



A NEWSLETTER FOR THE CANBERRA AND GOULBURN ANGLICAN COMMUNITY

ANGLICAN NEWS

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New Assistant Bishop

□ Bishop-Designate Dr Matt Brain to concentrate on mission and ministry development in a changing culture

Archdeacon Dr Matt Brain has been appointed as a new Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn following a meeting of Bishop in Council in mid-April.

Announcing the appointment, Bishop Stuart Robinson said that it was significant “because it brings generational change and renewal to our senior team”.

“Dr Brain will play a key role in helping our diocese continue to identify new missional leaders and support those already in ministry to engage with a changing culture,” Bishop Stuart added.

A physiotherapist by background, Dr Brain trained for ministry in Perth and was ordained in 2003. He served as a priest in the Diocese of North West Australia as the Diocesan youth minister and in the parish of Kalbarri.

Dr Brain moved to the Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn in 2010 to become Director of Synergy Youth and Children. He is a lecturer at St Mark’s National Theological College and plays a leadership role with the International Association for the Study of Youth Ministry, which aims to foster the study and development of youth ministry as a recognised profession.

Since 2013, Dr Brain has been Director of Parish Support, Chaplaincy and Mission where he has worked closely with parishes to help leaders develop their capacity for ministry.

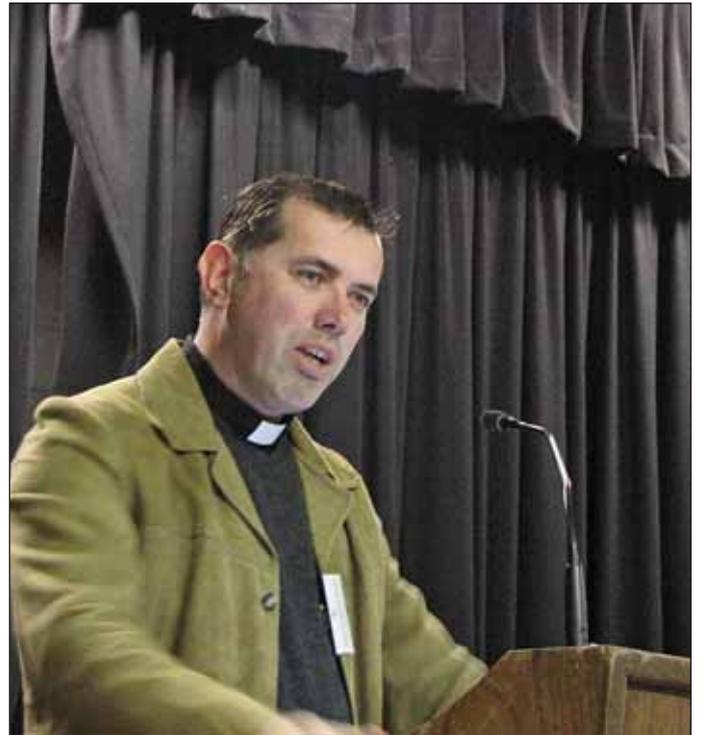
Dr Brain will assume responsibility

for the Ministry Training and Development portfolio. This portfolio not only helps new people enter Anglican ministry but it has oversight of clergy’s professional development also.

“It is my dream that people, both young and old, whose own lives have been transformed by Jesus, might be equipped and sent out to help others find the joy that comes from his transforming love. I am very excited that I might be able to help prepare others for the wonderful things that God has in store for them,” said Dr Brain following the announcement of his appointment.

Dr Brain will be consecrated by the Archbishop of Sydney, the Most Rev’d Dr Glenn Davies, at St Saviour’s Cathedral on Saturday 13 June 2015 at 11am.

Dr Brain is married to Rachel and they have five children. He enjoys



BISHOP-DESIGNATE: Archdeacon Matt Brain, who will be consecrated as Bishop on June 13, has been an integral part of the diocesan leadership team for several years.

running, cycling and playing the guitar.

New Regional Bishop for Wagga Region and Coast

Meanwhile Assistant Bishop Trevor Edwards will become the bishop responsible for the development of ministry in the Diocese’s western and coastal regions.

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An ethical investment alternative



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New Episcopal roles

Beloved in Christ – greetings!

The April 2015 Bishop in Council meeting endorsed - with acclaim - my nomination of the Venerable Dr Matthew Brain as a Bishop in the Church of God and our Vicar-General, Bishop Trevor Edwards as the new Regional Bishop, Wagga Wagga and the West with oversight of the Coast.

Bishop-designate Matt will be consecrated in our Cathedral on June 13th at 11.00am. His father, Bishop Peter Brain is the preacher and the Metropolitan of NSW, Archbishop Glenn Davies is the 'chief consecrator'.

Bishop-designate Matt will take on, inter alia, the very large and strategic ministry training and development portfolio that Bishop Trevor has managed and refined. Bishop Trevor's assignment (around 2/3rds of his new ministry focus) includes advancing the 'Wagga City conversation' (around the missional structure and shape of the region) and filling key parish vacancies in Turvey Park and Wagga central.

Do please uphold these our colleagues and friends. Congratulations to both.

Walk with the Cross

The final 'walk with the cross' organised and coordinated by Canon Varcoe (supported in prayer by the Reverend Trish Stuart-Smith and her team) concluded on Easter Day.

I have spoken with and ministered to many hundreds of people in 17 centres across the period leading up to Easter in nursing homes, hospitals, public schools, dinners, breakfasts, by river bank, bbq's, street corners, pubs, church services and so it goes. As well as racking up the kilometres, I have preached 140+ sermons and messages to many hundreds of people (thousands if you include local radio and community newspapers).

Clergy and lay leaders consistently report that the exercise was most worthwhile and in some cases, life-giving. In Wagga, Bombala and Queanbeyan we were afforded mayoral receptions and the mayors themselves shouldered the cross. In Goulburn, mayor Kettle opened facilities to us and provided assistance without charge.

This marks the end of my three year journey. Thank you for your interest, prayers and encouragement.

Bishop's Cathedral Convention

The 'early adopters' – heading towards 300 – have registered for this Convention. It is a key plank in my strategy to mobilise and equip our lay people. Dr Alison Morgan advises me that she has now prepared her talks and is very much looking forward to joining us.

My expectation is that at least ten people (plus a clergy person) will attend from each ministry unit. Some of our smaller/less well resourced parishes have immediately and enthusiastically risen to this challenge. I have also read Dr Piggini's presentation for the Barlow Lecture on the Friday night.

It is outstanding and will be available in booklet form to purchase after the Convention for \$10.00.

All Dr Morgan's titles will be available at the Convention bookshop (and we have card facilities). If you are yet to book for the Convention you may do so here: <http://www.trybooking.com/Booking/BookingEventSummary.aspx?eid=113103>

We'll be joined at the Convention by the Primate, Dr Philip Freier and the Roman Catholic Archbishop, Dr Christopher Prowse.

Bishop's 3-D Vision

Below is a very simple, underdeveloped outline of my '3-D' vision for the next five years ('15-'20).

It is of course predicated on the dream to see a *diocese (people, communities and structures) transformed by the love of Jesus*. BiC received this vision and has invited me to develop it - with a working group - in time for Synod.

Deployment - of:

- ♦ Pioneer ministers and church planters
- ♦ Equipped and envisioned lay leaders
- ♦ Parish Curates and leaders as per our current regimen
- ♦ Specialist ministry staff

Development – of:

- ♦ Income generating capital works projects (of which the Jamieson is a prime example)
- ♦ Financial structures that facilitate mission
- ♦ Parish partnerships with diocesan and other ministry bodies

Debt reduction - as it relates to:

- ♦ Parish contributions – I'd like to



Bishop
Stuart
Robinson

begin by reducing them to around 10% - thus returning \$500,000 back to ministry units

- ♦ Interest rates – by reviewing and reducing them
- ♦ Professional standards and the significant implications of 'redress' (stemming from Royal Commission-type matters).
- ♦ Diocesan entities such as schools.

For Jesus,

Anglican News

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Convention to focus on Discipleship

Discipleship will be a key theme of the Bishop's Cathedral Convention in Goulburn on Saturday May 16.

Keynote speaker, Dr Alison Morgan from the UK-based Anglican charity ReSource, has said that she will be trying to present a deeper and more accurate understanding of just what it means to be a 'disciple of Jesus'.

"It's not just about going to church every Sunday, faithfully and regularly – it's actually bigger than that. It's a choice to be made by every single one of us, not just for the clergy," she has said.

The Convention is building on the success of last year's inaugural event, when Dr John Dickson also spoke powerfully about the role that all baptised Christians have in mission and ministry.

Last year's convention attracted over 430 people, and this year's event is on track to match or better than number with around 300 registrations received, three weeks out from the gathering.

Dr Morgan will present three sessions throughout the day:

- ♦ Called as disciples of Jesus;
- ♦ Living in God's story; and
- ♦ Doing what Jesus did.

Through her work with ReSource,



LIFESTYLE: Dr Alison Morgan describes being a disciple of Jesus as 'a lifestyle'.

she seeks to serve the church by teaching, training, and encouraging people to renew their lives and their church through the power of the Holy Spirit, so that God's message of life-

changing love reaches out to others.

Alison works widely in the UK in teaching and training, and she is also the editor and director of ReSource's discipleship program for Africa, Rooted in Jesus, which is now in use in 15 countries.

Central to her thinking is the concept that Jesus saves people, not for heaven but to help God's kingdom happen on earth; and as disciples we are not only called to live out God's marvellous story in the world but we are also given everything needed for the job.

This philosophy ensures that she not only encourages her listeners to a much deeper understanding of their role as disciples, she also seeks to help enable and equip them to undertake this role, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

The convention will also feature the inaugural Bishop Barlow Lecture, to be presented in the Cathedral on Friday evening, May 15, by Associate Professor Stuart Pigginn of Macquarie University.

Director of that university's Centre for the History of Christian Thought and Experience, Dr Pigginn's lecture will recall the life and times of Bishop Barlow, the third Bishop of the Diocese of Goulburn (1902-1915).

Matt Brain appointed as Assistant Bishop

(continued from page 1)

Bishop Stuart has described Bishop Trevor "a very experienced and effective minister, who is able to develop strategies, encourage clergy and persuade parishes to engage in God's mission".

"It is my prayer that his gifts will bring the process of regional transformation to fruition," Bishop Stuart said.

Consecrated in 2004, Bishop Trevor has been a catalyst for cultural change and the development of the Diocese's capacity for mission.

As bishop for mission he has been the Director of Ministry Training and Development since 2010. He has enhanced the diocese's capacity for mission and ministry by developing opportunities for lay training and the formation of a new generation of ordained leaders.

"Trevor and I have been prayerfully

pondering how his gifts could be used most effectively for a new season of ministry," explained Bishop Stuart.

"We concluded that his leadership talents could be used most fruitfully by focussing on the development of ministry in the Diocese's western and coastal communities. The process of making ministry in the Wagga region more sustainable that Bishop Genieve started will bear fruit as Trevor's considerable gifts are brought to bear."

Bishop Trevor said that he wanted to instil confidence and growth in Christ and ensure that the regional parishes can be dynamic and sustainable centres for ministry for many years to come.

"I'm looking forward to encouraging, mentoring, supporting and empowering clergy and lay leaders across these two important regions. I'm committed to helping our parishes develop their

capacity for ministry by developing the talents of their people and ministry plans that work. I also want to encourage parishes to grow fresh expressions of church for non-church people where ever possible so that men, women and children can experience the love of Jesus in community," he said.

This shift in responsibility follows Bishop Genieve Blackwell's move to the Diocese of Melbourne later this month. Bishop Trevor will hand over his Ministry Training and Development responsibilities to Archdeacon Dr Matt Brain in coming weeks ahead of his consecration in June.

Bishop Trevor will remain as the Diocese's Vicar General and continue as president of St Mark's National Theological Centre Council.

*Spirit '15:***Called to *be*, not to *do*:**

□ **Christian calling is about identity, not activity**

By Lewis Hitchick

Keynote speaker at the Spirit '15 Conference, Pastor Brian Goodell, focussed on what it means to be 'called' as a Christian.

The annual Spirit Conference was held at St Peter's Anglican College, Broulee, on the weekend of April 17-19.

Brian Goodell, Senior Pastor of The Bridge Foursquare Church in Foster City, California, began by reading from Romans 8: 28-29, pointing out that all Christians are "called according to (God's) purpose".

However, he said many people do not understand what "calling" is.

"I want to challenge the idea that what you do is who you are," he stressed. "Our calling as men and women of God is first and foremost as sons and daughters, and out of that place of intimacy and relationship, God wants to release his Spirit in us and through us to the world around us. Every one of you in this room is called."

What Calling is not

He pointed out that calling was not:

- ♦ Just for 'professionals', the priests pastors or missionaries.
- ♦ Always just a one-time event – situations are going to change, and because our calling is not limited to our abilities or talents it is going to change.
- ♦ Your job – your job is a context whereby you are useful for the Lord, being led by the Spirit so that your calling as a son or daughter of God can be shown.
- ♦ Your identity; being who we are in Christ is our identity. The 'doing' of our lives flows out of 'being' who we are.
- ♦ An individual pursuit – God works in community. He challenged his audience to understand and embrace the blessing of covering: "There is tremendous anointing when we live under covering – a group who will help us recognise our blind spots and 'call us out' on whatever needs to be called out."
- ♦ Just about being happy all the time:



ALLED: Conference speaker Pastor Brian Goodell from San Francisco delivered a series of five powerful addresses on the topic of 'Calling', explaining that all Christians are called to share the Gospel message.

"The challenge with happiness is that it's based on happenings. There's a difference between happiness and the constant joy that only comes from Christ. Calling is about becoming like Jesus."

What Calling is

Brian Goodell then explained what he believed calling is:

- ♦ Belonging to God
- ♦ Being Christ-like in our behaviour
- ♦ Doing God's work in the world
- ♦ Living a life of purpose.

In his second session Brian Goodell picked up the theme of the conference as he called on his listeners to "break down

the walls between the church and the world".

"Calling is, first and foremost, belonging to God," he stressed. "Giving your life away as Jesus said, is going to bring about the abundant life that he promises in John 10:10. But to hang onto life, to draw things to ourselves, is where we lose the real purpose we are created for."

However, he insisted that God does not often call people to something they do not want to do.

"God wants us to do what we love – I really believe that. I want you to get in touch with what you are passionate about."

(continued next page)

Spirit '15: living a life of purpose

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He cited 2 Thess. 1:11, adding particular emphasis: "With this in mind we constantly pray for you, that our God may count you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may fulfil every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith."

"God wants you to get in touch with how he has uniquely and extraordinarily created you to do things that you love. I'm talking about God breaking down walls and blowing the ceiling off your life.

"I want to invite you to an adventure in Christ – I want you to begin to see your life with tremendous capacity. But capacity is only built by taking steps of faith and stretching ourselves."



HOST: Batemans Bay priest Colin Walters.

He said that some have just conceded to a small life but he believed that God has created us for a big, dramatic existence – "and that will be so contagious in our world that people will be attracted to that".

"If being like Jesus is our calling in life, and that is supposed to be who we are, wherever we are and whatever we do, then we should follow the example of how he lived.

"If you want to do the stuff in public like Jesus did, you've got to do with your private life what Jesus did - steal away from the busyness of the world

to spend time with the Father through scripture, prayer, fasting, solitude and celebration."

In subsequent sessions Brian Goodell

Survey results: what brings people into a faith community?

- ♦ 3% Just wandered in while walking past the church
- ♦ 6% Heard about the pastor
- ♦ 1% Pastor visited them at home
- ♦ 5% Result of Sunday School or Kids' Club
- ♦ 4% Evangelistic campaign in area
- ♦ 2% Program offered at church (eg: marriage or parenting courses)
- ♦ 79% Influence of friends or relatives.

further developed the concept of 'calling' by adding some mathematical symbols:

Belonging to God

+ Being Christ-like in our behaviour
+ Doing God's work in the world
= Living a life of purpose.

"It's such an amazing blessing when we do the work of God, when we obey the prompting of the Holy Spirit – how fulfilled we feel inside!"

He said the purpose of the church could be simplified into two things: to know God (the Great Commandment, Matt.22: 37-39) and to make him known (the Great Commission, Matt 28: 19-20).

He also drew on the Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 5) to remind his listeners they were "the salt of the earth" and "the light of the world", charged to "let your light shine before others that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven".

Brian Goodell quoted the findings of a survey of 10,000 church members, which had asked what had initially brought them into the church they currently belonged to.

The results highlighted the role of the whole congregation (*see box above*).

"Reaching your world will be challenging; inconvenient; costly; apparently more than you can do; but something God will equip and strengthen you for."

Brian Goodell concluded by inviting all present to list three people they knew, who did not know Jesus – and start praying for those people.



BREAKING OUT: A team of dancers presented a powerful interpretation of the 'Break Out' theme of Spirit 15, showing the power of Faith to overcome barriers.

Refugees – what would Jesus do?

□ Reflection on Palm Sunday Rally for Refugees

By Charles Body

Several Anglican parishes were represented in the Palm Sunday Rally for Refugees held in Canberra on 29th March.

The rally, organised by the Refugee Action Committee, brought together people from the Anglican, Roman Catholic and Uniting Churches, the Church of Christ and people from other faiths.

They joined trade unions, students, politicians and other citizens who are concerned about Australia's treatment of asylum seekers and refugees.

Several thousand people took part in the rally. The first speaker at the rally was Mr Jon Stanhope (former ACT Chief Minister and Administrator of Christmas Island) who has seen first-hand the conditions on Christmas Island.

He was followed by Sister Jane Keogh, a Brigidine Sister who has visited detention centres and worked with refugees for 13 years.

The final speaker was Ismael Husseini, a Hazara refugee from Afghanistan who spoke of the despair, hopelessness and fear he felt in Australia's detention centres, not knowing whether he would be sent back to face death in his homeland or deported to another country, or simply left to rot in Nauru for the rest of his days.

It was perhaps fitting that the rally was held a few days after the death of former Prime Minister, Malcolm Fraser. The Fraser Government's attitude to refugees after the Vietnam War showed that there is a more compassionate and humane way to respond to those who seek asylum in our land.

It is hard to reconcile the refugee policies of Australia's government and opposition with the word of God as given to us through the Bible and through the teaching of Jesus. Consider the following passages from the Bible:

"When an alien resides with you in your land, you must not oppress him. He is to be treated as a native born among you. Love him as yourself." (Leviticus 19:33,34).

"Is not this the fast I require: to loose the fetters of injustice, to untie the knots of the yoke, and set free those who are oppressed?" (Isaiah 58:7).



UNITED: Representatives from Anglican, Roman Catholic and Uniting Church and Church of Christ congregations joined people from other faiths, trade unions, students, politicians and others on Palm Sunday to express their concern over Australia's treatment of asylum seekers.

"How does God's love abide in anyone who has this world's goods, sees a brother or sister in need, and yet refuses help?" (1 John 3:17).

"When was it that we saw you hungry and fed you, or thirsty and gave you drink; a stranger, and took you into our home? ... Jesus said 'anything you did for one of my brothers here, however insignificant, you did for me'." (Matthew 25:35).

The story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) is also relevant but too long to repeat here. And there are many other passages in the Bible on similar themes.

Australia's refugee policies seem to be based on two elements – first, punish anyone who arrives here to such an extent that they will go back to where they came from; and second, discourage anyone else from trying to come here by convincing them that they will be subjected to the same treatment.

If these approaches are successful then we, like Pontius Pilate, wash our hands of the issue on the heartless assumption that if we can keep asylum seekers away from Australia then we can ignore them.

There is no simple solution to the massive number of people around the world seeking to escape from torture, persecution or death in their homelands. But surely a Christian response should be based on care and compassion rather than punishment and torture.

I'll leave the last word to the Rev'd Tim Costello, writing last year in the Bible Society's *Eternity* newspaper: "May our hearts be broken by the things that break the heart of God."

ANGLICAN
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Annual General
Meeting

Saturday 30th May 2015
2.00pm Christ Church,
Queanbeyan

Recognition for Turvey Park Anglican

By Bill Anscombe

A lay leader in the congregation at St Paul's Turvey Park Anglican Church at Wagga Wagga has been awarded the 2015 NSW Government Multicultural Community Medal.

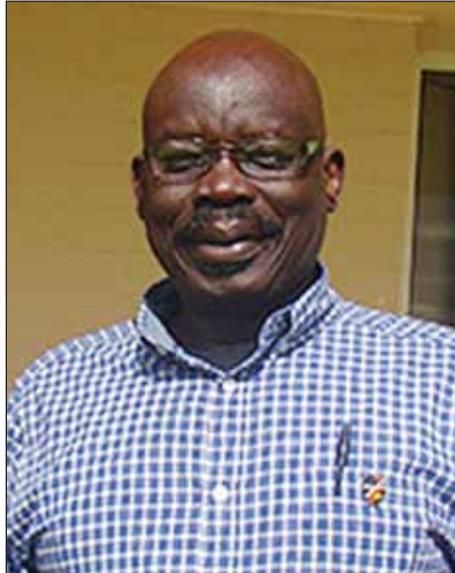
John Kutte Moi, one of those rare people who quietly and effectively ministers the love of Jesus, was presented with the award by the Premier Mike Baird on March 12, for his contribution to Regional Communities.

He had been nominated by the Wagga Wagga Multicultural Council, for his outstanding contribution to the multicultural community of Wagga Wagga and to the whole community of Wagga Wagga.

John Moi arrived in Australia as a humanitarian entrant in 2006 with his wife and four children and settled in Wagga Wagga.

John was a pastor to about 25 congregations in South Sudan while supporting himself through teaching, and he has continued that pastoral role within the African and wider multi-cultural communities of Wagga Wagga. He is frequently asked to the schools, police station and mental health facilities to assist with issues.

He was the foundation chairman of Wafrica and has worked with many community members. He has led funerals in Australia and funeral remembrances for members of the African-Australian communities where parents or relatives have died overseas. He was the person called to meet with Aboriginal local leaders when there was an issue that threatened the harmony between the African community and the Indigenous community. His wise and gracious



AWARD: *Turvey Park parishioner John Moi's award of the 2015 NSW Government Multicultural Community Medal recognises his outstanding contribution to the Wagga community.*

counsel was enormously helpful.

He has worked with people in their grief and bereavement and in their cultural adjustment. John has also been a representative at celebratory occasions – weddings, baptisms and national events. He has also been instrumental in forming an African choir.

John has also worked to bridge the gap with police and community and has represented the African community whenever required, particularly in times of crisis.

A trained volunteer community fire-fighter, John helps newly arrived families to prevent fires in their homes.

He currently works with the mental health organisation Richmond-PRA as a support worker where he is highly regarded and valued. He also works with severe mental illness in the wider Australia community. This is a permanent full-time position which he accepted and reluctantly resigned from the temporary and contractual work offered as a teacher's bi-lingual aide in the schools.

John Moi is a current final year part-time student in the Master of Social Work (professional Qualifying) at Charles Sturt University.

John has been an active member of St Pauls Anglican Church Turvey Park, where he has led services and he has preached on numerous occasions. For at least two years, he travelled to Tarcutta to conduct services on a twice monthly basis to a farming congregation who valued his style and sincerity.

He has been a member of the St Paul's Parish Council at various times, and was instrumental in developing a Dinka language group worship service at the Church. Although he himself is not a Dinka person, he has led and participated in those services.

At combined worship service between the Dinka congregation and the non-Dinka worshippers, John has translated Dinka worship into both English and Arabic so that non-Dinka Sudanese and non-African church-goers can participate.

His language skills and his personality and affability and his respect across all kinds of ethnic and racial boundaries have been very well used and very much appreciated. He conducts all his church involvement without recompense (except travel costs to and from Tarcutta).

Clergy moves and appointments

- ◆ **The Reverend Michael Armstrong** has been appointed Incumbent at Hunters Hill in the Diocese of Sydney.
- ◆ **The Venerable Dr Matthew Brain** will be consecrated as a Bishop in the Church of God and will serve as Assistant Bishop, Ministry Training and Development Portfolio.
- ◆ **The Right Reverend Trevor Edwards** will continue as Vicar-General and be the new Regional Bishop responsible for the development of ministry in the Diocese's western and coastal regions.
- ◆ **The Reverend Ann Burt** has been licenced as Honorary Deacon Assistant in and from the Parish of Kambah.
- ◆ **The Reverend Gunnar Rippon** has been licenced as Locum Associate Priest at St Saviour's Cathedral Goulburn for two years.
- ◆ **The Reverend Amanda Wheatley** has been granted an Authority to Officiate.
- ◆ **The Reverend Michael Wheatley** has been granted an Authority to Officiate.

NEWS FROM THE PARISHES

Barney's Boutique: a shop full of opportunities

By Marie Officer

Barney's Boutique is a terrific Op Shop run by parish members at St Barnabas, Charnwood, providing quality pre-owned clothes and other items to the people of Charnwood and surrounding areas.

The shop is an important part of the life of the parish, the broader community and often, visitors to Canberra.

Monday mornings are particularly busy, sorting the many donations from generous members of the wider community: bric-a-brac, shoes, books, CDs, chinaware, linen, baby clothes, toys, crockery, jewellery and clothes for everyone – sometimes exclusive brands!!

Volunteers have been known to ask, 'Where does all this come from?'

On Monday mornings there's sorting to be done, racks to fill, clothes to be tagged and priced, recycling of boxes and papers, and items not suitable for the shop to be driven to appropriate places in and around Canberra.

As well there is mending, spot cleaning, washing of china and bric-a-brac ... the list is endless. All the while happy chatter goes on. It's organised chaos (I joke!!) The highlight of the morning is morning tea. It is not unusual for 12 or 13 helpers to be there.

As a recent newcomer to the Team, I am blown away by what is achieved between 8.30 and 11am on Mondays every week – missing only one week at Christmas each year.

I am not going to name names as this can be a dangerous thing (to quote a friend) but this is a team of hard-working, dedicated parishioners. To say thank you costs nothing.

To all those who work behind the scenes at Barney's – I am proud and happy to be among you, my Church family and dear friends too.

Come and visit when we're open on Wednesdays, Thursdays or Fridays or Saturday mornings - you will be



VOLUNTEERS: *Sorting the amazing array of clothing and goods donated to Barney's Boutique keeps a team of volunteers busy every Monday morning throughout the year. The team is frequently impressed by the exclusive brand names that pass through the shop (inset).*

most welcome.

Our opening times are Wednesdays, Thursdays, & Fridays 1.30 pm to 5 pm and Saturdays 9.30 am to 12.30 pm.

Marie Officer is a member of the congregation of St Barnabas', Charnwood, and a volunteer at Barney's Boutique.

Anglican Historical Society AGM

This year's AHS Annual Meeting will be held in Christ Church Queanbeyan on Saturday afternoon 30th May.

In the morning visits have been arranged to St Matthew's Karabar, St Paul's Burra, and the newly opened Anglican School at Googong.

Lunch will be at the Yellow Belly Café at Club Googong where the Waters' Edge coffee group connects with the growing community.

The day will be a mixture of old and new: the first Christ Church, now used as a hall, dates from 1844 and St Paul's Burra from 1867 while the Googong area is still under construction.

The Queanbeyan and Karabar parishes are exploring new ways of connecting, providing companionship and sharing Christ with the people of the area.

All are welcome to come and hear

about the Kids' Computer Group at Karabar, the Café Church at Burra, and the variety of activities at Waters' Edge.

Mr Ian Hewitt, Principal of The Anglican School Googong 'would be delighted' to have the Anglican Historical Society visit the school which opened this year for ELC (pre-school) to Year 2. Future stages will be added in coming years.

The school is also providing innovative ways of learning with large, flexible, open and modern learning spaces which continue outside to the kitchen garden.

Members and friends are welcome to attend all or part of the day. Booking forms have been posted to members: others please contact the Secretary Alan Wilson, phone 6282 3213 or email alan.wilson6@bigpond.com

HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

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Exploring meditation and prayer

Annual retreat for Third Order of the Society of Saint Francis

By Graeme and Kathy Dunn

The NSW B /ACT Region held their annual retreat recently at The Gathering Place in Canberra. This venue has been used by the Franciscans for many years and is one which draws us back each time.

We are always warmly met by Brigidine Sister Lorraine who looks after us so well and with so much love. Lorraine has become such a part of us that she is invited to all our meals and comes to the Sunday Eucharist.

Meryl who serves with Sr Lorraine as a co-facilitator also greeted us over the weekend.

We had about 10 people in attendance which varied over the weekend and our Eucharist and lunch on the Sunday saw 16 people taking part.

As well as our Canberra and Goulburn members, this year's retreat included two tertiaries from Wagga and two enquirers also came along.

Our retreat leader was our own tertiary Theresa Angert-Quilter and the theme for the weekend was "Meditation and Prayer". Theresa conducted a Meditation session at last year's retreat which was very warmly received so the decision was made to have this as our theme this year.

The sessions were devoted to meditation techniques as we sought a closer and more personal relationship with God. Many of the group agreed that our busyness of life can distract us from the important things of life, ie: prayer life and being alone with God without distraction.

In meditation we can go to "our own space" and be completely alone with God, to talk to God and have that special feeling of closeness.

Those who attended enjoyed these sessions and felt that it helped them greatly as part of their spiritual journey.

Another highlight of the weekend was the presentation by Theresa of a gift of a Communion Set for the NSW B /ACT Region. The Regional Minister will be the custodian of the set which will be used at all Franciscan Eucharists. In particular the Chalice is beautiful with its design and vibrant colours.

The retreat concluded with a Eucharist and lunch. It was a wonderful weekend and one which left people committed to coming back next year.

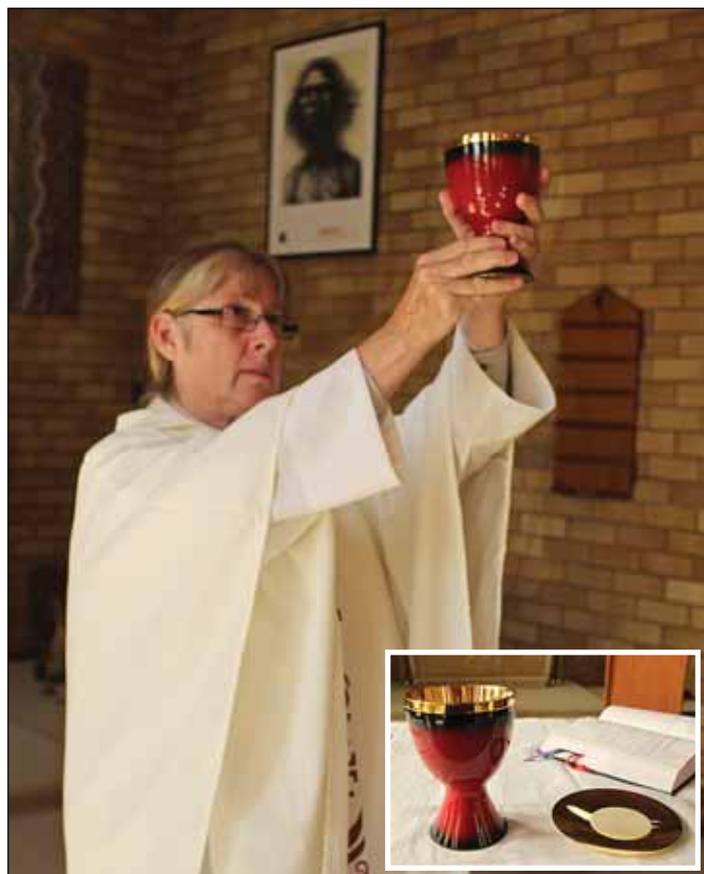
Yes, we have already booked The Gathering Place for our retreat in 2016 which will be held from the 14th to 16th October 2016.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday May 6 2015 at the home of John Gibson. We will view and discuss Part 1 of the DVD, *The Sacred Wonders of Britain*, which will be led by Robert Willson.

Any Third Order tertiaries from elsewhere visiting our region are most welcome to our gatherings.

Please contact us for details: Mobile: 0408010547; Email: katgrae47@ozemail.com.au

Graeme and Kathy Dunn, tssf, serve as Area Fellowship Convenors NSW B /ACT Region.



GIFT: Retreat leader Theresa Angert-Quilter presented the regional Franciscan group with a beautifully crafted communion set.



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Caught in Cyclone Pam

❑ **ABM's Program Officer, Jess Sexton was in Torba Province in Vanuatu on a monitoring trip in March when Cyclone Pam hit the islands. Jess shares her experience and reports on the destruction locals faced.**

The start of my trip was spent in Sola where we were warmly received by Bishop Worek Patterson, who was eager to discuss both the progress and the challenges relating to the church and the wider province. We were to spend five days viewing these for ourselves, with a particular focus on the work relating to Water, Sanitation and Adult Literacy.

Several days into our visit, we began receiving reports of a cyclone heading towards Vanuatu, and although the system had not yet developed into a category five cyclone, the region was put on red alert.

Locals rushed to reinforce their houses with sand bags and large palm leaves, and purchase extra supplies from shops. As the winds became gale force and heavy seas threatened to break the banks around the town of Sola, vulnerable areas were evacuated to higher ground and concrete buildings.

Officials from the Provincial government drove through the town making announcements in Bislama, the language most commonly spoken, to warn about various dangers and to guide people in their preparations. Text messages sent from the Vanuatu Bureau of Meteorology also kept us updated as to the cyclone's course, which was an essential service in an area with limited electricity and internet access.

For several days strong winds and torrential rain lashed the town and the cyclone moved south at a painfully slow pace of seven km/h. As these effects subsided, we emerged from our bungalows to survey the damage. Thankfully, there was very little destruction in Sola.

There had been minor flooding, and roof repairs were needed on several buildings, but infrastructure such as roads and bridges remained intact. The area causing most concern amongst locals was the loss of produce from village gardens and fruit trees, as people depend heavily on these sources for food.

The cyclone had affected communications towers further south, causing a communication black out



DESTRUCTION: Cyclone damage in Port Vila. Cyclone Pam destroyed thousands of houses on Vanuatu, leaving eight people dead and 10,000 homeless.

that was to last seven days. Without the means for accessing funds, and with food stocks running low, local shops were asked to supply goods on credit to the communities both in and around Sola.

Clean water was also a cause of concern, as most locals depend on fresh streams running from the mountains behind the town, and few have tanks. During the downpour, these streams became polluted with sediment and debris, and were unsuitable for drinking and washing.

Several tanks funded by ABM, installed through the Vanuatu Church Partnership Program in Sola, proved their worth. The community was able to access the clean water for drinking, substantially lowering the risk of diseases such as Cholera and Adenovirus infections.

Getting home was a great concern for me and the Anglican Church of Melanesia (ACOM) colleagues I was travelling with, as they were anxious to find out how family and friends had fared. Every day we would pray for their safety, pray for the communication

towers to be fixed, and pray for the plane to come.

It was a great relief when a radio report announced that Espiritu Santo, the island home of my travelling companions and the location of the diocesan office of Vanuatu and New Caledonia, had been spared significant damage.

This was mixed with sadness, however, as the destruction in Port Vila was also revealed. We heard that many buildings had been destroyed beyond repair, leaving 10,000 people homeless, and that eight people had lost their lives in the chaos. There was no further information about the outer islands or even about the rest of Efate, due to the communications difficulties.

When the day for our scheduled departure came and there were still no flights, Bishop Worek went into action. He and other ACOM arranged a seat for me on a charter flight booked by the Red Cross, so that I would be able to make my international connection in Port Vila. The following day it was with reluctance

(continued next page)

REFLECTION

An ANZAC reflection

By Bishop Stuart Robinson

Having just marked the 100th Anniversary of the landing at Gallipoli and the 70th Anniversary of Victory in the Pacific later in year, I'm minded to report a conversation I had with a soldier - NX146695 - who witnessed the formal "surrender" in the eastern half of the Netherlands East Indies on September 9, 1945.

On Morotai Island, NX146695, along with 10,000 Australian and Allied troops, stood motionless as Commander-in-Chief of the Australian Military Forces, General Blamey accepted Japanese Second Army Commander, Lt. General Teshima's surrender of approximately 126,000 men.

NX146695 has vivid memories of that great day.

But he also carries memories of the cost; the cost of freedom; the cost of peace.

NX146695 (who is now 92) came face to face with death – and survived; many of his friends and comrades did not.

Indeed more than 100,000 Australians have given their lives – from the Boer War to Peacekeeping operations in this new century.

Even as we speak Australian Forces are on their way to Iraq to engage with

a new enemy...not a country per se – but an ideology cloaked in a religion; 'I.S.' by name.

NX146695, Sergeant Harold Robinson, my father, knows first-hand the reality of being ready to lay one's

life down for another - as do so many of those who will read this simple piece.

It was Jesus who once said, "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this that they lay down their life for their friends" John 15:13.

That inscription is also found on countless headstones across the former Western Front. I served as a Priest in Flanders and in the dead of winter I'd stand in those old trenches and weep as I contemplated the agony and the despair

that faced combatants (on all sides).

And yet all is not hopeless. It isn't.

Lest we forget that in order to bring peace between God and his wayward family, that's exactly what Jesus – the one who first articulated those headstone inscriptions, did. He gave his life.

Yes, Jesus absorbed sin's curse and sin's punishment that I might go free.

My sin was laid on him – his righteousness was laid on all who believe.

He was willing to pay a very great price; the price of peace – his life for mine; for all who believe.

And we know his work was effective; we know that peace with God is available to all who trust this Jesus, because God raised him from that death; the price for sin having been fully paid by God in Christ.

As we honour those who sacrificed their lives for our freedom, so too must we honour and worship and serve Him who gave his life that we might be set free from the clutches of our last great enemy – even death itself.

Yes, lest we forget.

BACKGROUND IMAGE:
The Lone Pine Cemetery and Memorial, Anzac, Gallipoli (www.anzacsite.gov.au)

Caught in Cyclone Pam

(continued from page 12)

that I boarded the small plane without them, knowing how much they wanted to see their families again.

Travelling from Sola to Port Vila is a journey I will never forget. The lush tropical forests that covered the islands of Vanua Lava, Gaua and Espiritu Santo stood in stark contrast to the brown wasteland on islands further south.

As we flew over islands, we saw that trees had been stripped of their leaves and vines, houses and possessions had been scattered across the bare fields, and smoke was steadily rising from the debris being burnt away.

It was like a scene of war, the destruction seemed so complete. I prayed that humanitarian relief would flow quickly, and that these communities

would receive the care that they so obviously needed.

We arrived in Port Vila at dusk, and saw the city in disarray. Everywhere we looked, trees were blown over, buildings were damaged and crumbling and boats were mashed together in the wharves. People were hard at work to clear roads and make repairs, even as darkness fell.

Electricity had been cut off to much of the city, and many carried torches or lit fires for light.

However, the mobile network was fully functional in the capital, and much to my delight I was able to contact ABM and my family, letting them know that I was safe and had arrived in Port Vila. By the next day I had arrived back to a much relieved fiancé and the ABM family.

I am so grateful to everyone who

assisted me during my time in Vanuatu - I was overwhelmed by the care and support that was going on in the background.

The humanitarian work in Vanuatu is only just beginning, and there is so much to be done.

ABM has already raised over \$190,000 in its Vanuatu Emergency Appeal. This money will go a long way to support the church and locals to repair the damage and build their local communities.

Thank you to all the ABM donors who have supported this cause - please continue to keep Vanuatu in your prayers, to ensure that those who have lost everything can have hope for their future.

WWI Centenary prompts historical reviews

Reviewed by Robert Willson

Anzac Day Origins. By John A Moses & George F Davis. Barton Books. 417pp. \$40.00

The Great War: 10 Contested Questions. Foreword by Geraldine Doogue. ABC Books. 246pp. \$27.99

The centenary of the outbreak of the First World War last year, and the centenary of the Anzac Landing this year, has triggered a flood of books examining every facet of that frightful conflict, a war that claimed millions of lives.

I have been reading these two books lately and I commend both of them.

Canberra priest and academic Fr John Moses studied in Germany for many years and specialised in the historiography of the First World War. He examines the German ambition for imperial territory, jealousy of the British and French colonial empires, and the myth that liberalism and democracy should be rejected in favour of unlimited military expansion as the will of God. The Kaiser and his Germany had developed global military ambitions and these directly threatened Australia and New Zealand. So these two nations had no choice but to be involved in the Great War.

As we remember the centenary of the first Anzac Day we meet a man described as an extraordinarily energetic, public-spirited and gifted Anglo-Catholic priest, Canon David John Garland. In the years that followed the Anzac landing at Gallipoli exactly a century ago, Garland devised a ceremony of remembrance that was essentially religious but which had the

appearance of being thoroughly secular, in order to allow the inclusion of Roman Catholics and Jews.

The book is a thorough examination of the genesis of Anzac Day in the light of Garland's Irish background and move from a very Protestant "Bible Believing" tradition to the Anglo-Catholic tradition. Some readers in the Protestant tradition of the Anglican Church might be tempted to put this book aside because of that theme because they do not feel comfortable with Anglo-Catholics. This would be a mistake; they should learn from it.

After we meet Canon Garland the authors tell the story of Garland's time in New Zealand. This portion of the book is the work of Dr George Davis, a retired New Zealand teacher and author of a doctoral dissertation on meanings and memories of Anzac Day in the New Zealand context. The joint authors enjoyed a most fruitful collaboration.

Later chapters speak of Garland's work in the Diocese of Brisbane, especially for the Bible Society and where British Empire solidarity was a major basis for the Anzac Day observance. Garland's chaplaincy in the Middle East and relations with the Orthodox

Churches are thoroughly examined. By the 1920's Garland became known as the "architect" of Anzac Day. He died in Brisbane in 1939 just before the outbreak of the Second World War.

In a brief review it is impossible to plumb the depths of this rich and searching contribution to Anglican and Australian history but I hope that thoughtful readers will give it the attention it deserves. Moses and Davis have done a great job of research.

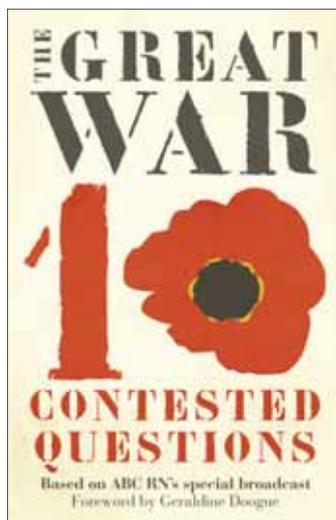
Copies may be obtained from Barton Books at St Marks and also from the bookshop of the Australian War Memorial and from the National Library bookshop. The cost is \$40.

I also commend a book entitled *The Great War: Ten contested Questions*. This book is the published transcript of an ABC RN programme including contributions by leading military historians. Rather than give a short history of the war they grapple with questions we still argue about. One example is the reputation of Field Marshall Douglas Haig. When I was rector of St Philip's O'Connor I often walked in Haig Park, named after the Field Marshall in the 1920s. It was a reflection of the heroic status of this man at that time.

Now he is reviled as a bungling butcher who sent many Australians and other Empire troops to their deaths in battles like the Somme. Recently the *Canberra Times* has carried letters demanding that his name be removed from the map of Canberra and that the Park be renamed.

So one of the contested questions in this excellent book is: were the generals truly incompetent? Other questions include: did German ambitions really cause the war; were those who refused to fight traitors to the cause; and did religion help to lead us into this conflict?

Books have been written about all these and other matters and, while we will never read all these books, we have here the gist of what scholars are writing about this period. This fine book is available from the ABC shops at \$27.99.



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Helping hand for outdoor upgrade

By Hannah McQuiggan

Two outdoor spaces at Anglicare’s Goulburn site have received a face lift to make way for new gardens and play areas for families and children in need.

The backyard areas at the Specialist Homelessness Service and Disability Service, located on Cowper Street, underwent a three-day working bee to upgrade the current facility.

“We looked at renewing some ageing infrastructure,” said Anglicare Housing and Social Services Manager, Toni Reay. “The buildings were built in the early 1900s and the exteriors were in desperate need of updating.”

A group of High School students attending ‘Soul in the Bush’, a five day Christian youth conference, assisted Anglicare from Wednesday to Friday, April 15-17. The initiative was part of Soul Survivor NSW/ACT (see article on pages 14-15).

“Soul in the Bush is a great opportunity to add a surge of helpers to existing community services and at the same time give young people an opportunity to put their faith into action,” Soul Survivor ACT Director, Deborah Stanley said.

“We love being able to help organisations like Anglicare. It may be just a few days of gardening and cleaning, but we hope it will have a long-term impact in helping Anglicare provide a safe and healing place for people in need.”

Students were provided with materials such as soil, plants, paint and benches to assist with the makeover.

Families and children involved in the Flexibility Plus



ENTHUSIASM: Rain failed to dampen the enthusiasm of the Soul in the Bush team working on the backyard.

program, a case management and respite service, have seen the garden transformed into a friendly and interactive space with the cubby house given a new lease on life.

“Anglicare is grateful to have Soul in the Bush volunteers help to get our garden project off the ground,” Ms Reay said.

The group of students also sorted through donations collected for annual campaigns such as the Pantry Appeal.



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SOUL IN THE BUSH 2015

Combining faith with works

□ **April's Soul in the Bush conference saw over 460 young people descend on regional communities around Canberra to work alongside local churches in practical projects**

By **Jillian Reay-Smith***

Delegates came from across NSW, the ACT and as far as North Queensland. They camped in Canberra and travelled daily for three days to 22 projects across five towns: Goulburn, Yass, Murrumbateman, Wee Jasper and Burra.

Deborah Stanley, Director of Soul Survivor ACT, described Soul in the Bush as “a great opportunity to add a surge of helpers to existing ministries”.

“We are amazed at what God has done this week as 460 young evangelists have served their hearts out by working with rural churches,” she said.

Projects were designed and run by local churches and organisations who knew the needs of the community. Anglican churches in the region played a big role in organising projects, with many having links with local Anglican ministries.

In Yass, members of the St Clement's Anglican Church led the ‘Soul in the Bush’ delegates in projects close to their heart,



BRIEFING: Director of Soul Survivor ACT Deborah Stanley briefs delegates about their projects on day one.



IMPRESSIVE: The enthusiasm of the team at Burra as they cleaned and painted the Burra RFS Station impressed RFS volunteer Chris Taylor (at the back, 4th from right).

including cleaning and painting ‘Zac’s Place’, a community facility that reaches out to youth and those who are struggling.

They also painted a fence at the historic ‘Cooma Cottage’, painted a mural at Bowning Village Hall, gardened for a family and rejuvenated the Yass Community Garden.

Lynette Rampling of St Clement's is an active member of the Community Garden. “We were totally blown away by the hard work and enthusiasm that the kids put in” said Lynette.

Additional projects in Yass were organised by Yass Baptist Church and the local council.

In Goulburn, Brian and Alison Champness of the F5 congregation at St Saviour's ran a kids holiday club with the help of 40 ‘Soul in the Bush’ delegates.

“It was such a privilege to provide this opportunity for children... with such a great team of people who gave their time and talents,” said Brian.

Also in Goulburn, delegates helped clean and paint Liminis House, a former orphanage being repurposed for a new ministry. New owners of Liminis House, Maggie and Darryl Patterson, appreciated the help that the ‘Soul in the Bush’ delegates provided.

“The Soul Survivor team arrived with energy, smiles, and a passion to serve,” said Maggie. “Over the three days we were engulfed in a tsunami of love and

service as each volunteer worked hard to clean up, paint walls and landscape the gardens. Clearly, Soul Survivor has been foundational in birthing Liminis and have encouraged us beyond words.”

Across town, another group of delegates gardened and cleaned at the Goulburn Anglicare facilities to help restore the gardens into a friendly and interactive space for their clients.

Down in Burra, St Paul's Anglican Church used ‘Soul in the Bush’ to help their community in ways they couldn't on their own.

St Paul's member Ruth Walton was instrumental in organising the Burra projects. “We love this community and wanted to help in any way we can,” she explained. “Our little church wouldn't have dreamt of offering to do these projects on our own, but with the help of these young people we have been able to see so much achieved in only a couple of days.”

The Burra projects included painting and cleaning at the rural fire service (RFS) station. Chris Taylor of the Burra RFS was impressed: “The energy and enthusiasm of these young people was nothing short of amazing” he said.

Further afield, another group of volunteers planted 700 trees with Greening Australia as part of a conservation effort to protect a vulnerable species of cockatoo.

(continued next page)

Following Christ's example of service

By Isobel D'Cruz*

The 'Anglican Combo group' descended on Trinity Christian School last Tuesday afternoon for a full-on five days at Soul in the Bush 2015.

The 'Combo Group' consisted of youth from Holy Covenant, St Paul's Manuka, St Matt's Wanniasa, Lanyon Valley, St Mary in the Valley, Tumut Baptist (contact made through Camp Pelican), St John's Canberra and St Philip's O'Connor.

Our hearty and hardy crew enjoyed a busy schedule with the aim of serving, listening to, and praying for others.

We braved the 'fresh' mornings and rain as the buses arrived, and with our group leaders we youth campers climbed aboard and travelled out to rural communities all around Canberra for a day spent in service projects.

There was fence painting in Yass, an Anglicare holiday kids club in Goulburn, tree planting in Burra and so much more! A total of around 22 projects in the Canberra surrounds! The three service days were a challenge to follow Christ's example of service to others; exhibiting compassion, understanding, and selflessness ... in God's name.

In the late afternoon the buses would return us back to camp. Although often muddy and wet, our bus trips were always buzzing with shared tales of the day's experiences and impromptu karaoke (even rapping!).

The evening involved a huge communal worship gathering spent watching and hearing about the day, worshipping in song, and listening to

enthusiastic sermons from various guest pastors. Complete with a band, lighting rig, and 360° TV set-up, the Anglican Combo group were more often up and out of their seats than not!

Afterwards, the night would come alive with night venues. A café, gamers lounge, board-game room, prayer space, cinema, as well as games of basketball, putt-putt golf, and capture-the-flag made for great times, with something for everyone. It can also be said the Combo Anglicans came together to have a blast at the end-of-week dance party!

Yes, it rained! Yes, it was muddy! Yes, the days were long! Nonetheless, our morning-meeting Bible study (conducted by Melbourne pastor Matt Detry), of the book of Jonah, was poignant in this matter... Like Jonah 'facing-up' to the discomfort of going into the city of Nineveh to share the Word (Jonah 3); when we seek to help others, we too must risk 'going into the city'.

Although it did not bring the trivial comforts we were accustomed to, being challenged to serve others in God's name allowed us to exemplify the power of God's love for ALL.

**Isobel D'Cruz is a member of Holy Covenant youth group.*



REPORTING: Dougal Mordike (Holy Covenant) tells the whole group at the night meeting about his time serving at the Goulburn kids club.

A Youth Worker's perspective

Occasionally you are part of an event that, when you look back, causes you to think: "How did that all happen?!"

Soul in the Bush is one such event! Our group of 30 Anglican youth from across the Diocese met with over 450 youth from around Australia to journey together on an inward journey with worship, song, teaching and prayer and also an outward journey to serve those around us in Burra, Yass, Goulburn, Murrumbateman and Canberra.

Soul Survivor NSW/ACT led us through the week of word, spirit and action. At the end of the week I had a sense that this was a beginning rather than an ending as we shared in Holy Communion together and brainstormed ways that we could serve our local community.

Soul in the Bush is a wonderful event that is planned again for Canberra next April. I encourage you to think about becoming involved - I know I will be!

Katherine Rainger serves as Youth and Children Worker at Holy Covenant Jamison.

Combining faith with works

(continued from p. 14)

Other Burra projects included rejuvenating garden beds in carparks, working with Landcare and gardening at private residences.

'Soul in the Bush' also extended to Wee Jasper, where delegates built a frame for a boatshed at Mountain Trails Adventure School, and Murrumbateman where they painted play equipment at a preschool. On the final day of the conference, all the delegates came together for a combined project in

Canberra city called 'The Blue Run', a fun run/walk supporting beyondblue.

Deborah Stanley summed up the week: "We are so happy that these country towns have been served in such an intense and practical way. Our prayer is that these projects - whether it be tree planting or renovations or a kids club - have a lasting impact and that there will be fruit from these projects that we don't even know about".

**Jillian Reay-Smith is a voluntary media officer for Soul Survivor ACT.*



Goulburn Holiday Club success

Organisers hope to make Children's Holiday Club an annual event

Last week's Holiday Club at the Veolia Arena saw many children from Goulburn come together for a fun week of games, drama, live music, sport, craft and interactive Bible stories.

Over 65 children gathered last Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at the Veolia Arena on Braidwood Road to the event organised by a team of volunteers from churches across Goulburn.

Brian and Ali Champness, the Holiday Club directors, said "It was such a privilege to provide this opportunity for children to have a fun holiday program with such a great team of people who gave their time and talents to ensure there were lots of things to do and the children were well cared for".

Brian added that the children had a wonderful time with all the craft, games, singing and activities- but they especially loved the game of 'paint wars' which was played on the grass out the front of the arena on the last day!

"The Veolia Arena provided a great multi-purpose facility for this event", Alison said. "There was a large carpeted area for the children to sit on where they could also play games, and the stage was fantastic for the band and the drama."

She said the size of the venue meant there was plenty of room for all activities – even when it rained.

"We couldn't have got a better venue and we hope to do an even bigger Holiday Club next year."

The team of nearly 40 leaders and volunteers from seven churches around Goulburn worked really well together. Brian said "It was great to see such good unity amongst the churches and to see all the resources and talents from the different churches brought together to put on an exciting event. We are hoping to make Easter Holiday Club an annual event".



BATTLE SCARS: Leaders proudly display their 'battle scars' after an enthusiastic game of paint wars. The game was very popular with the children

The Holiday Club team was also supported by a group of enthusiastic teenagers from a Christian youth conference in Canberra called 'Soul in the Bush' who provided much energy and fun - which the children loved.

"The team from the Soul in the Bush Christian Conference was an amazing blessing to the Holiday Club," said Brian. "They brought their youthful exuberance and yet showed great wisdom and maturity as they pastored their small group of children that was allocated to them.

"These youth saw the mission opportunity with these young children and fully engaged in ministering to them."

A new website has been started called 'Goulburn Kids United' to help keep people informed about what events, programs and services for children and

families are happening in the different churches around Goulburn.

Brian and Ali and the Holiday Club Team would like to thank Mayor Geoff Kettle, the Goulburn Mulwaree Council and also the Veolia Arena for the support they have shown towards this event.

"The support they have shown demonstrates their commitment to the people and families of Goulburn in providing a quality multipurpose venue that can host varying events, not just sporting matches," Brian said.

For information about future events visit www.goulburnkidsunited.org regularly or contact Brian Champness at info@goulburnkidsunited.org or call 0476 168 118.

Synergy contacts

Synergy Youth: www.synergy.org.au

Synergy Youth Director: Andrew Edwards, (Andrew@synergy.org.au; 6245 7101)

Synergy Youth Chair: Ruth Edwards (contact via 6245 7101)

WINTER CAMP is coming... 7-11 July 2015 Details soon!