.

No longer were they talking about “how should we be included in the *Constitution* as it was first created in 1901?” but rather, how can we, “people of the first sovereign Nations of Australia”, express our partnership with “people under the sovereignty of the crown” so that one gives life to the other?

I hear the invitation to reconciliation.

Let us pray for the in-breaking of the Holy Spirit, the “tongues of fire” that broke down the walls of division and in a most astounding way enabled people to communicate across race and culture – to hear in their own language!

Amen.

Archdeacon Edie Ashley is Archdeacon of the Eastern Region, Abbey Priest and Priest at Paynesville.

“Get over it”?

Jim Connelly

“Get over it!”

How often have we heard those words! Or used them ourselves.

I remember the little hurts and indignities I experienced as a child. I can’t forget them. I can’t “get over it”! Nobody can. They become part of what we are. And because of that my children – your children – are shaped by old hurts also.

Think, then, of the hurts and indignities the indigenous people around us have suffered. Is there any need to catalogue them? The loss of land? The loss of children? The enforced movement to reserves? Exclusion from the census? Exclusion from voting? The everyday snubs met with in the street?

The past shapes the present for everybody. How much more so for the Aboriginal community. It’s called intergenerational trauma.

We might provide health services; we might help with housing; we might give scholarships; we might make special employment deals.

But they will do little if the feelings of indigenous people are neglected – the feelings of intergenerational trauma.

Three things are needed:

- to support Aboriginal people to recover the pride in themselves they once had.
- to support them in re-establishing their connection to the land where that has been lost or weakened.
- to support them in integrating with the communities they are now placed in.

These things are not achieved by official actions and decrees. They are done by individual men and women and children reaching out to others in love and mutual forgiveness.

In Africa, people talk about sitting under a tree with someone of a different culture. The image brings to mind the personal, local, human meeting of people of different backgrounds, each

with their own hurts, joining in the love and forgiveness I have mentioned.

There’s a Xhosa proverb, “People are people through other people”. It follows from that that to deny the dignity or diminish the humanity of another person is to deny and diminish our own. It does not mean that we forget the past. It means that without love and forgiveness the true coming together of hearts and minds is unlikely.

These things are entirely within the sweep of the Christian gospel. The Golden Rule puts them in a nutshell.

The programs and publicity of NAIDOC Week put the urgency of reconciliation sharply before us. We should begin with ourselves and our indigenous neighbours. To paraphrase that Xhosa proverb, let us become more fully human not in isolation but in our embrace of those around us “from every nation under heaven”.

“Get over it”? Get away!

The Rev’d Canon Dr Jim Connelly is a retired priest and author living in Warragul.



Be a part of supporting the Aboriginal Ministry Fund

The AMF exists to resource employment of Aboriginal people in ministry; training of Aboriginal people for ministry; development of Aboriginal ministry in the community; the planting of Aboriginal churches; education of the Diocese about Aboriginal issues.

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Becoming a lay reader

Val Jones
Lakes Entrance

When I was a child my father loved to quote and read poetry to me – usually Tennyson – and this line from *In Memoriam* was one of his favourites:

*Strong Son of God,
immortal Love,
Whom we, that have not
seen thy face,
By faith, and faith alone,
embrace,
Believing where we
cannot prove.*

I have always held to the notion that faith and belief do not require proof – they just are. As a child I had many, many talks with my Dad about faith. I remember asking him what eternity was. His response was – “Well Val – that’s one of those things that’s just a very small step beyond our comprehension”. It seemed to me then that I was so very close to knowing – so close to proving – much closer that I am now.

Searching and questioning have become part of my DNA and I suspect they always will be. For this is my faith journey – being alive to all that is around me, all the very, very special people I come into contact with – and searching without at all needing to “know” or to “prove”.

Last year I became a Lay Reader. I guess many things influenced what, for me, was a really important part of my faith journey. Perhaps it was chats while sitting knitting with Bishop Kay in front of a warm fire. Perhaps it was the Education For Ministry course I undertook at St Nicholas at Lakes Entrance. Perhaps it was just recognizing that in the quiet centre of my thoughts there was a yearning to go deeper.

When I look around me I feel I am the least worthy to be in this role – and yet I feel called to do it. It’s such a conflicting feeling. Is this how I am supposed to feel?

I am grateful for the amazing support I received from my St Nicholas family – especially the four other Lay Readers. It was something like getting



Val Jones

pregnant for the first time – when other women want to tell you all their baby stories – it’s like joining a secret group that you never knew existed. That’s what it was like for me when I first met with my fellow Lay Readers at St Nic’s.

The next great surprise was trying on an alb in a rather quaint shop in Melbourne. I turned to look at myself in the mirror and was taken aback at how very different I felt. Was this me staring back

in the mirror? People had told me that I would feel different but this new feeling was overwhelming. I felt renewed and re-awakened somehow – stripped of artifice and able to be just me. It was a wonderful feeling.

As Lay Reader it is such a great privilege to share your thoughts and your questions with others. To take the time to study and seek a deeper meaning – to be humbled before the process; to be alive to new ideas; to be sustained by a faith that needs no proof but that fills us with joy.

“...I felt renewed and re-awakened somehow – stripped of artifice and able to be just me.”

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Diocesan calendar

July

- 7 9:30 am – 3:00 pm Lay Reader Training Day at Christ Church, Drouin
- 8 2:30 pm NAIDOC Service at St John’s Church, Lake Tyers Aboriginal Trust (*details page 3*)
- 13 5:00 pm Friday – 4:00 pm Saturday 15 July “A Hundred Years of Change – Music, Art, Religion, and Journalism 1650-1750”, with presenter June Treadwell. Contact The Abbey: 5156 0511 or info@theabbey.org.au (*details page 4*)
- 17 9:30 am An Oxford Movement celebration at Bunyip, drawing on hymns from the Anglo-Catholic revival
- 21 10:30 am Consecration of Gippsland’s bishop-elect, the Rev’d Dr Richard Treloar, at St Paul’s Cathedral, MELBOURNE
- 22 9:30 am Patronal Festival celebrating our 140th anniversary at St James’ Traralgon. Followed by a ploughman’s lunch and guest speaker

August

- 5 9:30 am Glorifying in transfiguration/grieving at Hiroshima: St Thomas’ Bunyip
- 11 12 noon Saturday: The Abbey Feast with Chef Bishop Jeffrey Driver. Contact The Abbey 51560511 or info@theabbey.org.au
- 15 5:00 pm Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary Eucharist at St Thomas’ Bunyip with a meal to follow
- 18 11:00 am Installation of Bishop Richard Treloar as Bishop of Gippsland, St Paul’s Cathedral, SALE
- 25 9:30 am – 3:30 pm Anam Cara Community Quiet Day at St Mary’s Anglican Church Morwell. Facilitator: the Rev’d David Head

September

- 2 2:00 pm A Bunyip Lecture by Dr Brian Chapman: “Grief, Denial and Rage: A Revisionist View of Beethoven’s *Moonlight Sonata*”
- 7–8 5:00 pm Friday to 3:30 pm Saturday: Diocesan Retreat at The Abbey, Raymond Island. The Retreat Leader will be Bishop Garry Weatherill. Bookings by 31 August: 03 5156 6580 or info@theabbey.org.au
- 8 Corinella Community Market
- 30 2:00 pm David Johnston returns! This remarkable theatre organist will entertain with music and story at St Thomas’ Bunyip

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