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New Principal for Canberra Girls Grammar



BY PETER CASTLE, MARKETING AND PUBLIC RELATIONS MANAGER

Canberra Girls Grammar School was delighted to celebrate the commissioning of Principal Anna Owen as the 15th standing principal in a long line of trusted education professionals dating back to 1926. Bishop Mark officially commissioned Mrs Owen at St Paul's Anglican Church on Friday 10th May.

Mrs Owen believes there is a bright future for the school and honoured her predecessors on the day saying, 'We never forget those people, places and organisations that shape us and this school is one

such place. It shapes and is shaped by those who attend as students, but equally shapes and is shaped by those who accept the call to engage. I accept humbly, and with great depth of feeling, the invitation to join the Canberra Girls Grammar School community as the 15th Principal.'

With a belief in the importance of educating girls and young women, Anna Owen is privileged to be able to seize this opportunity at such a unique time in the school's history. 'Our purpose is to educate girls.'

Anna Owen says 'Our intent is to develop young women that are able to articulate what it is to be well-educated, who understand the great responsibility of receiving a great education and who insist on living ethically and purposefully'.

'A good friend of mine put the role of schools such as ours best, her name is Loren Bridge and she said, "Simply put, every aspect of a girls' school is tailored to girls and how they learn, without competition and social pressure from boys, and this is enormously empowering for girls."

Anna Owen takes the reigns of a historical vision of core beliefs focussed on delivering education, compassion and kindness, security



and inclusivity, dignity and respect.

'We do reflect and we reflect with pride, but equally with hope and confidence in the future. I am committed to honouring our Anglican and service-minded foundational values, our wholesome untainted history, our purposeful past, and will not tread on the past to get to the future, but look ahead and guide our school through the future opportunities and challenges because I know who we are, and we never forget where we came from.'

Bishop Mark Writes

HEARING WHAT MATTERS TO GOD

There is a big difference between talking *about* someone, talking *at* someone and talking *with* someone. The first excludes them altogether, the second treats them as an object while only the third welcomes them as a conversation partner.

In our contemporary society it seems this third type of talking is an increasingly rare and precious gift. Perhaps this is one reason for what seems to me an undue anxiety in some quarters about the concept of an indigenous 'voice' to Parliament. I don't hear our indigenous sisters and brothers demanding to speak about, at or over Parliament. For them 'voice' is the beginning not the end of a conversation. It is an invitation to hear, to reflect and then to respond.

We see this pattern lived out in the story of Philip in the book of Acts, Chapter 8. After being sent by the Spirit into the desert Philip encounters a traveller on his way home from Jerusalem. He draws near to the man's chariot and hears him reading from the Old Testament prophet Isaiah.

'Do you understand what you are reading?' Philip asks. Having invited Philip into the chariot beside him the Ethiopian has a question of his own as he ponders the mysterious suffering servant of Isaiah 53:

'Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?'

In response, Philip begins from that very place and tells him the good news about Jesus. The encounter which begins with a puzzle ends with the Ethiopian going on his way rejoicing, having found new life in Christ.

In scripture and tradition Philip is known as the evangelist – one who proclaims the good news of Jesus. Perhaps we associate evangelism with the kind of speech that talks at people. In this passage Philip gives us another model. Here evangelism begins with a willingness to hear, reflect and then respond in witness to Jesus. It is evangelism where the messenger accepts the role of guest rather than host. It is evangelism that talks with the other.

When I was Rector at St Paul's Turvey Park we printed a number of postcards which we distributed throughout our community. People were invited to write down their questions about God and the Christian faith and then return them to us so we could collate them and use them as a basis for a sermon series. With very few exceptions those questions were expressed thoughtfully and we sought to answer them in that same spirit. It was a small attempt to begin a conversation.

The Ethiopian's questions clearly mattered to God, given that He sent his messenger all the way to the desert to answer.



In a conversation-starved world wouldn't it be great if our churches were known as places where people's questions matter? May God help us to hear the world's questions with an openness to conversation and witness.



Bishop Mark recently attended the Regional Anglican Leadership Forums (RALF) in Canberra, Wagga Wagga and Moruya. The Anglican teams were delighted to meet Bishop Mark and encouraged to hear him speak about his heart for the work of Anglican and its continued connection with the Diocese.

Clergy Moves

The Reverend Tracey Matthews has resigned her ATO effective 31 August 2019 to take up the position as Rector of the Parish of Charlestown in the Diocese of Newcastle.

Archdeacon Emeritus Anne Ranse has resigned as a member of the Cathedral Chapter.

AnglicanNews

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Our Diocese is committed to holistic Safe Church Ministry. This means: we commit to our pastoral, duty of care, legal and insurance obligations; with the goal that all ministries are spiritually, emotionally and physically safe; based on the premise that Diocesan parishes and ministries should be person-valuing and respectful places free from abuse and harm, for ministry to God's glory.

The Creating Safe Ministries program assists us to fulfil this commitment. Those who need to complete a Creating Safe Ministries workshop can now access the National Anglican Safe Ministry Induction (Awareness) and Refresher course online.

Details of these can be found here:
anglicancg.org.au/safe-ministries/safe-ministry-unit/safe-ministries-training-and-workshops/

Safe Ministry Helpline: 1800 070 511



New Rector for Arawang



BY REVEREND ANGUS ROBINSON

G'day, I'm Gus. I'm married to Christy and together we have four great kids - Lochie, 12; Mini, 10; Jo, 8; and Dean, 6.

I became a Christian in Armidale while studying teaching. I met

Christy in the local supermarket. When I went to collect her for our first date I noticed a Bible open on her table. I asked if she was a Christian. She said, 'Yes. Are you?' I had been to youth group enough

during high school to know a Christian might not go out with a non-Christian, so I decided to lie and said I was! 'Sure', I thought, 'I'll be whatever you want me to be!'

Christy then invited me to come along to her church. A short time later I did become a Christian. While looking at 1 Corinthians 15, I realised that if someone came back to life from the dead, then I would listen to them. I was convinced that Jesus died for me, the resurrection had really happened and I needed to take what Jesus had to say seriously.

Christy and I were married a couple of years later. Not too long after that, Christy was working as a nurse and myself as a primary school teacher when an opportunity arose for us to move to Scotland. We spent five years away, working during the winters and travelling during the summers. While we were on the move we often struck up friendships with other travellers and had great conversations. Time and again people asked us questions about God.

One new friend looked at all the poverty around us in Africa and said to me, 'Gus, where is your God in all this?' Christy and I felt that our answers were true but unconvincing to those without faith. God grew in us a strong desire to study the Bible. 'If the gospel is really the answer to all the pain and suffering in the world', we thought, 'then we really should know more about it'.

We enrolled at Sydney Missionary and Bible College, never thinking that we would end up in ministry, but during that first year there we both felt called. We realised we could have a job helping others know how much God loves them.

God has been relentlessly kind to us. We have been blessed with our kids and served in pastoral ministry in Inverell, Tenterfield and most recently the University Chapel in Armidale, the church where I was converted 20 years ago. We are all excited about serving in Arawang, beginning in November.

A Sailor's Tale



BY VENERABLE EMERITUS ERIC BURTON

It was July 1969, 50 years ago, that as an 18-year-old I went to see the chaplain at HMAS CERBERUS, the recruit training establishment for the Royal Australian Navy. This followed weeks of conversation about the Christian faith with Tony, another sailor who I shared a cabin with.

I was confused. I mocked Tony's idea that Jesus Christ had died for me and that I needed to trust him. I found it offensive that God could somehow find my life unacceptable and that I needed to do more than live a good life

I remember one day Tony saying,

'Hey Eric, how much do you think you are right that Christianity is rubbish'. I replied '95%'. He said, 'well when you think what's at stake - your eternal future - don't you think it's worth keeping on looking for the truth for that 5% doubt'.

It was at that time that, despite my strong convictions that the Christian message was weird and simply wrong, I began to become convicted against my will.

After weeks of struggle I finally went to see Navy Chaplain John Jones to see what he would say. I was very fearful of going home on leave to tell my father - also Eric Burton - that I had 'got religion'. He despised 'weak people who needed faith' and part of the struggle was the thought of becoming someone who was different.

And so in July 1969, after being shown by Chaplain Jones the scripture in Revelation 3:20 about Jesus standing at the door of my heart and seeking entry, I gave in and asked God to forgive my sins and be my Master.

My father was not happy with my conversion, and in my mind it just confirmed all that he thought of me. However, the following year I was in tears on the flight deck of the aircraft carrier HMAS MELBOURNE as I read a letter from him. He used to

drop Mum off at the Campbell Gospel Chapel in Canberra for Sunday worship, following her conversion shortly after mine. He'd wait in the car park for church to finish and then take her home. One day he decided to go into church and heard a powerful message. Mum said when he got back to his home in Farrer 'he paced around the house for about a hour' and then committed his life to Christ. Part of his letter to me at sea said, 'rejoice with me son for I am born again'.

I cried on that flight deck because - despite my prayers for Dad - I didn't believe God had the power to change my Dad's hard heart.

I left the Navy in 1973, trained at St Mark's and after ordination served as a priest in the diocese for 11 years from 1977-88. I re-joined the Navy that year to replace the now retiring Archdeacon John Jones and my first posting was HMAS CERBERUS where I became a believer. I retired as Archdeacon to the Navy in 2017 and currently serve as honorary chaplain to the Australian Parliament House Christian Fellowship.

I want to thank the Lord for all his mercies, giving me a hope and a future, and acknowledge that wonderful day in July 1969; an amazing year for a moon landing and God at work!

Remembering Reverend Dr David Willsher



The Reverend David Willsher at a Year 12 Graduation Chapel at Canberra Girls Grammar School

On 20th July 2019 The Reverend David Willsher, Chaplain at Canberra Girls Grammar School, was unexpectedly called home to glory.

This article has been adapted from the Eulogy for David written by David's wife, The Reverend Jenny Willsher.

David Willsher was born in Ballarat in 1956. His journey with God began at birth. His parents were devout and faithful Anglicans, and God and church were always part of David's life. David read in church, attended Sunday School, taught Sunday School and his faith was important to him. He was involved in the Parish youth group.

On completion of his Applied Chemistry degree David began his teaching career at St Martin's in the Pines Girls School, teaching Earth Science.

At the end of that year he was invited by the Assistant Bishop to attend a selection conference, and ended up the following year at St John's College Morpeth to begin his studies for ordination.

David and Jenny met in 1981 and were married in December that year in Ballarat by his Bishop.

David's ordained ministry was full and varied. Ordained in 1983, he ministered in the Parish of Portland in Ballarat Diocese – where he was also chaplain to the Mission to Seafarers; he then went to Dee Why Parish in the Diocese of Sydney, where he was also chaplain to St

Luke's Girls Grammar School. It was at this time that David began his lecturing at St John's College Morpeth. He would continue as a part-time lecturer with St John's, The Pacific Theological College and with Charles Sturt University School of Theology, for the rest of his life. After Dee Why, David ministered in New Lambton Parish in Newcastle Diocese while Jenny was at theological College. As a Priest, David was pastoral and caring; worship led by him was enthusiastic and engaging, and he was a gifted preacher. He followed Jesus' example of using stories to communicate the Gospel and to make God's love real and meaningful to people's everyday life.

David went on to serve as a Juvenile Justice Chaplain for seven years. He loved that ministry and thrived on it – because, as we all know, David would talk to anyone about anything!

David and Jenny's son Joshua was born in 1995, and David took extended LSL so he could be primary carer. He cherished the months that he had at home caring for Joshua.

In 1997 David and Jenny began part-time ministry together, in Wyoming Parish, so they could share the parenting of Joshua. They were then asked by ABM and the Pacific Theological College to lecture in Fiji. David thrived in Fiji, loved lecturing, the people, the chapel singing, the food, the ecumenical and inclusive nature of the college. David

continued his association with PTC after returning to Australia, going back for a few visits, including for the 50th anniversary celebrations, and he continued to mark Masters and PhD theses.

On returning to Australia David finally completed the PhD he had been working on for 12 years. Why 12 years? Well, David kept getting side-tracked by life and disasters! He spent time with Joshua instead of writing – the PhD also got interrupted by the Newcastle earthquake, the Central Coast Bushfires, the coup and a cyclone in Fiji. Disaster ministry was a feature of his ministry as David was a trained and brilliant 'Critical Incident de-briefer'. He led and co-ordinated the Chaplaincy and Pastoral care team following the Newcastle earthquake. Together, he and Jenny debriefed over one hundred children living in the college following the coup in Fiji.

Once the thesis was completed David and Jenny led the ministry at St John's Theological College Morpeth. When it was decided that St John's College would be closing, they relocated to Wagga Wagga, where David helped with the Parishes of the Rock,

Tumbarumba and also the Community of the Redeemer at Ashmont. He then became Chaplain at The Riverina Anglican College, where again he was teaching young people.

Young people were at the heart of David's life. Whether it was family gatherings, or church gatherings, or at his schools – you would always find David surrounded by young people.

David lived life to the full, he treasured every day of the gift of his life, he has shown us how to celebrate life, but most of all he has shown us how to love. Now he would say to each of us just do it, get out there and love, truly love, just as God has loved us.



20 Years' Service for Alaine Cohen



Alaine Cohen started working for Anglicare Youth and Family Services in 1999 as a program co-ordinator. She moved to a corporate role in Finance in 2001. In 2006, Alaine was the first technician recruited to the Information, Communications and Technology department. Her duties ranged from Server support, helpdesk support, desktop support and procurement. She is currently an ICT support officer for the ADS, a role she has held since its inception.

Alaine's excellent service record

was honoured at a recent morning tea, where she was presented with a certificate of service and flowers by Bishop Mark Short. In accepting the offerings, she stated that the time with the Anglican Family has been great, the ADS is an exciting organisation to be a part of, and that her role and the ICT team were fantastic.

We would all like to thank Alaine for her dedication and service and look forward to the next twenty years.

NAIDOC Week at Holy Covenant, Jamison

BY REVEREND KATHERINE RAINGER, JAMISON



Bishop Mark Short, Brooke Prentis and Reverend Katherine Rainger with the AIATSIS map of Indigenous Australia

NAIDOC week is a chance to honour and celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and cultures. On July 7, Holy Covenant, Jamison, hosted a NAIDOC Week evening prayer service.

The speaker was *Common Grace's* Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander spokesperson, Brooke Prentis. Brooke is a descendent of the Wakka Wakka people. She spoke on 1 John 3:11-24 and the NAIDOC theme, 'Voice, Treaty, Truth'. Brooke spoke powerfully of a vision for a day

when an internationally recognised Treaty and Treaties have been signed between sovereign First Nations and the nation of Australia. She reminded us that the *Statement from the Heart*, issued by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representatives during the constitutional convention held at Uluru in 2017, belongs to a long history of Indigenous advocacy for truth-telling, treaty, and a voice to and in the federal parliament. This history includes: Jimmy Clements' presence at the opening

of Old Parliament House in 1927; William Cooper's Petition to King George VI in 1937; the Yirrkala Bark Petitions in 1963; and the Barunga Statement in 1988. Brooke challenged us as Christians to take the lead in truth-telling about our shared history in Australia—a history of stolen land, stolen wages, stolen generations and stolen lives. She suggested that a first step in the truth-telling process is to read Bruce Pascoe's *Dark Emu*.

The evening prayer service incorporated prayers by Reverend Lenore Parker, a Yaegl woman (from A Prayer Book for Australia), Reverend Bruce Boase, a Wakka Wakka man (ABM website), and Psalm 23 Aboriginal Style by Uncle Ron Williams (*Common Grace* website).

Before Brooke spoke, she was interviewed by Holy Covenant youth group member Aidan Judd, who was nominated for a local NAIDOC Week Youth award for his work in

the community. Brooke joked that when she appears on ABC's *The Drum* as a panellist, she is usually given the questions beforehand! Bishop Mark Short led the congregation in a prayer for Brooke and her ministry as an Aboriginal Christian leader, advocate and speaker.

Worshippers had a chance to respond to all they had heard by placing a stone on the Aboriginal Languages Map as a symbol of thanksgiving, celebration and prayer. A collection was taken up for *Grasstree Gathering*, a network of Aboriginal Christian leaders (<https://www.grasstree-gathering.org.au/>).

Common Grace provides resources for churches and ministry units to acknowledge: 'Aboriginal Sunday' (Sunday before January 26); Auntie Jean Phillips' prayer services for January 26; Reconciliation week; and NAIDOC Week. For more information see <https://www.commongrace.org.au/>

Guests were invited to place a stone on an Indigenous Nation they would like to celebrate and pray for.



Kindness: Giving back to the community



BY KAREN WILSON, HEAD OF COMMUNICATIONS | REGISTRAR

Students from The Riverina Anglican College loading the Carevan with hearty meals for those in need in the Wagga Wagga region.

Students and staff at The Riverina Anglican College embody kindness through the numerous charitable ventures held throughout the year.

Over the past month, year 10 Food Technology students prepared meals to support Carevan Wagga Inc. and senior students held a basketball competition to raise funds for

Kidney Health Australia.

Students thoroughly enjoyed making meals for those in need across Wagga Wagga, where they were distributed across six different venues and provided over 500 meals on cold winter evenings.

Since 2016, the student body at the College has held an annual 11

and 12 basketball competition to raise funds for Kidney Health Australia. The connection with Kidney Health Australia came about when a student was diagnosed with renal failure and received a kidney transplant in 2016. This year, over \$4000 was raised to support the valuable work of Kidney Health Australia.

In the next few weeks, students at the College will hold the annual 'Cake Auction'. This fund-raising event is a remarkable display of innovation, kindness and generosity and requires students to make cakes that are auctioned amongst their year group. Students combine their pocket money and bid against each other for the most colourful, biggest, artistically decorated and yummiest cakes. Last year, more than \$7000 was raised and donated to three different local charities.

College Principal, Mr Paul Humble, said as a Christ-centred school, The Riverina Anglican College aims to transform lives through exceptional education, empowering each

student to act with wisdom, compassion, justice and resilience.

'I am extremely proud of the initiative and kindness students exhibit to help each other and those in need. We want our students to embody empathy, care and service and extend these values in their everyday life while attending the College and beyond', Mr Humble said.



Mr Paul Humble with ex-student and kidney transplant recipient Jarrod Roesler.

What's On

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St John's Care Caring for our Anglicans
Gordon Community Centre Caring for our Community

DIOCESAN MOTHERS' UNION
Canberra & Goulburn
Mary Summer Day

Wednesday 21 August 2019

10am: Eucharist at Holy Cross
11.15: MULOA Talk
Mothers' Union:
Listening - to God, to each other, to the marginalised, to external learning, to creating safe space
Observing - Identifying and celebrating what we have, looking to the future
Acting - taking responsibilities, feeding back honestly
12pm: Lunch - delicious hot buffet



Guest Speaker: Rev'd Anne Kennedy
Anglican Mothers Union - Australian President

For further information contact: Joan Eberle 04569958923
jeb71451@bigpond.net.au (President)
Trish Stoddart 0420 522 265 (Secretary)

Holy Cross Anglican Church Hackett

ANDREW LAIRD

UNDER PRESSURE

HOW THE GOSPEL HELPS US HANDLE THE PRESSURES OF WORK

"Why do I feel so stressed about work?" "Is life always going to feel this overwhelming and busy?" "How can my faith help me cope with the demands of my workplace?" If you've asked these kinds of questions before, you're not alone. When it comes to our daily work, most of us are feeling the squeeze. We're under pressure.

Join us for one night only, after work, as we consider how the Gospel helps us handle the pressures of work. From addressing our hearts to changing our daily work habits, we will provide hope for the working Christian who feels under pressure.

Featuring:
Andrew Laird (author, Under Pressure)
Lieutenant Colonel Carney Elias (Australian Defence Force)
Rev Dr Andrew Cameron (Director, St Mark's)

Tuesday, August 13, 6-8pm
St Mark's National Theological Centre
<https://lifeatwork.org.au/canberra>

Wisdom for Work

How to equip Christians for their life and witness in the workplace

Those in our churches and ministries spend most of their waking hours working. How do we equip them for their life and witness in this context?

Join us for a half-day workshop designed to help you do just that!

Featuring:
Andrew Cameron (St Mark's director) "The Bible's view of work"
Andrew Laird (Life@Work director) "Six things Christians in the workplace want (and need) to know"

WHEN: Wednesday 14 August, 9.30am-12pm
WHERE: St Mark's National Theological Centre
15 Blackall Street Barton
COST: \$20 Seminar Ticket (Includes Morning Tea & BBQ Lunch)
Register: <https://plus.citybibleforum.org/civcrm-event/2073>

30TH AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST

MONDAY 14TH OCTOBER 2019, 6:30AM FOR A 7:00AM START
GREAT HALL, PARLIAMENT HOUSE, CANBERRA

nationalprayerbreakfast.org