



A NEWSPAPER FOR THE CANBERRA & GOULBURN DIOCESAN COMMUNITY

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# ANGLICAN NEWS

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## O'Connor honours former priest

### □ New building meets identified ministry needs for St Philip's parish

#### From the parish

The memory of Rob Lamerton, Rector of St Philip's O'Connor from 1999 to his untimely death in 2008, has been honoured by a new building in the church grounds.

The Lamerton Centre, officially opened by Bishop Stuart Robinson on Saturday 20 September, also acknowledges the work of Rob Lamerton's wife Sandy who began Pandora's Pre-Loved Clothing Shop in 2003.

Current Rector, Rebecca Newland, presided over a program that included a summary of the Lamerton Centre Project by the Chair of Parish Council Ian Cousins, dancing by Dinka congregation children, the story of Pandora's by Sandy Lamerton read by the Rev'd Jeannette McHugh (see [www.sphilipsoconnor.org.au](http://www.sphilipsoconnor.org.au) under

"Newsletter – Autumn 2013 edition") and a liturgy for the official opening and ribbon cutting by the Bishop.

The ceremony was followed by lunch in the newly refurbished courtyard and then the famous Pandora's Fashion Parade.

The Lamerton Centre Project met three long-identified needs of the parish:

- A meeting space for ministry activity and outreach;
- A large storage facility dedicated to the St Philip's Care program; and
- A permanent all-weather home for Pandora's.

The completion of the project has met all these needs. It took almost three years of effort.

It began with a "light bulb" moment that Rebecca Newland had in early 2012: "If we can't afford a new building, why not a demountable?"

Planning started shortly afterwards. The first year was one of planning, fund raising, grant applications and ACT



**OPENING:** A delighted Bishop Stuart cuts the ribbon to formally open the Lamerton Centre at St Philip's, O'Connor, flanked by the Chair of the Parish Council, Ian Cousins, and parish priest Rebecca Newland. The building is named after former Rector Rob Lamerton and his wife Sandra (inset).



**VERSATILE:** The new facility provides additional meeting spaces, storage facilities and an all-weather home for Pandora's Pre-Loved Clothing Shop.

government and Diocesan approvals.

Site preparation work began in April 2013. The demountable building supplied by MOPOD Victoria was installed by late July. Stage 3 included the construction of the deck and ramp, fit out, courtyard gates and fencing, a major refurbishment of the car park and church courtyard and various ancillary works around the site.

The project's completion was the result of generous donations of money, time, skills and effort from all of St Philip's congregations. Funding was essential.

Astoundingly the final figures showed that the parish had contributed 75% of the funding required. The remaining 25 % was from external sources and was of course crucial for the project to proceed.

The ACT Government provided two grants – a sizable one under the Community Infrastructure Program and a smaller one under a Community Safety Program. Anglicare provided a sizable and very welcome grant. The Canberra Academy for Music and Related Arts (CAMRA) provided a series of donations from their musical performances at St Philip's over **(continued on page 2)**

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An ethical investment alternative



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# Challenging innate prejudice

Beloved in Christ,  
I am very conscious of a growing community frisson in Australia around the reported activities and (very real and repugnant) atrocities of the 'Islamic State' and a sense of disquiet – locally - in relation to all things Islamic.

As 'aliens and strangers in this world' I would insist that we endeavour to 'keep our conduct honourable' (I Peter 2:11-12). We are to eschew racial, ethnic and religious 'profiling' and vilification and I do enjoin you to exercise hospitality and welcome to our neighbours and friends from other faith traditions.

The latter may well include: praying for people (of other creeds and ethnicity) in our parishes; inviting people into our homes to hear their stories; simple conversations and warm greeting in supermarket queues or as you pass on the street. Eye contact and a smile may well change a person's day. Seriously.

One church leader (from another denomination) with whom I spoke is

encouraging the women in her congregations to take Muslim women shopping (as an act of solidarity) or if they are afraid – to do the shopping for them. My colleague, the Reverend Susanna Pain (and some of her friends) are adopting – for a season – aspects of Muslim dress and attire in order to draw attention to innate prejudices (exhibited by some).

Some of our leaders are offering English classes whilst others are inviting leaders from the Islamic community to social events where they are interviewed about what they in fact believe. This is done in an irenic and respectful spirit.

In a recent email (10/10) my colleague, Dr Stephen Pickard opined, 'there is a great need right now for a respectful and open dialogue and community engagement on issues to do with Islam in the Australian context. Prejudice is grown on the soil of fear and ignorance. It is time to grow mutual respect and care on the soil of friendship.'

The Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture (ACC&C) is involved in a major Christianity and Islam project for 2015 with the aim of increasing understanding between the two faiths; engaging communities in dialogue and assisting in education about some of the critical issues facing our world and Australia today.

***We are to eschew racial, ethnic and religious 'profiling' and vilification and I do enjoin you to exercise hospitality and welcome to our neighbours and friends from other faith traditions.***

The ACC&C regularly hold symposia on the subject of interfaith and in the last year this has focussed on Islam and Christianity. This will continue next year.

Noting the above, I continue to be heartened and sobered by my colleague, Canon Andrew White, Anglican Priest in Baghdad. Each day he is immersed in the pain of war, intolerance and extremism. He wrote in his blog earlier this month:

Despite the tragedy all around us we are so aware of the presence and glory of

G-d. We had a great joyful event today as I baptised a mother and her four young children. What a joy it was when the 10-year-old boy came up to me after the Baptism and said 'I feel all new now I am all different,' and he was. So many people have asked how they can help us. There are only two things we need. First and most importantly, we need prayer that the presence and protection of G-d will remain with us and secondly we need funding to provide the needs of our people. Such help can be provided through our websites [www.frrme.org](http://www.frrme.org).

Yes, do pray for Andrew. I commend his ministry to you. You may also be interested to know that the Archbishop of Canterbury has written in the November edition of the Prospect magazine, a piece entitled 'What should we do about ISIS'?

The link to the article is: <http://www.prospectmagazine.co.uk/world/justin-welby-what-should-we-do-about-isis>

I take this opportunity to wish you all (somewhat early) God's every blessing for Christmas and the New Year. Immediately after our Priests Ordination in November (to which you are all invited), Jane and I will be leaving Australia for the UK and will be absent from our Diocese over the December/January period.

This long service leave will, please God, afford us the opportunity to recalibrate



Bishop  
Stuart  
Robinson

and be refreshed before starting the seventh year of my episcopate in February. Bishop Trevor, our Vicar-General, will be holding the reins in my absence.

For Jesus,

## Anglican News

**A newspaper for the Canberra and Goulburn Anglican Diocesan community**

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## Canon Theologian gains extra research funding

Canon Theologian for the Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn, Professor Scott Cowdell, has secured two more years of funding from an American Research Foundation to complete a book on René Girard and systematic theology.

The funding also allows him to commence the third of his Girard trilogy, which will be on political theology, the Church and the Christian life.

The current book, his second for the University of Notre Dame Press, is due for completion by mid-2015. The next will take approximately three to four years and has been placed with the Michigan

State University Press series on Girard.

During the three-and-a-half years in total of his American funding, Scott's Honorary Associate Priest position at All Saints', Ainslie, is being rebadged with the title 'Theologian-in-Residence', and his grant turned into a clergy package.

His last book, *René Girard and Secular Modernity: Christ, Culture, and Crisis* is to be the focus of a special session at the American Academy of Religion Conference in San Diego in November at which Scott will be present to respond and answer questions.

## O'Connor honours former priest

(continued from p. 1)  
almost three years. The parish received a Commonwealth Volunteers grant which could be used for certain fit-out items. St Philip's Kindergarten was generous in paying for all the new pavers in the refurbished courtyard and installing new security lighting behind the demountable.

The Lamerton Centre has

quickly become the social hub of the St Philip's community where people gather for a chat when Pandora's is open and for parish celebrations as well as for our monthly Friday Happy Hour.

It has also provided a convenient place for Parish meetings, both formal and informal.

How did we get on without it?

# SOMA mission to Ysabel Island

□ **Eight-day experience of teaching, serving and witnessing the miraculous healing power of God**

**By Robyn Baxter**

What a privilege to be part of this recent mission to the Solomon Islands with Soma (Sharing of Ministries abroad).

Under the wise leadership of Bishop Ian Lambert our journey began in Brisbane where a local Anglican church greeted us for dinner and the promise of prayer support throughout our mission. A great start!

Upon arrival in Honiara our very hectic time began. After booking in to Chester House we had a quick perusal of the streets of Honiara, visited The Sisters of Melanesia to hand over thousands of medals we had for them.

We then shared dinner and a praise service at the cathedral where we were introduced to the amazing Melanesian singing.

Next morning we visited the

Mothers' Union headquarters to deliver hundreds of teddy bears from MU Australia and then the impoverished village of Koa Hill to see a couple who had given birth to a beautiful daughter after 10 childless years of marriage, following prayer from a Soma team. We had a thanksgiving service for Victoria when we returned.

That afternoon we then boarded (after a long wait) our tiny twin otter for our trip to Fera, a grass air strip on a tiny sandy island. A half-hour journey followed in a banana boat to Jejevo on Ysabel Island.

What a wonderful welcome awaited us! Very happy faces, beautiful singing, warm handshakes and leis for each of us. At dinner we saw many of the participants of our week long course which was to start early the next morning.

At eight o'clock on the Thursday morning we began our Bible studies with about 12 people in each group. Soon discussions and questions



**WELCOME:** Children in the impoverished community of Koa Hill, near Honiara, gave the Canberra-Goulburn SOMA team a warm welcome.

flowed in earnest and these groups proved to be very important both for getting to know the people as well as discussing issues which concerned them.

We very quickly learned that these ministers and church leaders had been placed in small, isolated villages after limited theological training and without any possibility of in service training or teaching. They hungered for every topic of teaching we presented.

Our topics included teaching on who Jesus is, and the need for a personal commitment; the work of the Holy Spirit; prayer; forgiveness; healing; suffering; spiritual warfare; Bible study; mission and evangelism and stewardship. On the Saturday morning we had sessions on Family life where the issue of abuse (very prevalent in villages) was introduced and discussed and the important role of women highlighted.

Our first Healing service was on Friday night and many people came forward for healing prayer. Lives were touched and commitments to Jesus made and renewed. One young, lonely, Melanesian sister realised for the first time that God really loves her and was with her each day.

On Sunday we travelled by small open boats in teeming rain to Poro village. Eight drenched team members were again welcomed warmly with handshakes and leis and then treated to much beautiful

singing with a song specially written for us.

Afternoon tea followed, then a walk all around the village. After finally being shown our rooms, we changed, spent time singing and playing with the children, attended Evening Prayer then had dinner.

*It seemed as though the whole village attended the healing service, and God worked mightily in our midst.*

It seemed as though the whole village attended the Healing Service that followed dinner, and God worked mightily in our midst.

A machete-mangled hand was completely restored with broken, misplaced bones put right; men were prayed for to overcome Solbrew (beer) dependence; gnarled arthritic hands were released and able to move again; arm and leg pain were healed and lives were committed to Jesus. A most powerful night for all of us!

Early Monday morning we boarded our tiny boats in teeming rain and crashed through the waves in the open sea on our way back to Jejevo. We even saw turtles and flying fish amongst the waves and rain! As bedraggled travellers we arrived back, changed,

breakfasted and were straight into the program again.

The week began with a new closeness between the team and the participants and much was shared at every opportunity for discussion and chatting. Meal times saw us in deep discussions and huge problems were unburdened and prayed for.

This was so valuable as we had our second Healing Service on the Tuesday night when many renewed their commitments to Jesus; arms and legs were healed; Solbrew dependences were broken; family difficulties were confessed and prayed for; long-held guilt was unburdened and ministries were committed to God for refreshing. We also prayed for God's blessing on over 80 children. What a powerful, grace-full God we have!

Our farewells were difficult as we had grown so close to so many in such a short time. Unfortunately we could not promise a return visit as much as they pleaded for one!

On return to Honiara we held a delightful celebratory dinner with much fun and laughter. Needless to say, our returns home have needed some adjustment time!

Members of the team included Bishop Ian Lambert, Rev Rob Donald, Rev Graeme Liersch, Canon Gill Varcoe, Paul and Robyn Baxter, Sue Bruce and Therese Griffiths.



**HUNGER:** Ministers attending the conference were hungry for teaching, as many had been placed in isolated villages after limited training.



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## NEWS &amp; LETTERS

## Junee says 'thanks' to Temora

For the last 18 months the Anglican parish of Temora has helped Junee parish to employ a full time priest.

To show their appreciation, the parishioners of Junee hosted a thank you dinner in August. About 40 people from Temora were among the 80 adults and ten children who attended the function.

Instigated by the Junee parish council, the dinner

followed a similar event held last year and the gesture was greatly appreciated by the Temora parish.

During the evening, Junee priest Glen McDonald spoke of the Apostle Paul's thankfulness to God for the generosity of the Asian churches in their giving to God's mission in Jerusalem, saying that this example was a model for the partnership of Temora and their generosity.

Giving thanks to God for the brothers and sisters in Temora, Glen personally thanked John and Coral Jenner for their support of Beth and himself as they had settled into our first parish.

While giving thanks for the faithful people of the church in Junee, he also painted a vision for a new congregation which will express the traditions of the church in an informal way, "encouraging those to whom a traditional service doesn't resonate, and even alienates; those who are primarily the unchurched". "This will free us up to rethink the current Sunday congregation to embrace the traditions more and reach out to those for whom traditions are important, such as those people who have been part of the church in the past, yet have been side tracked by the world," Glen McDonald said.

"In both congregation we will continue to gather around the throne of God in his word and seek to be transformed by His grace in relationship."

Junee parishioner Des Littlewood spoke briefly on his experience over the last year, with a particular emphasis



**APPRECIATION:** Junee priest Glen McDonald and his wife Beth expressed their appreciation to the parishioners of Temora, for the support they have given Junee parish over the past 18 months.

on his role in managing the parish's Op Shop, Annie's on Broadway.

Glen McDonald told *Anglican News* that the support from Temora had been a great help for Junee parish.

"Like all parishes we all have our challenges, and finance continues to be a challenge," he said. "We have stabilised our income through the generosity of Temora and we have established good relationships. The generosity of Temora has enabled me to spend time in developing

connections in the community, such as Scripture in the primary school, church services in the nursing home and hospital, running the kid's club and building relationships into the community."

He said that the parish had established its own giving to mission at local, national and global levels.

"We look forward to being in a position where we may be able to support another parish in our region in the way the Temora has supported us," he added.

## Letters to the Editor

### Book give-away

Dear Sir,

I live at Campbelltown, a long way from most readers, but am an ancient broad church parishioner of St John's, Reid (where I was ordained deacon by Bishop Burgmann 55 years ago), attending, at 11.15 (BCP), whenever possible.

I have a vast number of books, mostly Christian but some secular, that I am would like to give away freely to church-people for personal or parish or scholarly libraries and fetes (not to book-shops). Some have gone to St Mark's and to Moore etc but perhaps 2000 remain – Biblical, theological, historical, liturgical, and hymnological, many as new. Anyone coming this way is welcome to arrange to see them.

Secondly, any of my own books, each \$15, can be picked up by arrangement with me at St John's office or posted (\$1.20). They include *Morning Prayer Matters*, *Prayer Book Patterns and Principles*, *Celebrating BCP – A Map for the Minister*, and now *An Anzac Companion: Civilised Song and Community Prayer 1915 – 2015* (72 pp). This latest book provides an attractive gift especially for any whose family have service links

(colour cover) and a resource for officiants at commemorative services next year. It includes Australian and New Zealand and other hymns, prayers, and poems, including two written by the late Canon John May, formerly Chaplain of Duntroon, when a POW in Japan.

Yours truly,  
(The Rev'd Dr) John Bunyan  
Campbelltown, NSW

### Trip to North Korea

Dear Sir

There may be some readers of *Anglican News* who might be interested in visiting North Korea early next April as part of a prayer, friendship and study group. Especially welcome are medical and health professionals, and business people. However, the main requirements are to be humble and holy and mature Christians. The cost of the 12 day tour, including airfares and visas, is about \$3,500. Included also is a two day briefing in Beijing prior to departure for North Korea.

Anyone who is interested should contact: work.john.miller@gmail.com.

John Miller,  
Batemans Bay.

## St Mark's National Theological Centre

### CSU Lecturer (Adjunct) in Systematic Theology and RTO Trainer in Ministry Formation

The Centre seeks a theologically integrated and versatile person to join the St Mark's faculty in Canberra. The appointee to this position will primarily take carriage of course offerings in the sub-discipline of Systematic Theology and will regularly participate in training and assessment of competencies for Anglican ministry. The position will be available from early 2015.

Full position description and selection criteria are available at [www.stmarks.edu.au](http://www.stmarks.edu.au), or by email request to [stmarksadmin@csu.edu.au](mailto:stmarksadmin@csu.edu.au). Applications close Tuesday 25 November 2014.



## Letters ...

*Anglican News* readers are invited to respond to articles and raise new issues of concern through the 'Letters' column.

Letters of 250 words or less will be given preference.

Long letters may be edited for reasons of clarity or space. Name, address and a contact phone number (for verification) must be supplied. Letters will not normally be published without the author's name.

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## St Mark's National Theological Centre

### RTO Ministry Formation Coordinator and CSU Lecturer (Adjunct) in Practical Theology

The Centre seeks a theologically integrated, versatile and practical person to join St Mark's faculty in Canberra. The appointee to this position will primarily take carriage of development and delivery of RTO courses in formation for ministry and of CSU courses in the sub-discipline of Practical Theology, with participation in the academic life of St Mark's and CSU's School of Theology.

The position will be available from early 2015.

Full position description and selection criteria are available at [www.stmarks.edu.au](http://www.stmarks.edu.au), or by email request to [stmarksadmin@csu.edu.au](mailto:stmarksadmin@csu.edu.au). Applications close Tuesday 25 November 2014.



## NEWS FROM SYNOD

# Ainslie's residential college nearing completion

A newly-built residential college in the church grounds at All Saints', Ainslie, will provide accommodation for 26 students studying in the ACT.

Built at a cost of almost four million dollars, All Saints' College consists of 26 independent living units, each with its own en-suite and kitchenette.

Bishop Stuart Robinson will officially open the residences on November 13.

Although the idea began four years ago, construction only started in April this year and has moved quickly to meet the scheduled opening date.

Presenting a report on the project to the meeting of the Diocesan Synod in September, Ainslie rector Fr Michael Faragher and parishioner David Holmesby (who are both members of the College Council) explained that the College was a partnership between the parish and the diocese, and was governed by a council under a

diocesan ordinance.

The first council was appointed by BiC and consists of Professor Ingrid Moses as Chair; the rector of All Saints', Michael Faragher, as Deputy Chair; the now Bishop of Grafton, Dr Sarah MacNeil, (subsequently replaced by Rosemary Reid); the Reverend Dr Sarah Bachelard, Dr David Sloper; Bob Arthur; Heather Walsh and David Holmesby. Sarah Bachelard has since resigned, and will be replaced shortly.

"We're very thankful to the two Sarahs for their wisdom and hard work," David Holmesby told the Synod.

Explaining the reasoning behind the project, David Holmesby quoted the preamble to the ordinance: "The College ... will provide an opportunity for its members, during a period of residence, to find a greater understanding of the nature of God and the body of Christ, the Church, and to also have an opportunity to



**INSPECTION:** Fr Colin Dundon (locum priest at Ainslie) Fr Michael Faragher (on leave pending his move to Brisbane Diocese), David Holmesby and Dean of Canberra's Catholic University Patrick McArdle inspect the interior of one of the residential units

be drawn into a closer and active involvement with All Saints' Parish in particular

and other churches in general."

Rector of Ainslie, Michael Faragher, said that in the summer months every year of his time in the parish he had fielded a number of phone calls "from people all over Australia saying their son or daughter is coming to Canberra to study, and would someone in the parish be able to look after them".

"That was linked to me walking from my office over to the hall every morning, across about an acre of prime real estate, twenty minutes' walk away from Civic, with bus stops on the doorstep."

He said the idea started to take shape at the 2010 Synod when he, David Holmesby and Lee Archinall had "actually started sketching on the tablecloth".

"The building we're about to open fortunately bears no resemblance to what we actually drew!" he assured the Synod, adding that interest in the project

had been "incredible"; "I wish we had built three of them instead of one!"

David Holmesby pointed out that the site was within easy walking distance from both the ANU and the Australian Catholic University, with busses also readily available.

He said that the College had attracted National Rental Affordability Scheme funding, which is for projects such as this where residents meet particular eligibility criteria. "That is, at the moment they can only earn less than \$47,000 in the year finishing the day before they take up residence," he explained. "The administration is going to be interesting, but applicants will have to be rigorously screened." The funding will allow rents to be kept at least 20% below market rates.

For further information go to the College website: [www.asc-canberra.org.au/](http://www.asc-canberra.org.au/)

## Synod's tribute to ministry of Simon Wooldridge

The Synod of Canberra and Goulburn Diocese, meeting in Goulburn in mid-September, paid tribute to the long and faithful ministry of Simon Wooldridge with a standing ovation.

A motion by Canon Margaret Campbell and Margaret Wheelwright stated that: "The Synod of the Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn acknowledges the faithful ministry of The Reverend Canon Simon Wooldridge, thanks him for his dedication and commitment to the people of God and wishes him great blessings in his retirement."

Reading a speech prepared by Canon Margaret Campbell (who was unable to be present at the time the motion was put), Margaret Wheelwright said that Canon Wooldridge "was probably the last of the sons of the Diocese who offered for ministry as a young man, ... and has spent his whole ministry serving God in the Canberra and Goulburn Diocese".

She said that he had served in parish ministry in Wagga and Tarcutta, pastored and led the creating of a ministry in North Belconnen (now known as Charwood), and was Rector of Christ Church Queanbeyan.

"Along the way, he has been Chaplain at schools, Area Dean, served on many Diocesan boards, and of course as a Canon of our Cathedral."



**RECOGNITION:** Margaret Wheelwright presents Simon Wooldridge with a 'Go to Jail' coffee mug as Synod passes a motion in recognition of his service to the people of God.

Margaret Campbell had first met Simon in 2000, when he was a 'Holy Roller' - a member of the Diocesan Motorcycle Club.

"I then enjoyed his funny, warm, incisive letters to his mother, as I am sure many of you in Synod have done, which he wrote during his time at Goulburn Gaol. He was, of course, the Chaplain at the time."

Simon became the inaugural Chaplain of the Alexander Maconochie Correctional Centre in the ACT, and had set up the Chaplaincy services there..

"But more than what he has done, Simon is an amazing man of God," Margaret Campbell's speech continued. "Behind his friendly, humorous exterior is a humble, wise, prophetic, caring, passionate man whose love of

God and commitment to God and God's people, especially those who we often forget, shines through.

Simon is a man who makes a difference. The parishes where he has served have known this. I'm sure the gaols are a better place for his presence; I know our clergy gatherings have been, and I know you will agree, so has Synod."

She said that while Simon had not often got to his feet to speak at Synod, when he did "we all stop and take note of what he says".

Margaret Wheelwright then presented Simon with a coffee mug bearing the Monopoly image of a policeman, saying 'Go to Jail'.

Synod members rose as one, to pass the motion with a standing ovation.



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## NEWS FROM THE PARISHES

# Gungahlin's 21st birthday party

□ **Anniversary celebrates development of one of Canberra's larger Anglican churches**

## From the parish

On Saturday September 20, over 120 people gathered in the school hall at Burgmann Anglican School's Forde campus to celebrate 21 years since the nucleus of the church first met in a lounge room in Palmerston.

That location was one of the first houses built in the Gungahlin area and it was owned by Margaret and Ian Heyward. From this small beginning developed

one of the larger churches in the Diocese and also a thriving Anglican School.

Fittingly the birthday celebrations were held in the Margaret and Ian Heyward Hall, named to recognise the significant influence the Heywards have had on the development of both the Burgmann Anglican School and Gungahlin Anglican Church communities.

"However, it is not about

us", they said. "This has all been possible through the grace and faithfulness of God".

Party goers were greeted by a festively decorated hall with a static display of the church's history as well as a rolling loop of significant photographs from the past. GAC has met in a number of locations before its current sites at Burgmann's Gungahlin and Forde campuses and some of the early signage was also on display.

Guests included Bishop Stuart and Mrs Jane Robinson, Bishop George and Mrs Margaret Browning, MLA's Dr Chris Bourke, Alistair Coe, Vicky Dunne and previous priests, Vicky Cullen and Malcolm Richards. Other guests included members of the original house church and not least of all members of the GAC church family.

As with any family 21st birthday, speeches recalled the way the church grew from its infancy to its current standing of three congregations of roughly 100 attendees each Sunday.

Ron Badger, Vicky Cullen, and Malcolm Richards remembered the early days and the many meeting locations of the young church.



**ANNIVERSARY DINNER:** Ben Quirk, Ron Badger, Bishop Stuart, Naomi Dasey, Jane Robinson and parish priest Michael Dasey shared a table at the evening dinner celebrating the 21st anniversary of the Anglican Church in Gungahlin.

Malcolm recalled that when he was called to the work of growing GAC, Bishop George had told him: "but there is no money, I mean NO money".

Current Rector, Michael Dasey replied, "You were lucky ... I came to a half million dollar debt!"

However all agreed that God had continued to provide for his people and grow his church and thus the night was an affirmation of our great God and Jesus' redeeming love.

Bishop Stuart affirmed GAC for working to transform people and the surrounding community through faith in Jesus and urged them to keep going while always depending on God's grace.

The evening was 'emceed' jointly by the Rector and Rev'd "Red" Taylor and put together by a hard working committee under the steady guidance of Chairman Andrew Ford. It finished with happy chatter and even some dancing!



**INTEREST:** Displays of memorabilia tracing the church's 21-year history attracted keen interest. From its beginning, meeting as a house church, the parish has moved through various venues and today worships in the two campuses of Burgmann College, in Gungahlin and Forde.

## mainly music celebrates three years in Temora

Temora's *mainly music* group recently celebrated its third birthday, and followed up shortly afterwards with a special Father's Day session that saw 80 mums, dads, granddads and children joining in the fun.

Coordinator of the program, Carol Jenner, said that *mainly music* continues to be a

wonderful way for St Paul's to connect with young families in and around Temora and gently impact them with the God's gospel of grace - assuring them of their uniqueness in God's eyes and His love for them!

"Realistically many still come for the chance to enjoy our sumptuous morning tea and the chance to 'chill' while



**FATHER'S DAY:** Dads and grad-dads turned out in strength for the special *mainly music* celebration for Father's Day, with the men facing their fears and joining in the musical action.



**BIRTHDAY PARTY:** A strong turnout of mums, grannies and children line up to watch the cake cutting at *mainly music*'s third birthday.

we care for their children, but we have seen deepening relationships, a sense of 'belonging' to the group and a real softening in response to things of God," she added.

Carol said the Temora church has also run the Alpha Parenting Course again.

"Again, it has been eye-

opening to myself and the mums who come - the chance to sit back, have Nicky and Sila Lee's insightful input, and then to have the space to think and discuss without little people interrupting has been valued by us all!"

She said that one of the *mainly music* team had cared

for the children to allow parents this space.

What's next? Carol said her team was seriously looking at engaging the Dads with their children using the English program, *Who Let the Dads Out?*

Watch this space ... !



# Messy Church workshop

## From Holbrook Parish

On October 13-14 a small team of presenters from St Matthew's Sherwood in Brisbane ran an information workshop and trial session of Messy Church at Culcairn.

This event was sponsored by the St Paul's (Turvey Park) Outreach Trust and allowed representatives from many parishes in the region, including Culcairn, Henty, Lockhart, Holbrook, and Northern Albury, to hear and see first-hand what Messy Church is all about.

From its beginnings in the UK ten years ago, Messy Church has spread around the globe, crossing denominational and international borders with ease and growing into a loose network of affiliated churches.

The official website [<http://www.messychurch.org.uk/>] states that Messy Church:

- is a way of being church for families involving fun;
- is a church, not a craft club, that helps people encounter Jesus as Lord and Saviour;
- is found across the world;
- values are about being Christ-centred, for all ages, based on creativity, hospitality and celebration.

It reflects a God of unconditional love and is a church for people outside church, providing an oasis of welcome and a safe space in which to thrive. Messy Church is about hospitality, expressed most evidently by



**GETTING MESSY:** Holbrook priest James Coats with daughter Hannah and Bishop Rob Gillion of the Riverina get into the spirit of Messy Church at the Culcairn workshop.

eating together – whether it's a plate of sandwiches to share, or sausages and mash.

While it is aimed at adults as well as children, Messy Church uses hands-on activities to explore Bible stories, to reflect a God of creativity and to give people a chance to play together.

Messy Church is aimed primarily at people who don't already belong to another form of church, and has proved to be an effective means of bringing

these people - particularly young families - into a closer relationship with Jesus Christ.

Holbrook priest James Coats and his wife and Skye were among the participants, as they consider whether Messy Church is something the parish of Holbrook could use to engage its community with the message of Jesus.

The recently-consecrated Bishop of Riverina, Rob Gillion, also attended the workshop.

# Spring renaissance at St David's, Red Hill

## From the parish

St David's Red Hill in Canberra celebrated its Spring Garden Party on Sunday 12 October to welcome Reverend Brad Lovegrove and his wife Louise to the parish.

The annual event is always long-anticipated and marks the end of winter and the beginning of outdoor activities such as the Floriade tulip festival.

Around 40 parishioners attended and the community enjoyed Kangaroo Valley strawberries with cream and delicious ribbon sandwiches. It was also an opportunity to wear hats, with prizes for the best hat of

the day.

Jim Shelton with his Fez won the best-dressed male of the day!

It was a very well-turned-out crew to the 8.30am service, with a sea of hats greeting Brad Lovegrove who has recently joined St David's.

The Garden Party followed on from a St Francis service at the Church where Brad Lovegrove blessed four dogs and a rabbit.

Some quick intervention by parishioners enabled the rabbit to survive the experience, after being chased by an exuberant Labrador!



**SPRING SUNSHINE:** Gillian King, Joan Chynoweth and Helen Morris enjoying the spring sunshine at the Garden Party at St David's Anglican Church, Red Hill.

# Cathedral launches appeal to fund organ repairs

## ❑ \$11,500 needed to restore historic instrument

### From the Cathedral

St Saviour's Cathedral in Goulburn has launched an appeal to raise \$11,500 to carry out some important repair work to its famous and historic Foster and Andrews organ.

The Cathedral's organist, Robert Smith, launched the appeal at the services on Sunday 12th October when he addressed the congregations setting out something of the history of the organ and explaining the need for the work required.

The organ was built in 1884 by the Hull based firm of Foster and Andrews and was initially installed in the west gallery of the Cathedral.

It gave a great deal of

trouble because of the confined space and the dry climate, particularly in the summer months, and was the subject of much correspondence between Bishop Mesaac Thomas, first Bishop of Goulburn, and the supervisor of the contract, Mr E.J. Hopkins of the Temple Church, London.

As a result it was moved to its present position in the South Choir Aisle in 1902.

In 1959 the great section of the organ was damaged when a heavy fall of snow leaked water into the building as it thawed. To this day the great windchest offers undue resistance to the smooth stop action movement.

In 1979 the firm of Brown and Arkley refurbished and electrified the organ's action. The original superior tonal qualities were retained and, more recently, five stops absent

in the original instrument were expertly matched and added for its tonal completion.

Since then the German electrical mechanisms have performed their task fairly reliably, but are now showing serious deterioration and failure.

Ian Brown who has continued the regular tuning and maintenance in this period has recommended that these mechanisms be replaced with a superior new Australian brand that performs firmly and silently. It is this replacement that is estimated to cost \$11,500 and hence the appeal.

Donations may be made by direct deposit to an account at the Anglican Investment and Development Fund (BSB 702389 A/c 05209664) or at the Cathedral Office, P.O. Box 205, Goulburn. N.S.W. 2580.



**DETERIORATION:** Electrical mechanisms installed in the organ in 1979 are now deteriorating and beginning to fail.



## NEWS

# Anglicare: youth support offers a circuit breaker

## Annual 'State of the Family' report highlights value of social service support for disadvantaged

Anglicare Australia's 2014 State of the Family report, officially launched at Anglicare Sydney, Sadleir, on October 14 by the Governor-General, His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove, clearly demonstrates the value of social service support for disadvantaged young people, and the need to extend that support beyond the age of 18.

*Being a/part* surveyed young people aged between 17 and 21 accessing Anglicare services, many of them homeless or in insecure housing and with a history of hardship, asking for their view of how social support, belonging and connection help them transition into early adulthood and independence.

Anglicare Australia Executive Director, Kasy Chambers, said the survey found support provided by youth social service workers can be the circuit breaker for young people who have grown up in adversity.

"The greater adversity young people faced in childhood, the less the support they feel from families and friends," Kasy Chambers said. "That's when other people in their lives, such as social service workers, play a significant role in helping them connect to their community."



"Overall, we know it is very important for young people to feel like they belong. But the sense of belonging depends on how they see the behaviour and responses of others."

"So if we want young people on the edges to feel they belong to society, rather than suggest that they are simply not trying, we need to create welcoming and accepting places."

The Youth Movement Initiative (YMI) from Bendigo is a group of young people who grew up in care. In this report they point to the need for greater expectations, and the opportunities to fulfil them.

"YMI argues that most other young people are supported beyond the age of 18 in education, finding work, and somewhere to live," Kasy Chambers said.

"If we are to raise our expectations for disadvantaged young people, we also need to provide the support and opportunities for them."

"This survey has a message for everyone. Social support, given and received, helps you connect to community. If you can't get that from your family or your school, you need to be able to get it from other people and services."

# Ecumenical forum on Christian Meditation

## Fr Laurence Freeman OSB to teach in Canberra December 5-8th

Meditation is a universal tradition found in all the great religions, and as such it offers an important common ground for inter-religious dialogue and a basis for peace in the world.

Fr Laurence Freeman OSB, an English Benedictine monk who teaches meditation in the Christian tradition around the world, is to be in Canberra for a few days in early December.

He is the spiritual guide and Director of the World Community for Christian Meditation (WCCM) – an ecumenical and global spiritual community that first took form in Canada and England in the early 1990's.

This followed the inspirational work of Fr John Main (1926-1982) who had pointed to the recovery of the tradition of meditation, and the rediscovery of this practice of contemplative prayer as the birthright of all Christians, not just for those in monasteries and convents.

John Main's teaching of this ancient tradition of prayer is rooted in the Gospels and the early Christian monastic tradition of the Desert. Meditation helps people of all ages and cultures to find a simple, practical and meaningful way to awaken and deepen their spiritual life.

Nowadays, Fr Laurence encourages the teaching of Christian meditation to children and students and the recovery of the contemplative wisdom in the Church and society at large.

Countless meditators and hundreds of weekly meditation groups around the world carry on the tradition of this prayer practice. WCCM is present in about one hundred countries and there are some 2,500 meditation groups around the world. Of the 500 groups across Australia, 35 are within the area of our own Canberra-Goulburn Diocese.

The Australian Christian Meditation Community invites all to Laurence Freeman's series of talks: "Christian Meditation – the Heart of Creation" on Friday 5th December (7.30pm to 9.30pm) and Saturday 6th December (9.30am to 3.30pm) at the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, Blackall Street, Barton, A.C.T.

The ACC&C, not far from the centre of Canberra, is a



**TEACHING:** Fr Laurence Freeman OSB of the World Community for Christian Meditation, who will be in Canberra in early December.

most fitting venue – our national Christian ecumenical centre that encourages dialogue and cooperation amongst Christian churches, and between Christians and other faith communities.

This ecumenical gathering is for those who have been meditating a while, for newcomers to meditation, and for those who may be wondering ".....just what is this Christian meditation all about?"

It will be opened on the first evening by Catholic Archbishop Christopher Prowse, and proceedings on day two will be opened by Anglican Bishop George Browning; the closure will be conducted by Rev Ivan Roberts, Uniting Church Canberra Region Presbytery Chairperson. Please note that advance bookings are essential, via the website ([www.christianmeditationaustralia.org](http://www.christianmeditationaustralia.org)) or phone 6281 2378.

In addition to the above weekend public gathering, clergy and religious of all denominations are invited to a Morning Retreat with Laurence Freeman on Monday 8th December – also at the ACC&C in Barton, ACT.

Fr Laurence will be directing his reflections and teachings on Christian Meditation to general needs, and to the particular needs and challenges facing clergy and religious.

There is no charge for this gathering but to help with logistics and catering please let us know if you can come along. Contact Rod: 0401 731 918 or Fr Simon Falk ([simon.falk@cg.catholic.org.au](mailto:simon.falk@cg.catholic.org.au))

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# BCA challenges churches on local mission

## □ Bush Church Aid rallies at Turvey Park, Gungahlin and North Goulburn highlight connection with local community

By Peter Adkins\*

Enthusiastic and faithful groups of BCA supporters from the Canberra Goulburn Diocese gathered at St Pauls, Turvey Park, Gungahlin and North Goulburn over three days in September to be encouraged in what God is doing through the ministry of Bush Church Aid Missioners, Rich and Julie Lanham.

Rich encouraged folk to reflect on the fact that God can use each of us to show his Glory, despite our backgrounds and our frailties, as we step out in faith and obedience to His call.

He also shared some of the Lanham family's journey in

following Christ - at Redfern, Gilgandra and now in Sale, Victoria.

Rich told how the late Bishop John McIntyre saw something in him that others didn't and subsequently became a "father in Christ" to him, helping him grow in Christ and to develop his passion and gifts.

Rich encouraged us to consider that if God can use ordinary people like him then he can do the same with all of us.

Rich has been able to help many young people find hope, meaning and purpose in Jesus. He shared many great stories of how God has granted them favour and opened doors in their ministry, the latest being the wonderful provision of a rent-free property in Sale for the next five years.

Rich's and Julie's vision is becoming reality as work



**SHARING:** At the North Goulburn BCA Rally, Rich Lanham shares some of the journey he and his family have travelled as they have followed the call of Jesus through Redfern and Gilgandra in NSW and currently in Sale, in the Diocese of Gippsland.

is carried out on the property to turn it into a centre for the youth of Sale. It is being

refurbished by generous tradesmen and youth from local churches and schools, as different groups and individuals catch Rich's enthusiasm for "number 123" as it will be known.

Future activities planned there are a recording studio, a commercial kitchen for cooking courses, support, friendship and of course a place to give young people

opportunity to discover and follow Jesus.

To find out more about the Lanhams and BCA and its ministry across Australia go to [www.bushchurchaid.com.au](http://www.bushchurchaid.com.au)

\**Rev'd Peter Adkins* serves as BCA Regional Officer for NSW/ACT.

## Lighting the way towards Christmas

Anglican Overseas Aid has announced a range of Advent Bible studies and prayers to accompany its Gifts of Light Christmas gift catalogue this year (and included in this issue of *Anglican News*)

Chief executive Bob Mitchell said that the gift catalogue had been remodelled around the traditional four weeks of Advent, and included free Bible studies and prayers that would be available on the agency's website.

He said that Anglican Overseas Aid wanted to contribute to people's journey of faith, regardless of whether they can support the agency's work financially.

"For many years charity gift catalogues have been providing an important gift-giving alternative that helps to make a difference while educating family and friends about work to alleviate poverty," Bob Mitchell said.

"These are fantastic goals. But we've realised that what you often don't see is an emphasis on the central story of the Christmas season. So this year we've decided to base our gift catalogue on the Christ story, inviting people to walk the Advent journey and discover anew the birth of the Saviour of the World.

"But we realise that a gift catalogue can't do the whole

job, so we have prepared a range of Advent devotional resources, including Bible studies and prayers, that are available on our website for free.

"The work of Anglican Overseas Aid is just one element of the inbreaking of the Kingdom of God heralded by the birth of the Saviour. We want to emphasise this story and the richness of the season of Advent as a time of preparation for the birth of Christ."

The catalogue and additional resources are based on the themes of Advent - Hope, Love, Joy and Peace - and feature illustrations of traditional Advent candles.

"We hope and pray that this new approach to Gifts of Light will contribute to a rich experience of God during the coming season of Advent," said Bob Mitchell.

For more information, check out [www.anglicanoverseasaid.org.au](http://www.anglicanoverseasaid.org.au)



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## BIC REPORT TO SYNOD

# Finding opportunities in the challenges

*Last month, Anglican News published the first part of the Bishop in Council report to Synod, presented by the Registrar, Trevor Ament.*

*We now bring the second half of the report, presented by Bishop Genieve Blackwell and Archdeacon Matt Brain.*

*Bishop Genieve began with a snapshot of the Diocese from her perspective as a Regional Bishop:*

In a sense my part of this presentation will form a lens from the West of what life is like in the Diocese. With this in mind I speak as Rector of St Paul's Turvey Park as much as Regional Bishop.

As the Standing Committee of the Diocese, Bishop in Council is making decisions all the time; responding to and very much affecting the life and work of parishes and agencies. As we have heard there are many challenges and yet there are also possibilities and opportunities.

Parishes are often struggling financially - whether it is in terms of supporting one full stipend or, as in the case of St Paul's Turvey Park, being able to support multiple staff. Sometimes part stipendiary appointments are made which are a great gift but have their own challenges in living out the reality of 'part-time ministry'.

Part of the financial struggle for parishes is coping with building insurances, especially for those with older buildings. For the Young District Anglican Ministry this has meant the de-consecration and sale or preparation for sale of some church buildings no longer used for regular worship.

This is sad in many ways, yet in others it demonstrates a redirection of resources. For a parish like Gundagai they live the reality of this problem. The main church, hall and grounds have huge work, health and safety issues while the church on the other side of the river is on a small block with no room to grow - or park the car.

How do they develop their resources; honouring the past - but with an eye to the future?

I think every parish finds compliance an issue, with ever increasing demands and difficulty finding appropriate people to fill positions, especially that of treasurer. This year has been particularly challenging with the introduction of the Working With Children Check and the Risk Self Assessment Tool. The home page of our Diocesan Website has greatly improved

communication about issues and people but I think we would all agree there is still a way to go with easy access to other information for compliance.

Similarly, Anglican Diocesan Services has greatly increased the resources we have to call on, whether it is in the area of human resources or property or insurance. Yet there is still a way to go when it comes to communication or knowing who to ring up for the right advice. And this is not really not surprising when you think that the ADS is a joining together of Anglicare, responsible for something like 2000 employees, and the Registry, responsible for about 200 licensees and the parishes!

Maybe the biggest challenge is the age profile of our parishes. Most of the parishes in the Western Region are older. This begs the question: 'How do we connect with our communities today?'

***We face many challenges. Yet there are also possibilities and opportunities - signs of hope.***

As I have said, there we face many challenges. Yet there are also possibilities and opportunities - signs of hope.

There has been the partnership between the parishes of Junee and Temora. The parish of Temora has given a gift of financial support for the last two years, enabling the appointment of the Reverend Glen MacDonald to the parish of Junee. This has helped Junee to get back on its feet, so to speak.

In Adelong and Tarcutta there has been a partnership with the Bush Church Aid society facilitating the appointment of the Reverend Keith Groundwater.

Parishes such as Wagga Wagga and Turvey Park have benefited from Pelican Foundation grants which have assisted the appointments of the Reverends Sue Hanna and Graham Schultz: an opportunity both in terms of training new clergy as well as outreach.

Sue has established 'SPACE @ St Luke's', a place for carers and children to come, relax and find community. Among other things Graham has led a team which has adopted Mt Austin Primary School. They



**PARISH STRESS:** Archdeacon Matt Brain told Synod that Bishop in Council was very aware of the stress being felt in many parishes throughout the diocese.

are waiting to see where this will lead in reaching into the community.

In Gundagai the parish has partnered with Anglicare to renovate the Stables building. This has provided office space and rooms for ministry and counseling. In Wagga we have the co-location of the Anglicare Office and St John's, and Ashmont at Community of the Redeemer and the Ashmont Community Centre. Not to mention the Op Shops in many of our towns which are supported by Anglicare. Each of these has enabled outreach and helped to fund ministry.

Again in Wagga, The Riverina Anglican College, St Martin's Residential College at CSU and the aged care facility The Forrest Centre have strong positive reputations in the community and as such operate as a flagship for the church. They allow the church to continue in caring, outreach ministries within the demands of our modern world.

These are all signs of hope and all part, I think, of what it will mean to be the church, the people of God, in our communities in the future. And all impacting the work of Bishop in Council.

**Archdeacon Dr Matt Brain concluded the report:**

Bishop Genieve has articulated a very real and pressing question regarding the shape our processes and structures need to be if we are to promote the ministry and mission of God within the Diocese.

Our Registrar, Trevor Ament, has reviewed the big issues that have consumed the time, attention and energy of Bishop in Council over the last four years. It is easy to see that as a Synod and Bishop in

Council we have had to attend to a series of pressing and stressful situations. However the significant issues Trevor has outlined only serve to mirror and underline the pressure that local congregations across the Diocese feel.

One of the problems with stress is that it becomes the predominant lens through which we understand what is happening to us and in our worlds. Indeed the large, pressing, stressful issues become overwhelming and take over the primary focus of our decision-making capacity.

However, the stress we feel is an indicator that we are in a time of transition. We are not the only denomination, and only Diocese to be facing this transitional time. Indeed all churches and every Christian living in Australia is living in an era of great change where established structures are being tested and are being forced to adapt.

Bishop in Council's renewed task is to recognise this transitional era, hear where there is life (and we have heard both from Bishop Stuart in his charge, and Bishop Genieve in her reflection as Regional Bishop that God is working in our midst) and adapt the holding structures of the Diocese so that life is nurtured and grows.

As Bishop in Council has reflected on the different ways that stressful events and issues have impacted our plan to be engaged in the mission of God, there are three fixed points that have been repeated.

The first is that Ministry Units are central and key in connecting with the world.

Second, through our local worshipful gatherings and the diverse work of the agencies we actually have a very large

'spread' or 'reach' through the community.

Finally, there is a commitment to see our 'business' and 'investments' be worked hard to support and enable people to share the transforming love of Jesus.

Stress can cause us to focus on the structures or mechanisms, the viability of an entity, and lose sight of the people, the God ordained and the Spirit enabled, the vitality.

As Bishop in Council we have spent the last six months reviewing the way we go about viewing the 'business' and structures of the Diocese so that we might be responsive to the things that make for vitality and life.

Let me share with you a story of how this background work to reclaim the initiative in setting the diocesan agenda has played out to allow vitality and joy.

The parish of Gunning has been blessed with five years of honorary ministry. Over the last two years the people of the parish have been through an intentional process of review of parish life. In doing this they identified that the status, rights and responsibilities of being a parish did not allow them to express liveliness in Christian life and worship given their mix of people, time and resources.

They presented a proposal to Bishop in Council that the Parish of Gunning become a Special Mission District, with compelling reasons why this would help the people of God in the communities within which they live. Bishop in Council recognised the stressors identified, and has acted to help the Parish of Gunning reorganise itself in a way that supports and promotes life.

Together, the soon-to-be Special Mission District of Gunning and the Bishop in Council are looking forward to seeing how the pared-down structure and release from burden of representational responsibility brings joy and life.

May I close with prayer? Following one of Archbishop Cranmer's great prayers, which in good Anglican fashion was borrowed from an even more ancient prayer book, let's pray:

Grant Lord, we beseech you, that the course of this world; our daily lives in the community; our continual life of worship may be so peaceably ordered by your governance, that your congregation may joyfully serve you in all godly quietness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.



# Georgie's Pantry expands to meet need

## Anglicare's Sustainable Living Hub in Parkes enlarges its food bank operation

Anglicare NSW South, NSW West and ACT's Sustainable Living Hub in Parkes has expanded its low-cost food pantry, to meet a growing demand.

Originally operating from a single room in the building that houses the Hub's op-shop, storage rooms, hospitality area and counselling rooms, Georgie's Pantry has now moved into the building next door.

The 'new' premises, which is owned by the Anglican Church but until recently had been leased to a commercial operation, offers greatly-expanded display and storage areas, as well as space for several tables and chairs where clients can relax with a cup of tea or coffee.

General Manager Community Engagement for Anglicare NSW South, NSW West and ACT, Trevor Capps, told the crowd gathered for the launch of the expanded facilities on Thursday October 9 that Anglicare was not just providing a welfare service.

"We're actually part of a much larger movement, and that is the Anglican Church," he said. "What you see here in Parkes is the embodiment of that."

He said that Anglicare would

be talking more about the term "stronger communities" in months to come.

"The way stronger communities happen, is that people within the communities empower themselves, and empower others, and look after those who need a helping hand from time to time," he explained.

He paid tribute to the work that the Manager of Parkes Sustainable Living Hub, Natalie Quince, and parish priest Brett Watterson had done in developing the facility since it opened 18 months ago.

"It's a fantastic testament as to what a church can be doing, and we're really glad to be part of it," Trevor Capps said.

In blessing the new food bank, Bishop of Bathurst Ian Palmer told the gathering he had challenged every parish to ask itself the question: "How are we serving the community we live in?"

"Jesus himself said that he did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many – and that sacrificial love is right at the heart of the Christian faith: to serve others, and to serve our communities," Bishop Ian said.



**OPENING:** Parkes priest Brett Watterson, Anglicare's General Manager Community Engagement Trevor Capps, Parkes Hub Manager Natalie Quince, Kaye Pritchard (Anglicare Parish Partnership Development Officer), Bishop of Bathurst Ian Palmer and Ian Coutts (Anglicare) at the opening of the new premises for Georgie's Pantry.

# Young people need access to sustainable jobs

## By Jeremy Halcrow

Australians like to think we are an egalitarian country where everyone has a 'fair go'. As many of us at Anglicare see, however, inequality is on the rise in Australia.

We recently observed Anti-Poverty Week (October 12-18), and to help inform better debate on how to tackle poverty in our country, the Australian Council of Social Services (ACOSS) released research showing that 2.5 million or 13.9% of all Australians live below the internationally accepted poverty line.

The Abbott Government will argue that increasing workforce participation is the answer.

As ACT Liberal Senator Zed Seselja said on ABC radio on Monday October 13, the best way to reduce poverty "is to increase the number of people in work". As long as we are talking about sustainable jobs that provide people a decent living, I agree with that statement.

The debate really centres on the best way to support people into sustainable employment.

The reality that confronts many of the people we support is that their pathway to full participation in the workforce



**SHORTAGE:** Anglicare CEO Jeremy Halcrow says there is a shortage of sustainable entry-level jobs for young people.

is littered with obstacles. Often people are overcoming multiple challenges: physical disability, mental illness, homelessness, poor literacy.

Anglicare believes a key part of the solution is targeted and holistic supports that assist at-risk young people to develop the skills and experience they need to be career ready.

On Friday October 17, I launched a new study into this issue authored by our researcher Claire Lloyd-Jones. Her report examines the very limited number of entry level jobs which can lead to a sustainable

career in Canberra where the youth unemployment rate is now 11.3%.

The research shows there are significantly more young people seeking work than there are job vacancies, and very few of the jobs advertised are accessible to a person without qualifications or relevant experience.

Latest Bureau of Statistic information estimates show that there are two to three young people without jobs for every job vacancy in the ACT, not including the significant population of underemployed people.

All sides of this debate want young people to transition from education into the workforce. Yet, there appears to be a belief amongst some in the community that young people, and indeed most job seekers, prefer to subsist on Centrelink payments rather than participate actively in the workforce.

This understanding of the issue is misplaced given the lack of entry level job supply. Currently we have a generation of young people who struggle to find casual low-skilled jobs,

let alone jobs that put them on a sustainable employment path.

It is important we recognise that allowing people to churn between short-term low-skilled jobs and unemployment is no real solution. If the pathway is not sustainable then the young person risks ongoing periods of unemployment through their life. And the insecurity associated with this life trajectory is likely to lead to a host of other social issues.

For example, experiencing

recurring periods of unemployment has been linked with mental illness.

Our advocacy on this issue is shaped by our experience operating the Youth Connections alternative education program. The program was de-funded by the Federal Government despite proving its success in helping young people who had disengaged from mainstream schooling find a sustainable career.

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# Summer's coming - it must be time for Camp Pelican again!

## Register now for Summer Camp

By Andrew Edwards\*

The weather's getting warmer and the year is drawing to a close and that means Summer Camp Pelican is just around the corner!!

If you're in grades 5 to 12 at school, love spending time at the beach, hanging with friends, making new ones and learning about how to live life as a follower of Jesus then we've got just the thing for you!

For over 30 years Camp Pelican has been a place where young people from all across our Diocese have come to spend a week relaxing, learning about Jesus, making new friends and hanging at the beach!

Our Summer Camps are held on the NSW south coast at our campsites in Tathra and Merimbula. We have dormitory-style accommodation, meeting spaces and dining facilities with amazing food.

Each Camp Pelican is staffed with trained and accredited volunteer leaders who provide a fun and safe environment for Camp Pel experiences. Many of our leaders were campers themselves and loved it so much they came back to lead!

On Camp Pel you can expect to be challenged, engaged, make new friends, do tons of amazing activities, eat yummy food and learn about Jesus.

There are four Summer Camps being held in the first two weeks of January 2015. Our Years 9/10 and 11/12 camps will be held 4-9 Jan and our Years 5/6 and 7/8 camps from 11-16 Jan.

Registrations are now open and spots are filling quickly so don't delay - book today! And make sure you bring your friends!!

Booking information is on our website at [www.synergyc.net/camps](http://www.synergyc.net/camps). For more information contact Andrew on [camps@synergy.org.au](mailto:camps@synergy.org.au) or 0437 883 122.

Campers needing transport to camp can take advantage of the bus which will leave Canberra at 10:30am on the first day and return around 6:00pm on the final day of each camp. If you want to travel on the bus please indicate this on the registration form.

Departure information will be confirmed in the camper's letter sent out in December.

\* **Andrew Edwards** serves as Director, Synergy Youth and Children's Ministry.



**CAMP LEADERS:** (above) Many of the leaders on Camp Pel were campers themselves a few years ago, and they loved the experience so much they can't stay away - they keep coming back year after year!

**ACTIVITIES:** (right) Camp Pelican offers a wide range of activities suited to the age of the campers at each camp, with trained and accredited volunteer leaders operating in a safe environment.



## CAMP PELICAN SUMMER 2015

**Camp Pel Years 5 & 6 - 11 to 16 Jan 2015**

Manna Park Merimbula  
\$330 covers camp and transport from Canberra  
For more info visit [www.synergyc.net/camps](http://www.synergyc.net/camps)

**Camp Pel Years 7 & 8 - 11 to 16 Jan 2015**

Wambiri Campsite Tathra  
\$330 covers camp and transport from Canberra  
For more info visit [www.synergyc.net/camps](http://www.synergyc.net/camps)

**Camp Pel Years 9 & 10 - 4 to 9 Jan 2015**

Wambiri Campsite Tathra  
\$330 covers camp and transport from Canberra  
For more info visit [www.synergyc.net/camps](http://www.synergyc.net/camps)

**Camp Pel Years 11 & 12 - 4 to 9 Jan 2015**

Manna Park Merimbula  
\$330 covers camp and transport from Canberra  
For more info visit [www.synergyc.net/camps](http://www.synergyc.net/camps)

summer  
CAMPERS

Camp Pelican  
[www.synergy.org.au](http://www.synergy.org.au)

## Synergy contacts

**Synergy Youth:** [www.synergy.org.au](http://www.synergy.org.au)

**Synergy Youth Director:** Andrew Edwards, [Andrew@synergy.org.au](mailto:Andrew@synergy.org.au)

**Bathurst Youth Officer:** (vacant)

**Riverina Youth Officer:** (vacant)

**Synergy Youth Chairperson:** Ruth Edwards (contact via 6232.3613)