



Ordination: no 'one way' to be a priest

By Lewis Hitchcock

"There is no one way to be a priest. The way we live our Christian vocation is unique for each of us. We bring to the church the unique gifts of our own lives."

Archdeacon Elizabeth Dykes made this statement in her sermon in St Saviour's Cathedral on Saturday, November 28, quoting from Christopher Cotsworth's book *Being a Priest Today*.

The occasion was the ordination of Judy Douglas, Natalie Milliken, David Rajasekaram, Craig Roberts and Andrew Robinson as priests in the Church of God. (See page 3 for an introduction to the five ordinands.)

However, Elizabeth Dykes stressed that it was not only the new priests who were being changed by the events of that day.

"We are all being changed today: being ordained priests, or receiving these new priests into our midst, by the grace of God through Jesus our Lord: nothing will ever be the same again," she explained.

However, while the service was about "the business of making new priests for the Anglican Church in the Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn", it

was by no means the end of the process for those being called "to the office and work of a priest".

"Today is not a 'final' – it's not a combination of training, practice, rehearsals and assessments. It is not the prize, it is the beginning of a life of service to Jesus Christ, his Gospel and his church."

She said there were patterns and boundaries for this vocation of leading, shaping, guiding and forming God's people, and these patterns and boundaries can be found in Scriptures and in the traditions of the church.

"The pattern of priestly life and ministry conforms to that of all Christian disciples, for all are called by Jesus to himself and commissioned for his service at baptism. Like the first disciples, we are known by name and called by name. We are called to leave behind the familiar ways, the comfortable daily routines, and follow him into the life of promise and fruitfulness."

Archdeacon Elizabeth stressed the uniquely individual nature of God's call to service: "He gives a task to do, a ministry to fulfil that fits only you."

"Peter and Andrew, James and John – known by name and fishermen by trade – were called by Jesus into the 'fishing for people' business. Their previous



WELCOME: Bishop Stuart encourages the congregation to welcome the newly-ordained priests: Andrew Robinson, Craig Roberts, David Rajasekaram, Natalie Milliken and Judy Douglas.

experience would not be wasted, but transformed and redirected by Jesus: 'I will make you ...'"

However, the disciples were not re-making themselves. This was not just a tree change, but rather "a costly re-shaping of life and priorities; a whole-hearted embracing of vocation that meant nothing would ever be the same again – for them and for us".

"As we live out our call to sustain the community of faith by the ministry of word and sacrament, we are in the business of change: transformation of ourselves and others. As we live into the Gospel, we point to Jesus – leading the people of God into growing into the fullness

of Christ as a living sacrifice acceptable to God," she said.

"The pattern of priestly ministry begins with the call of Jesus to follow him ... and as we surrender to him we are changed, transformed and made fit for purpose within his Kingdom."

Following the traditional exhortation (in which the Bishop summarises the nature and responsibilities of priestly ministry) and examination of the ordinands (the Bishop seeks a commitment from the ordinands to continue in prayer and study; to proclaim the Gospel; to minister the doctrine, sacraments and discipline of Christ; to oppose false teaching; and to faithfully pastor the people of God) Bishop

Stuart and the priests gathered for the occasion laid hands on each ordinand.

He then presented each with a copy of the Holy Bible and a chalice and paten, saying to each: "Take authority to preach the word of God, and to minister the holy sacraments in the congregation where you are appointed."

At the beginning of the service, Bishop Stuart collated Archdeacon Dr Erica Mathieson, Rector of the Parish of Hackett, as Archdeacon for North Canberra.

The Dean, Philip Saunders, also installed The Reverend Steve Clarke as Honorary Canon in Residence (Arts) at St Saviour's Cathedral.

also in this issue:

Meet the new priests

... page 2



Diocesan Schools
report to Synod

... pages 7-11



Terror attacks:
memorial service

... page 4

An ethical
investment alternative



ANGLICAN INVESTMENT
& DEVELOPMENT FUND

ANGLICAN INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT FUND

Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn

Tel: 6247 3744 • Freecall 1800 232 400 (ex ACT Directory) • Email: aidf@aidf.com.au • Web: www.aidf.com.au

The Fund is designed for investors wishing to support the Church and its work. The Fund is not prudentially supervised by APRA and contributions to the Fund do not benefit from the depositor protection provisions of the Banking Act.

See
website
for current
rates

THE BISHOP'S COLUMN

Advent brings comfort to a disturbed world

Beloved in Christ,
Greetings!

As our Advent journey begins we are comforted – in the light of ongoing global terror attacks, fires in Western and South Australia and the movement of hundreds of thousands of displaced people groups globally, by the fact that our Lord is working out his sovereign purposes and that Jesus will return to draw time and history – as we know it, to a close.

You might want to pause for a moment and pray the following prayer:

Holy One, enthroned in glory over all creation, you are a shepherd to the lost and the least. Teach us to see your face among the poor— feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty,

welcoming the stranger, clothing the naked, and visiting those who are sick or in prison— so that we may share in your eternal realm prepared from the foundation of the world; through Jesus Christ, who is coming indeed, to reign with justice, compassion, and love.

A propos matters global, in this *Anglican News* you can read my short homily aimed more generally at the wider community – preached at the Cathedral Memorial service in response to terror attacks in Europe and further afield (see page 4).

I do wish to thank Bishops Trevor and Matt for their pastoral care and leadership of

the diocese during my absence (leave). In that time – as Vicar General, Bishop Trevor (through the usual processes) secured the appointment of the **Reverend Scott Goode** to the parish of Turvey Park, the **Venerable David Ruthven** to the Parish of St. John, Wagga Wagga and the **Reverend David Rajasekaram** to the parish of Harden-Murrumburrah.

I am appointing the **Reverend Carol Wagner** (in early '16) to the post of Archdeacon, the Coast, and the **Reverend Susanna Pain** as a Canon of our Cathedral (both of which will take place at the February Deacons ordination).

You may not yet be aware: the Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn – along with many dioceses – have received a series of summonses immediately

requesting documentation, protocols, notes, diaries and files on a range of matters and people that will be examined by the Royal Commission into Institutional Child Abuse.

It is likely that I will need to appear before the Commissioners in the early New Year. Your prayers for our Safe Ministry team, ADS staff and senior leadership are most welcome. Our submission will be highly detailed and cross-referenced and will run into thousands of pages.

Finally, as this is his very last edition, I want to thank my friend Lew (and his dear wife, Sylvia) Hitchick for his outstanding service to our diocese in the production of *Anglican News*.

We have been blessed, encouraged, heartened and



Bishop
Stuart
Robinson

challenged through Lew's outstanding reportage and editing. We are working on options for 2016 – but I have to say that Lew's grace, eye for a story and transparent commitment to our Lord Jesus will be sorely missed.

Warmly,

Goodbye, and thanks for the memories

Yes, I know I said my goodbye to the diocese at Synod, and printed that brief message in the September issue of *Anglican News*.

But just in case some might have missed it in the electronic issue, I'd like to once again express my appreciation to the diocese as a whole, and particularly the people in parishes and ministry units who have contributed so much of the content of this newspaper over these past twelve years.

Anglican News is not so much what I've made it, but what you've made it. The contributions from parishes and ministry units, from individuals and para-church organisations in the region have helped give the paper its local flavour as well as a local ownership.

I know some people are reluctant to wave their banner in public because it might seem to be self-promotion, but the feedback I receive tells me that people like to hear what is going on in God's name in other parts of the diocese - because it is God who is active there.

We are just his agents, and it is encouraging for the rest of us to read about, and share the experience of God's activity. Please keep up that support for this avenue of communication.

I also want to thank my wife Sylvia for her great support for me and this ministry, and for accompanying me at so many events over the years.

Memories ...

Please allow me to indulge in some reminiscences.

Twelve years ago I met with Bishop George, Allan Ewing,

Trevor Edwards (neither of them were bishops at that stage) and David Holmesby (who was Registrar at the time) and after some discussion they invited me to serve as Editor of *Anglican News*.

That was brave of them: they knew very little about me, and although I'd been producing the Bathurst diocesan newspaper for 18 months at that stage, I didn't know much about the diocese of Canberra and Goulburn.

But I have since come to love this diocese. I've learnt to appreciate the social, political and spiritual diversity that you have here, and the inclusiveness that brings that diversity together with a unity of purpose in pursuing a missional dream.

Attending the Ordination in Goulburn a couple of weeks ago, and realising it would be my last official function as Editor of the diocesan paper, I reflected on the many friendships I have made across this diocese over the years, and the significant events I have been blessed to attend.

I still have clear memories of the first Synod I attended – at CSU's Wagga Campus, in 2004. With well over 300 people taking part, it was three times the size of Synods I had experienced in Bathurst.

A few years later when Canberra hosted the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Australia, I had the privilege of serving as part of the press team (along with Wayne Brighton, who turned out to be a valuable guide to the local restaurants for the rest of the media team).

I watched (and photographed)

that very poignant moment as Bishop George Browning laid up his staff in St Saviour's Cathedral almost eight years ago, and a year later I was among the paparazzi recording the consecration of Bishop Stuart Robinson.

There was the SOMA mission in 2011, where I had the joy and privilege of not only reporting on the events of the week but also being part of one of the mission teams.

And the annual Spirit Conferences at Batemans Bay/Broulee, where the line between objective journalist and active participant tended to get a bit blurred at times.

I have felt very welcome at clergy conferences over the years, and have been blessed by the teaching and sharing at these events – and the opportunities to get to know some of the clergy of the diocese a bit better.

I thank those of you who were so warmly welcoming at these gatherings, and helped me to gain a deeper understanding of the struggles and challenges that you face on a daily basis as you pastor your people. May our loving God continue to bless you and strengthen you in your various ministries.

While it won't be in an official capacity, I still hope to attend the occasional conference or celebration in this diocese, and look forward to continuing some of the friendships that have developed over the years.

In *Anglican News* I've tried to produce a paper that tells the stories of God's work in the region in a way that a casual non-Christian enquirer could read and understand - and I was

Lew

Hitchick

Editor



pleased a few years ago to hear that one or two parishes were putting their surplus copies out in a local newsagency where they were being picked up. That meant that the word was going out to a much wider audience than we were expecting.

And that, incidentally, highlights the importance of sending in articles from your area: people are interested in what's going on in their own community, whether it directly involves them or not. If we can continue to include stories from right across the diocese, the paper will be relevant to people right across the diocese.

New contact details

Please note that contributions will now have to be sent to a new address. At this stage Archdeacon **Wayne Brighton** is coordinating diocesan media, and until further notice contributions to any future diocesan publication should be sent to him (*new contact details for AN are in the information box at the right on this page*).

I believe we need to continue to put good news out there and never be ashamed to give an account of the hope that we have within us - our wider community and our nation needs that hope! So whatever form this publication might take from here on, I pray that you continue to use it to tell that wider community what you are doing in the name of our Lord Jesus.

Anglican News

A newspaper for the
Canberra and Goulburn
Anglican Diocesan
community

Editor: The Ven.
Wayne Brighton

Address: GPO Box 1981
Canberra
ACT 2612

Phone: (02) 6245 7101
0407 408 333

Email: wbrighton2008@
gmail.com

Advertising:
enquiries to the editor

Deadlines:
Editorial & advertising
18th of the month prior to
publication.

Anglican News is printed by
Capital Fine Print, Fyshwick,
ACT. Post Print Publication
No. 299436/00093

Diocesan Offices

Central Operations:

Diocesan Registry
Level 4
221 London Circuit
Canberra City, ACT 2612

Postal Address:

GPO Box 1981
Canberra
ACT 2601

Phone: (02) 6245 7101
Fax: (02) 6245 7199

Anglican News is a member
of the Australian Religious
Press Association.



Introducing the new priests

□ The five priests ordained in St Saviour's Cathedral on Saturday November 28 have each presented brief biographical notes:

Andrew Robinson

Andrew Robinson grew up in the Blue Mountains and has known the love of Jesus his whole life. Raised in a committed Christian family and part of a vibrant youth ministry in the parish of Springwood, he was spurred into Christian service at an Inter-School Christian Fellowship leadership conference in high school.

A sense of God's call to ministry persisted, percolating during his undergraduate years studying Arts and Media at the University of Sydney, followed by a brief stint working with Anglican Media Sydney. Challenged by Jesus' deep concern for the poor, and wanting to further explore vocational Christian service, he began a ministry apprenticeship working with university students and homeless youth in inner-city Johannesburg, South Africa.

After two fruitful but challenging years, he returned to Australia with a hunger to study theology. He completed his Bachelor of Divinity at Moore Theological College in Sydney. While at college he worked as a catechist at St Barnabas' Broadway and St John's Bishopthorpe, Glebe. In 2011, he married Felicity, a committed Christian with a deep passion for justice and the pursuit of God.

They moved to Canberra at the end of 2012, where Felicity took up a position with AusAID (now Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade) and Andrew began to serve as a Lay Assistant Minister at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Curtin, and as Associate Chaplain at Canberra Grammar School. He undertook studies in the Advanced Diploma of Christian Ministry and Theology at St Mark's National Theological Centre.

Felicity and Andrew have spent 2015 in Honiara, Solomon Islands. Felicity has been managing a program tackling family violence with Oxfam and Andrew has served as the Pastoral Care Minister at St Nicholas College, an Anglican Church of Melanesia school in Honiara, as well as preaching and assisting regularly in the Parish of

St Barnabas' Provincial Cathedral.

Andrew has been appointed Assistant Chaplain, Canberra Grammar School.

Craig Roberts

Craig is married to Julie-Ann and they have three wonderful daughters. His Christian journey has been one of exploration and discovery and he continues to be amazed at the revelations which God allows him to understand on a daily basis.

As long as he can remember, he has always been convinced of God's existence and aware of a call on his life. However, he said that he did not know how to respond to this call or have a meaningful relationship with God.

"Fortunately for me, God brought a number of people into my life at various times to shape my journey and guide my path and as an adult I finally committed my life to him," Craig said.

"I have been privileged to serve as a deacon at Christ Church, Queanbeyan, and come alongside people in their hour of need as well as share in their celebrations. During this time I have come to more fully understand the responsibility and expectations upon ordained clergy and I look forward to continuing my growth at Queanbeyan over the next two years."

He said he feels honoured to have been called to serve in God's kingdom as an ordained minister and will return to the Defence Force in 2018 to serve out this calling as a Defence Chaplain.

Craig has been appointed Assistant Priest, Parish of Queanbeyan.

David Rajasekaram

Born and bred in Canberra, David (26) has sensed a calling to ministry ever since his parents read him the story of Samuel as a four year-old. This story provided inspiration for being dedicated to God's service.

David grew up in a loving Christian family, and has been nurtured by involvement in various communities of faith. The Parishes of Wanniasa (St Matthew's) and Gungahlin



SYMBOLS: Bishop Stuart hands the newly-ordained Andrew Robinson a Bible, chalice and paten as symbols of his priestly ministry.

(GAC) have been particularly formative in his Christian life and ministry. His time as a disability support worker also challenged him to grow in his understanding of and care for people. He completed his theological studies and ministry training at St Mark's National Theological Centre, obtaining a Bachelor of Theology and the Diploma of Anglican Orders.

Throughout his life David has experienced God's mercy and love through both sadness and joy. He looks forward to continuing to share with others the wonderful and life-changing message of grace through Christ Jesus wherever God calls him to go.

David is married to the love of his life, Rachel, who is a faithful partner in life and ministry. Together they enjoy watching British comedies, going out to the movies and appreciating the growing restaurant scene of Canberra. When he has time, David attempts the classical piano pieces he used to play, follows 'real' (Test) cricket, and drinks unnecessary amounts of both good and bad coffee.

After his ordination as priest, David will begin ministering as Priest in Charge of the parish of Murrumburrah-Harden. David and Rachel look forward to being part of that community and seeing God continue to work in the hearts and lives of people there.

Judy Douglas

Judy Douglas (Kocho) grew up in Chifley ACT. She became a Christian on Camp Pelican and was discipled as a young Christian at St Albans Woden and All Souls Chapman.

Judy trained and was commissioned with Church Army. Since 1993 she has worked in youth ministry and evangelism. In Sydney, Judy served in the parishes of St Giles' Greenwich and Holy Trinity Baulkham Hills. In Melbourne, she served at St James' Ivanhoe, St Mark's Mill Park and St Mark's Camberwell. Judy also enjoyed working at The Mission to Seafarers while completing her Bachelor of Theology at Ridley College.

Back in Canberra from 2006, Judy was Director of Synergy Youth and team leader of the 'forc' project for young adults.

She is married to John, a passionate cyclist and public servant. They have a daughter Ella who is starting high school and a son Miles in year 5.

Judy is a musician and singer. Originally trained in opera, she now sings folk and plays guitar. She enjoys nature, visual arts, exercise and Australian-made movies, comedy and TV.

Over the last few years she has worked and studied in education at the Australian Electoral Commission, the National Gallery of Australia and the Australian Catholic University.

Judy has been appointed Priest and Team Leader, Parish of Holt.

Natalie Milliken

Natalie Milliken (nee Hodges) was raised in the Snowy Mountains and studied psychology and teaching at the Riverina C.A.E. in Wagga, where she met her husband, Daniel. Dan was a serviceman (Pathology Technician) with the RAAF. Dan and Natalie

had postings to Richmond and Perth. However, civilian life was more conducive to their growing family so they moved to Dubbo and Moruya for Dan's work. Natalie returned to studies and applied for a permanent teaching position. They were posted to Goolma PS, Gulgong PS and finally Berridale PS in the Snowy Mountains: back to the beginning. Their children, Caitlyn, Tegan, Shane and Dean, had the privilege to sharing worship with their grandparents until each eventually left home.

Through this time Natalie was continually being challenged to consider her God-given gifts and opportunities to serve her Heavenly Father, the Creator. Natalie's involvement in both worship and church administration caused three people to ask whether she had considered a calling to the priesthood. God opened the doors to enable Natalie to test and pursue the calling. God created provision for the necessary supervision and study at St Mark's. These academic experiences and opportunities have created a real hunger to continue to pursue further theological study, to enhance the leading and development of flourishing expressions of the Christian church in rural areas.

Having worked as a full-time classroom teacher and Lay Minister in the Uniting and Anglican Churches in partnership in the Snowy Mountains, Natalie has recently taken up the post of Anglican Chaplain at the Junee Correctional Centre.

Cathedral memorial service for terror victims

□ St Saviour's Cathedral hosted a simple memorial service for the victims of recent terrorist atrocities in Paris, Baghdad, Beirut and in other places on Thursday evening, November 19.

The well-attended service brought together about 150 people from most Christian denominations in Goulburn, as well as a significant number who do not attend church regularly.

Bishop Stuart Robinson, who delivered a short homily at the service, said that Dean Philip Saunders had planned and led a very appropriate service which had allowed people of faith, as well as those with no faith, to face their emotional responses, their confusion and their grief in the wake of random but widespread acts of terrorism.

Bishop Stuart's sermon is reprinted below:

From the Garrissa, Kenya, student massacre, through to the sickening suicide bombings in Paris, we are being saturated with news of extremist terror attacks almost daily.

In the past six weeks, I'm aware of atrocities in Baghdad, Kabul, Ankara, Chad, Borno (Nigeria), Beirut, the Russian Metrojet over Egypt...and so it goes.

Hundreds of lives have, in my view, been calculatingly struck down in what *The Guardian* correspondent, Giles Frazer, recently described as, 'the third world war' (<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/belief/2014/sep/12/this-third-world-war-this-time-we-on-fringes>).

And so as the world watches in disbelief – and mourns the lost – like you, I am appalled by callous, indiscriminate, wholesale murder; indeed following ISIS' capture of Iraq's largest 'Christian' city, Archbishop Athanasius Toma Dawod of the Syriac Orthodox church said, 'Now we consider [this to be] genocide – ethnic cleansing.' (<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/aug/08/isis-persecution-iraqi-christians-genocide-asylum>).

Genocide!

It is a tragic irony that as we mark the centenary of the start of the 'war to end all

wars', we are, in 2015, exposed to footage of barbaric executions, beheadings and wholesale slaughter. Has nothing changed in 100 years?

Here we are back in France, as it were, and the pall (and stench) of death hangs heavily.

Frenchman Blaise Pascal observed way back in the 1650's, 'men never do evil so completely and cheerfully as when they do it from religious conviction'.

Therein lays the tragedy.

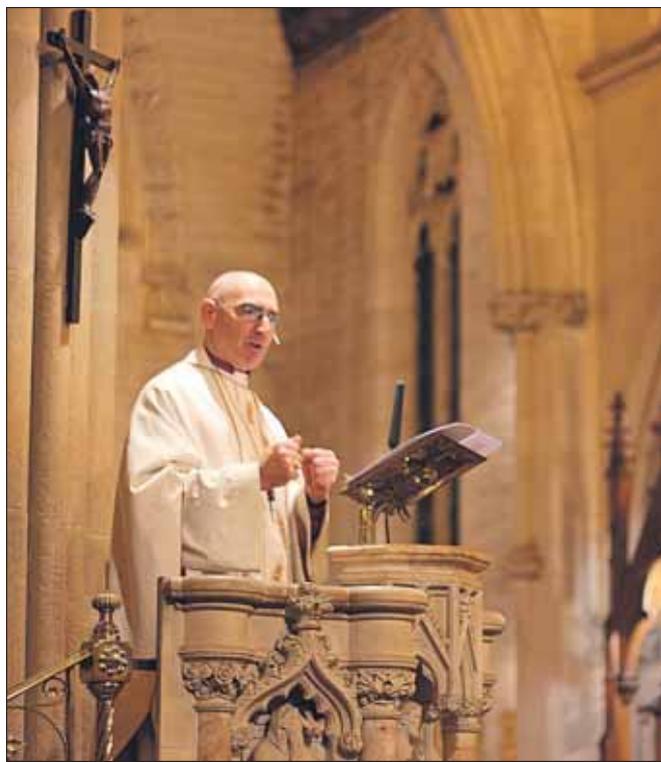
Much of the disequilibrium – the 'evil' we're experiencing across our global village – is informed (or misinformed) by so-called religious values and convictions that do not embrace diversity, tolerance,

It is a tragic irony that as we mark the centenary of the start of the 'war to end all wars', we are, in 2015, exposed to footage of barbaric executions, beheadings and wholesale slaughter. Has nothing changed in 100 years?

generosity and grace.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, made the poignant observation(s) this week:

'The sorrow in Paris is heart breaking and the evil of those who planned and perpetrated the Paris atrocities are beyond measure or words. We weep with the victims and with the bereaved. France is deeply wounded but will prevail



HOSPITALITY: Bishop Stuart Robinson says he prays for the community to 'continue being generous and hospitable' to those fleeing 'exactly that which we decry and eschew'.

with that courage and strength she has always shown. Wherever there is such wickedness Christ suffers afresh in the suffering of every human being. In solidarity let us be the source of consolation.

The violence of this evil group brings terror to all, including in the Muslim world where its cowardly acts are opposed by many.

This is a global and generational struggle against an evil cult that chooses death and fear. We choose life and hope, to overcome their hate with the power of God's love. In solidarity across

all faiths and none, and with all human beings, rather than in the victimisation of any, we will find the way to defeat the demonic curse of terrorism.

Christians are called, like Jesus, to stand with the suffering and broken and to oppose evil and fear with all their strength.' - <http://www.anglicanink.com/article/statement-archbishop-canterbury-paris-isis-bombings#sthash.9h5e72nF.dpuf>

I concur.

down the challenge thus (in Romans 12):

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another.

And the motivation for such beneficence is found in (as the reading from Romans 8 so beautifully has it) *the love of God that is in Christ Jesus Our Lord* – a reference to Jesus' willingness to give his life for a world racked with enmity and despair.

Let me close with a section of a French prayer (from 1912). It will be familiar to some of you and you may wish to echo it in your heart (whatever your religious convictions):

Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; Where there is injury, pardon; Where there is doubt, faith; Where there is despair, hope; Where there is darkness, light; Where there is sadness, joy.

Amen.

(Source: *La Clochette*, 12, déc. 1912, p. 285.)



ANGLICAN INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT FUND

Now with 

free phone or video calls

Skype name aidf1967

HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

CALOUNDR, Sunshine Coast, beachside units, from \$300/wk.
Phone 0427 990 161.

Support for Friends of Holy Trinity, Kameruka

By Sandy Macqueen

In The June issue of *Anglican News* mention was made of a plan to form a 'Friends of Holy Trinity – Kameruka' group.

Holy Trinity was constructed in 1869 as a place of worship for the employees of Kameruka Estate. The Lucas-Tooth family built the Blacket-designed Church and cared for its upkeep for the next 140 years or so.

When the property was sold in 2007 responsibility returned to the parish for its maintenance and care. Creating a group of people who want the church preserved and maintained for future generations was critical in achieving this goal of preservation.

Now five months later 100 people have 'signed up' to be Friends of Holy Trinity-Kameruka. There has been a concerted effort through contact with past employees and descendants of families who were a part of Kameruka Estate. Press coverage was extensive and various radio stations supported the plan.

Having 100 people is a wonderful outcome and it is expected this number will rise.

The Annual Service was conducted in October and Dr Ian Walker, Head of Toad Hall (a

graduate residence) and a visitor to the School of History at the Australian National University, delivered the sermon.

Dr Walker is also the Chair of the Lucas-Tooth Scholarship Trust Deed. This deed was established in 1909 with a generous gift of six thousand pounds from Sir Robert Lucas-Tooth. Its sole purpose was, and still is, to offer an opportunity for a selected Anglican theological student or ordained clergy to attend a University in the United Kingdom to further their studies. This year the first female is now studying in England.

Well over 120 people attended the service and from this 20 people became Friends of Holy Trinity.

A generous financial gift was made to the church to be applied for repairs and maintenance and preservation. This gift came from a long-established family who had a very close connection with a number of the furnishings of the church. A new carpet has been laid to replace the old carpet which had been in place for over 50 years. The transformation was remarkable.

Another interesting aspect has been the increase in marriages and baptisms performed at the church this year along with a funeral and

burial in the cemetery.

The members have a number of plans for the future.

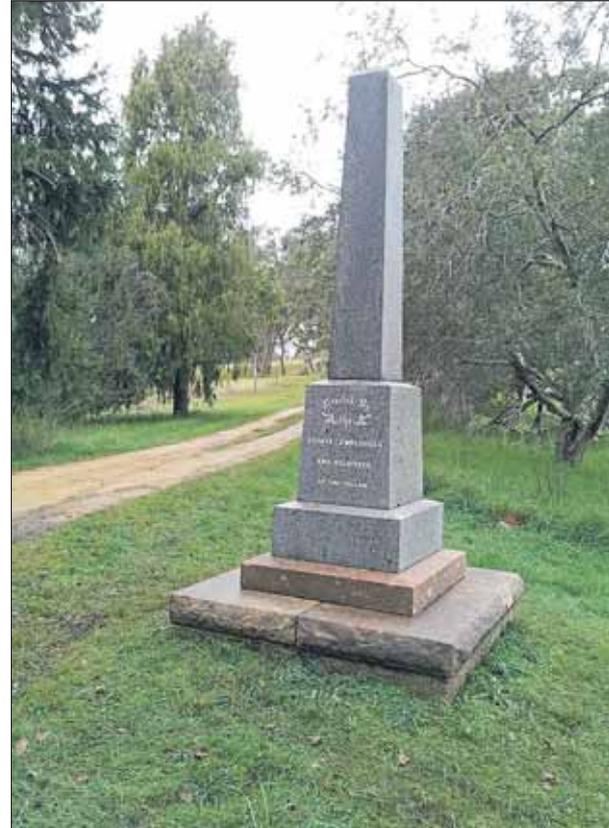
A remembrance walk is to be created from the church to the cemetery lined with appropriate trees selected to reflect the plantings on Kameruka Estate.

In 2018 a Remembrance Service will be held for those from Kameruka Estate who gave their lives in the First World War. A beautiful granite memorial was established in the church grounds by the families of these men. A very concerted effort will be undertaken to contact as many descendants as possible to invite them to return to the Estate for this service.

In 2019 the Church will celebrate 150 years since construction. Again, great effort will be applied to invite those who have a connection to the church. We have already identified a number of people who were married in the church's 100th year along with some who were baptised in that year.

Anyone interested in becoming a Friend of Holy Trinity-Kameruka can contact the Rectors' Warden, Sandy Macqueen on 0408 979 759 or email to libby1@bigpopnd.com.

There is no membership fee and members are not expected to have to do any physical work.



IN REMEMBRANCE: The granite memorial to Kameruka Estate locals who died in the First World War, situated in the grounds of Holy Trinity Church. Relatives of those named on the memorial will be contacted and invited to a Remembrance Service being planned for 2018.

Cootamundra's Prayer Group bridges denominational gaps

From Belinda Scott and Maggie O'Malley

Nine years ago a group of Christian women from several different Christian churches and denominations in Cootamundra started to come together each week to praise God and to pray.

So our Ecumenical Prayer Group came into being.

God placed upon the hearts of this group the idea to gather the people of Cootamundra together to pray for each other and for our town and community.

As a result of that vision, our group stepped outside our comfort zones, and went ahead and gathered the citizens together in a beautiful park to pray as one, for our town and district.

Everyone brings along their own chair or rug and a basket supper to enjoy after the Rally. This time we had the benefit of a very successful P.A. system.

Our rally is always limited to one hour.

Our first Ecumenical Prayer Rally was held in March 2013. Since then we have held three further rallies – most recently on

November 8.

We choose a scripture and theme to guide people who pray the prayers. We have chosen safety, welfare, youth, healing and future of our town, the Spirit of Christmas, celebration of God's blessings and unity.

Our most recent Rally was held on 8 November 2015 and our theme was *Brokenness, Wholeness and Families*.

One of our group members, The Rev'd Colleen Close led the Rally. We invited the Mayor to open the Rally, then the Wiradjuri elders gave a welcome to country.

We joined together to sing songs of praise: *The Lord's Prayer* to Cliff Richard's Millennium version, then *Amazing Grace, my Chains are Gone*.

Our local Chris Edwards School of Dance group of youngsters performed a beautiful liturgical dance which always enhances and complements the theme of our rally.

Our prayers for the community, and by community members, were based on



LITURGICAL DANCERS: Chris Edwards School of Dance group of youngsters performed a beautiful liturgical dance during the prayer rally, complementing the theme of 'Brokenness, Wholeness and Families'.

"Brokenness, Wholeness and Families", and each was followed by a prayer of blessing prayed by local youngsters.

All the various churches were invited to come forward and offer prayers. Some churches were represented by

clergy, others by lay folk, but all prayers were so profoundly relevant to our theme.

We end all our Rallies with *The Peace Song* which everyone now understands requires all to move around offering the peace greeting.

The Holy Spirit profoundly and clearly blessed our Rally. People came together as one, and prayed so closely into the theme. It was with joyful feelings of God's blessings that everyone rose to their feet at the finale, to make the peace greeting with one another.

Our hearts are grateful and we are very encouraged by the support we are receiving from community of Cootamundra.

We are all challenged to give praise and thanks for God's many blessings when we pray as one, for our communities in which we live, love and worship.

Belinda Scott worships at Christ Church Anglican Church, Cootamundra, and **Maggie O'Malley** worships at Sacred Heart Catholic Parish, Cootamundra.

NEWS FROM THE PARISHES

Let the balloon go!

Many churches use the annual Feast Day of St Francis' in early October to connect with their local community through a Blessing of the Animals service.

While most clergy who have been involved in these services would agree with the old adage attributed to WC Fields, 'Never work with children or animals', nevertheless the occasions can be a lot of fun and they do build links with some who might otherwise not come near a church.

However, when Moruya priest Linda Chapman held a Blessing of the Animals service recently, her guest speaker drew attention to a significant problem that most people would be quite unaware of.

"At our recent Blessing of the Animals Service in Moruya we had a speaker from Australian Seabird Rescue who told of the damage that released balloons cause in the environment," Linda explained.

Following a conversation with the Eurobodalla Shire's Environment Team, Linda has written to clergy and civil celebrants to help raise awareness of the matter. Her letter is reprinted below:

Dear Clergy/Celebrant,

Balloons, Ceremonies and the Environment

Many people today are very engaged with the planning of ceremonies that mark some of the most significant events of life. Weddings, Funerals or Celebrations of Life, Memorial services and so on are all important times of gathering for communities and families.

As you know they are rituals that facilitate both expressions of grief and healing or expressions of joy and celebration. Various symbols may be used at such times that support our needs for human expression and transition. One of those aids currently used are balloons, which participants release into the air at a particular time during the ceremony.

Many people, however, are surprised to learn that balloons can cause significant harm to the environment.

Here are some facts you may be interested in:

- ♦ Marine turtles, fish, seabirds, whales and even farm animals get entangled in the strings or swallow the balloon which then blocks the gut so that the animal will starve.

- ♦ Although some balloons are made from natural latex and are marketed as an environmentally friendly option, these will still take months to break down and are known to harm and kill animals in both the marine environment and on land. The attached strings and clips on balloons will last much longer in



CELEBRATION: *Balloons are often released to celebrate a joyful occasion, or even to bring a bit of brightness at a sad time, but the results are not so happy for marine creatures who get tangled in the strings or swallow the deflated balloon (photo: 7-themes .com)*

the environment and go on to be eaten or entangle marine species.

We are writing to you to invite you to consider removing balloons as an option for use in the ceremonies that you lead and/or plan. We believe that once anyone is made aware of the impact balloons, their ribbons and clips have on our marine life it isn't usually something one would want to leave as a legacy in a loved one's name. And likewise a joyful occasion such as a wedding or other event that includes balloons could be marred by the knowledge that balloons used can harm or deny the life of other creatures.

We very much appreciate the value of such symbols as balloons however we would like to suggest some alternatives such as:

- ♦ Blowing bubbles
- ♦ Planting a tree
- ♦ Flying kites

- ♦ Lighting candles
- ♦ Displaying flags or banners.

We invite you to be part of this awareness raising campaign to prevent further damage to our precious environment by letting others know about it so that our celebrations of life will be balloon free.

For more information contact Eurobodalla Shire Councils environment team on:

02 44741000

And, you can find more information about the harm that released balloons cause at:

<http://www.tangaroablue.org/resources/fact-sheets.html>

With kind regards to you and for your life-giving ceremonies,

Rev Linda Chapman

Rector, Anglican Parish of Moruya

Clergy moves and appointments

- ♦ **The Reverend Vanessa Bennett** has been appointed to Moonee Ponds in the Diocese of Melbourne and will take up that appointment in the New Year.

- ♦ **The Reverend Steve Clarke** has been installed as Honorary Canon in Residence (Arts) at St Saviour's Cathedral Goulburn and also is undertaking a PhD at Charles Sturt University.

- ♦ **The Reverend Judy Douglas** has been appointed Priest and Team Leader, Parish of Holt.

- ♦ **The Right Reverend Trevor Edwards** will take on the role of non-stipendiary Rector of the Parish of Murrumburrah-Harden with **the Reverend David Rajasekaram** appointed Priest-in Charge Murrumburrah-Harden.

- ♦ **The Reverend Scott Goode** has been appointed Rector, Turvey Park and will commence in February 2016.

- ♦ **The Reverend Dr Erica Mathieson** has been collated Archdeacon for North

Canberra and will continue as Rector, Hackett Parish.

- ♦ **The Reverend Natalie Milliken** has been appointed Chaplain to the Junee Correctional Centre.

- ♦ **The Reverend Susanna Pain** has been commissioned Associate Director, Liturgy, the Arts and Spiritual Care, Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture and also will be installed Honorary Canon in Residence at St Saviour's Cathedral in February 2016.

- ♦ **The Reverend Craig Roberts** has been appointed Assistant Priest, Parish of Queanbeyan.

- ♦ **The Reverend Andrew Robinson** has been appointed Assistant Chaplain, Canberra Grammar School.

- ♦ **The Venerable David Ruthven** has been appointed Rector, Parish of Wagga Wagga, from January 2016.

- ♦ **The Reverend Carol Wagner** will be appointed Archdeacon, The Coast, and will be collated in February 2016.

2016 Lay Ministry Convention

Hosted by Bishop Stuart Robinson
Anglican Diocese of Canberra & Goulburn

Friday 6th and Saturday 7th May

Speakers:

Mike and Sally Breen



Veolia Stadium, 47 Braidwood Road, Goulburn

For more information:

Margaret Wheelwright - 0425 231 477
laycentre@anglicancg.org.au

Book on-line for the 2016 Convention here:
<http://www.trybooking.com/JPPU>

DIOCESAN SCHOOLS

At the Diocesan Synod in September, the Principals of the five Diocesan Schools each gave a ten- to 15-minute presentation. As well as highlighting a strong focus on education, each Principal was able to assure Synod that their school places a high value on teaching and modelling the Christian faith, and while the newer schools still face significant financial challenges, these challenges are being managed responsibly. The following reports have been condensed from the various presentations:

Burgmann Anglican School

Mr Steven Bowers has been Principal of Burgmann since April 2009.

Burgmann Anglican School is located in Gungahlin, on the corner of Gungahlin Drive and The Valley Avenue – which, when the school was established in 1999 with 24 students, was a dirt road to the school site.

Seventeen years later, Burgmann enjoys an enrolment of over 1500 students on two campuses. The school has burgeoned. I believe it's because of the quality of its programs, the professionalism of the staff – and I also recognise that it's been a part of Canberra that has grown exponentially.

Nevertheless, raising funds for capital growth is difficult. Our most recent building – our Middle School at Forde Campus – cost approximately \$7,000,000.

The Board and I were grateful for the \$400,000 that the Commonwealth Government contributed to the cost. But this did leave a significant shortfall, to which former, current and future parents will have to contribute. The ACT Government did not contribute any capital funds.

However, recurrent funding is determined by the Commonwealth Government's assessment of our parents' financial capacity. For Burgmann, the Commonwealth and ACT joint financial provision is approximately 50% of our expenditure. Therefore, our parents have to pay the other 50%. Parents contribute significantly for the costs of the school.

It is in this context that I acknowledge the fortitude, the commitment and the deep pockets of the diocese, for the financial and practical support of Burgmann over the past 17 years – especially for the capital development of our school.

You may note that we generate cash surpluses today, and are paying down our debt significantly, but it's taken several iterations of the Board, two Principals and many outstanding staff to position the school to these ends.

A couple of years ago, the school had to make a difficult decision to increase school fees. I can assure you that this decision was not made lightly – and while arduous, has enabled the school to position itself to provide ongoing development



LONG TERM: *Burgmann Anglican School caters for pre-schoolers through to Year 12, which means some students could spend up to 15 years at the school.*

and sustainability. There will be future development of the school; there will be ongoing maintenance of the school; and in due course, appropriate buildings and construction.



SCHOOL PRINCIPAL *Mr Steven Bowers.*

Every day within our school students not only learn about Christianity; hopefully, they see Christianity, lived through committed staff and other people who share the values of our diocese. While not all staff members are Christian, all must subscribe to the diocesan ethos statement, which clearly articulates Christian values.

Burgmann enjoys three chaplains, each gifted in their area of the school. I would hope that after 15 years of education

(because some children will start as three-year-olds) our students have an understanding of those Christian values and what that means for them. Each of us is on our own spiritual journey, and while students will have a multitude of values – indeed, other faiths, and sometimes no faith – each student will leave the school with a clear understanding of Christian values and the implication of accepting these

values as a framework for life.

What a wonderful legacy supported by the diocese!

Shaping hearts and minds is a tremendous privilege. The school's next Strategic Plan will highlight our responsibility within the community, both local and global, while ensuring to provide quality learning and teaching programs from pre-school through to Year 12 – all within a Christian context.

When I began teaching in an Anglican School over 30 years ago, I was asked to stand at the back door of the chapel and instructed not to let the Year 12 students escape from the Sunday evening service. It may shock you that we don't keep guard any more in chapel. I'd be delighted if our students are inspired by the knowledge, understanding, and ultimately, responsibility to pursue their own Christian or spiritual journey.

Hopefully, Burgmann has played a significant role in shaping our students' hearts and minds towards transforming lives in the knowledge of Christ, our Risen King.

Burgmann has always had a wonderful relationship with the Gungahlin Anglican Church, and the two are as one in working together.

Gungahlin Anglican Church meets not only in the Grace Chapel at the Valley, but also in the Haywood Hall over at Forde – courtesy of the Commonwealth Government's program of Building the Education Revolution. It is but an example of the practical support the school is able to provide the parish, and indeed the diocese.

But that's not the extent of the relationship. The relationship is founded on a firm commitment to Christ, and it's through building that relationship that I believe we will see other schools grow in a like mind.



CONNECTION: *Burgmann School maintains a close connection with the Anglican parish of Gungahlin, which holds its weekly worship services in school buildings at both Gungahlin and Forde campuses.*

DIOCESAN SCHOOLS

The Riverina Anglican College

Dr Ian Grant has served as Principal of TRAC since the establishment of the college.

The Riverina Anglican College opened as a coeducational high school in 1999 – the same year as Burgmann.

Over those 17 years our growth and development has been similar to Burgmann, but at the same time somewhat different due to TRAC's unique make-up and regional location. As a stand-alone secondary school, TRAC is unique in the diocese.

If you discount Canberra, TRAC was in fact the first Anglican school south of a line between Broken Hill and Sydney, with the possible exception of Illawarra Grammar. The reason for this is that, like Goulburn and Yass, Wagga has a predominantly Catholic population, and has done so since the early days of Australian colonial history.

Our School Board's demographic research prior to 1998 suggested that given the number of protestant families in Wagga, TRAC could expect a maximum of 50 students per year group.

Now quite by chance at that stage the Catholic Education Office underwent a bit of a revolution. They closed their two old single-sex schools and their single co-ed senior high school, to create two coeducational high schools – and that had the great benefit of us becoming rather quickly, not the newest school in town, but in fact the fourth-oldest of seven.

Our estimation of having 50 in each year group has grown to 120-125. Our planned school of 300 is now 615, with just over 40% of the students identifying as Catholic on their application form.

In addition, while I strive to appoint practising Anglicans to staff positions, just under half the staff have either been educated in a Catholic school or come from a Catholic background.

We opened as a low-fee accessible school, and we had considerable pressure upon us to become 'King's on the Murrumbidgee' – which we have resisted. Our fees stay at a flat rate from 7-12, and we have the lowest of all the schools in the diocese. We are affordable for a typical Wagga family.

Among the reasons for our acceptance within the community is our very



TRAC is unique among the Diocesan schools as the only one not to offer primary schooling as well as secondary. The college still has an enrolment of over 600 students and provides excellent facilities at its modern campus on the northern edge of Wagga.

positive pastoral care program, based on care and service.

The TRAC Board initiated a whole-school review this term, conducted by an experienced group of external educators, and the high quality of the pastoral care program was a dominant theme in the report. All students are supported by a peer patron and an assistant patron, with discussion of individual students being the backbone of most staff meetings.



DR IAN GRANT has guided the development of TRAC as Principal since the college's establishment 17 years ago.

In addition, every TRAC student is involved in some form of service. Examples include Operation Christmas Child; our annual toy and food drive for Anglicare; and our Year 11 Duke of Edinburgh people who travelled to the Diocese of Ysabel in the

Solomon Islands to work with students and parents in the local schools. This is not one-way traffic, because all our students return with a profound understanding of what a vibrant Christian belief and practice is, from the indigenous population of Ysabel.

We have a wonderful library, gymnasium, music and drama centre, as well as the much-used science and technology building. Despite having to meet the cost of all our buildings, financially we are on a firm footing.

Over the years the AIDF has been a wonderful supporter, and we have returned their faith in us with on-time repayments that have seen our building debt drop from \$14 million to less than \$6 million.

So where are we today? As I said, we have 615 students, 55 teaching staff, we have an outstanding Chaplain and Assistant Chaplain, and 14 ancillary staff. We have 120 starting next year in Year 7, coming from 30 different primary schools including the seven Catholic schools within about a one-and-a-half hour driving distance from Wagga.

About 20% are farmers, 20% are professionals, with the remaining 60% coming from a genuine cross-section of the broader community including a number of indigenous families.

One benefit of having a cooperative pastoral focus is that the students are able to reach their learning potential. For those people familiar with the NSW system, our best

student last year secured an unheard-of seven Band Sixes, which puts her in the top three or four students in the state – and having achieved that, we're going to rest on our laurels for a long time! We'll just say, 'Look, if she can do it, you're just under-achieving.'

Our incoming numbers remain high because there is an overwhelming feeling within the Wagga community that our students enjoy coming to school: that they have good friends, that they feel safe, at school, and that they have teachers who like them and are concerned for them.

Wagga is also a sporting town, and providing sporting opportunities is very important. When the pastoral, academic and sporting work well, then the Christian gospel begins to make sense and has a context in which to grow. Our Chapel addresses are often supported in the morning home group



MULTI-CULTURAL: The line-up of School Captains for 2016 reflects the increasingly multi-cultural make-up of the student body, which in 1999 was entirely Anglo-European. Today about 15% of students are from other cultures

discussions. This term, it's been the fruits of the Spirit – and students have been encouraged to find examples of love, joy and peace in our own lives.

When it comes to detecting hypocrisy, children are like Geiger counters with uranium. They will not buy the Gospel of Jesus if they don't see vivid evidences of Jesus' message in action – and I include in that the school Board or the school executives, and the staff. If they don't live out those truths then the students will see our faith as counterfeit.

Before she departed for cooler climes Bishop Genieve Blackwell engaged in conversations across Wagga to ascertain how Anglicanism was perceived in the community. The result was that TRAC has the most significant profile. Even though the other agencies and churches are well-run in terms of recognition, the school was first and then daylight was second.

So are the churches full of our students? Certainly some of our families now take the opportunity to worship regularly. In the words of Ruth Edwards, in her book *Anglican Schools Today*, we are actually sowing the seeds to create a pathway for the journey of faith, without trying to either force that faith or bind it up in ritual.

Finally, I'd like to pay tribute to the wonderfully stable School Board that we've had for those 17 years – my original Chair of Council is still a member of the Board and my current Chair has been on the Board for 16 years. We've had only two Chairs over that 17 years, and I think they are an ideal Board.

DIOCESAN SCHOOLS

St Peter's Anglican College

Mr Graham Hinckman was appointed Principal of St Peter's Anglican College, Broulee, at the beginning of this year.

The first thing I did as Principal was to start to reconnect with the St Peter's community and staff. One of my first roles was to develop a new college website for the start of 2015, and the welcome address is indicative of what opens the door to the wider community. I'm just going to read this out to you:

"Nestled comfortably in its sublime surroundings, St Peter's Anglican College is a school proud of its humble beginnings and developing traditions ... Our school community can be defined as quietly confident, secure in its Anglican values and respectful of the high expectations modelled by staff."

So if there are people here unfamiliar with St Peter's, that's really us in a nutshell.

Since I became Principal, our strategic action has taken a triangular approach to our position. That is, we have reviewed, attempted to reconnect, and reconstruct some of the things that go on in our school on a day-to-day basis.

The first process of that was the review.

When I facilitated the updating of our Vision and Values, we found that the students knew so much about what St Peter's was, and what St Peter's stood for - and a lot of the feedback from the students has actually now been encapsulated in our Vision and Values statements. That, for me, has been an amazing part of this journey.

The St Peter's community's

focus is on achieving one's best; continuous improvement; and teamwork. This is achieved by forging authentic relationships built on trust, respect and integrity. Our staff constantly model and reinforce the importance of preparation, effort, honest self-reflection and meaningful feedback.

The college has three key touchstones: Faith, Courage and Excellence. Instead of going through the whole Vision and Values statement, I'll just touch on faith. The college community believes faith is expressed through our actions, words, thoughts, and relations with Christ and others. It reinforces the importance of pastoral care, and Anglican virtues such as compassion, giving, sharing and gratitude.

The next part of the process is Reconnecting, and over the last 12 months or so we have found that within the community there was some disconnect.

Communication of course is vital because we need to make sure that what is happening in the college is communicated to the parents. Simple things like a newsletter, website and our recognition has made a significant difference already, and participation in our events is now higher than we've ever had before.

We've made all our classrooms open because we've tried to make sure that the staff members feel proud of everything they do on a day-to-day basis. By showcasing what they do, the parents and grandparents and friends are able to come into our classrooms more often, they're involved in the



RECONNECTING: Improved communication with the surrounding communities is helping the school reconnect, as shown by strong local participation at recent school events.

activities - and that has been warmly received by all those members of the community.

We have also started to reconnect with our local parishes: we paid a visit to St John's, which of course was the parish that set up St Peter's in the first instance.

We are a mission-based school, and every year we head up to North Queensland, to Kowanyama, an indigenous community, and this year we had 22 students - our highest number of participating students ever.

Reconstruction: the core purpose of any school is teaching and learning, and due to the review process and becoming student-centric, we wanted to make sure that everything we did in the classroom was going to build continuous improvement, because that of course is one of the key points in our vision and values statement.

The Schools Leading Learning Program is a fun-based program which is overseen by the Association of Independent Schools, and we get significant funding for that.

Evidence-Based works at two levels: we're not only using the strategies that high-performance schools are using around Australia and internationally, but

we're also using an evidence base with homework, which of course is a cycle of continuous improvement.

Staff collaboration has been the most significant change. It's been a collective effort, and collaboratively the teachers are now planning and observing

the students improve.

And of course culture, even though the Schools Leading Learning is about teaching and learning and improvement, we want to create a culture which is one of continuous improvement in everything we do.

Teaching and Learning - we've talked about Evidence Based, which of course is a 21st Century focus. We didn't really have any collaborative work spaces until the beginning of this year, but when I went to my first P&F meeting in February and talked about Teaching and Learning, they decided to provide funds for this purpose. We now have our first 21st Century workspace, which is an internal amphitheatre. Some parents actually built that during the holidays.

We've also been the beneficiaries of the Campbell Trust, which Bishop in Council has overseen along with our Board. Infrastructure development has included the re-surfacing of our basketball court, and we're building a new oval on the side of our school grounds with a 400-metre athletic training track.

Our strategic plan in action will continue to follow these guidelines. We're not getting ahead of ourselves, we're just taking one step at a time and taking a layered approach. We've created a collective effort, with everyone knowing what's expected of them, and that's going to continue.



GRAEME HINCKSMAN served as Senior Secondary Coordinator and Head of Senior School at St Peter's since 2011 and Deputy Principal in 2014, before being appointed Principal in January of this year.

each other's classes, and coming back with feedback - which of course sometimes isn't so subtle. But that feedback is paying dividends, because not only are teachers developing a tougher hide, but they've also been able to incorporate those changes into the classroom on a weekly basis, and we're seeing



IDYLLIC: In an idyllic setting a few hundred metres from the beach at Broulee, St Peter's Anglican College is developing excellent educational resources. A new sports oval is currently being built on the land in the foreground.

DIOCESAN SCHOOLS

Sapphire Coast Anglican College

Mr Andrew Duchesne has served as Principal of SCAC for the last two years.

As you would expect, Sapphire Coast Anglican College is an educational institution; we always strive and aspire to produce excellency. But the opportunity to do it in a Christian context is truly a Godsend.

As most of you know, the College started out as a Christian School in 1994. It was incorporated into the diocese in 2006, and started operating as an Anglican College in 2007. Being part of the Anglican Diocese has meant so much to the stability of the school.

Although we have had many Open Days, this year we enjoyed our second successful Country Fair. This was the largest on record, and a number of enrolments have come from it.

The opening of an Outdoor Learning Centre for our K-2 classes has been an asset to the college. In this our youngest students have opportunities to learn about nature and agriculture within a safe environment. Up to one day a week is actually spent teaching them outside.

The college mountain bike track has had a huge workout

this year, with ten to 15 junior and senior students using it on Tuesday and Thursday lunchtimes each week. The introduction of this track has seen two students go on to bigger and better things, and our Year 9 and Year 10 teams, out of 50 teams from throughout NSW, won the Mt Stromlo ACT Schools Endurance Race in October.

We have also introduced a Life program, which is a world-leading program. In the valley there are many families who suffer from various forms of depression, single families and violence and abuse. This also causes our students to have problems. The Life program not only helps students cope with these issues, but we also teach them how to change tyres, how to cook a nutritious breakfast and other skills like that.

This has really changed the way our students view each other and their teachers.

Also, we have begun the college's Australian Museum, which is really just a garage that is going to be clad with wood so it will resemble an old hut. Inside, we have been given \$10,000 worth of Australian artefacts, donated to the college to fit it out. This will mean that



COUNTRY FAIR: The annual SCAC Country Fair has helped develop strong ties with the local community, with up to 1,000 people turning out for the event.

we will be able to invite other schools into the area, to see what we have.

And finally, in 2014 we saw our best HSC results for some time. It really depends on the students we have, but this year the college had the highest HR in the valley, the most number of L6s, which is the highest, and out of 24 Year 12 students 21 gained university entry; two were in our Education Support Unit; and the third was accepted into TAFE to study surveying - the only course he had applied for.

For a small school in a low socio-economic environment, all these results were a reflection of how great our God is.

We have many blessings: we are blessed because God is the head, and has sustained us for 22 years; we have an outstanding majority of Christian staff; we have wonderful facilities, an active parent body, and our student body is wonderful as well. We are also blessed to have Captain Yvonne Gunning as our part-time Chaplain.

I'll read an extract from my last report to the Board, written by the Head of Junior School:

Spiritually, Captain Gunning has introduced a Junior School Christian Studies lunchtime group. It has been so popular that she is considering an infants' group and an upper primary group. This is wonderful news, for the children are clearly responding to the seeds planted in their hearts,

wanting to hear more about Jesus and the Gospel. Captain Gunning has clearly been a blessing to the school.



ANDREW DUCHESNE has been on the staff of SCAC for 13 years, and served as Head of College from 2011-2013 before being appointed Principal in 2014.

Our culture is developing. Our Board and their dedication and expertise are fantastic. Now that we are a deductible gift recipient registered school, we can apply for many other grants. We have had this status for two weeks, and already we've applied for seven new grants. Furthermore, we have recently received a \$10,000 grant for the STEM Program (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths). That will help our senior students with robotics and other areas of Science.

Of course, we are not without challenges. Enrolments and finances continue to be

hurdles. Our district has a very low socio-economic status. The fees in our school are nearly double our nearest school rival. Our debt is large, but procedures are in place to deal with reducing it. To date we are almost through our second year of not incurring further debt.

We know we are an educational institution, but the executive believes we are there as an outreach centre as well. How to present the Gospel and practice what we preach is one of our biggest challenges.

The strategic plan that has been put in place for this year has been met in all areas. Enquiries for 2016 continue, and 40 students have already enrolled in Year 7. Although this may not seem many, it is the largest the college has seen for ten years.

Our Pre-Kinder is filled for 2016, with a waiting list. This year we opened a further day to cover demand.

We have approximately 35 to 40 staff, and they are fantastic; our teachers are our greatest asset. We have a vibrant parent community, and our P&F is overflowing with young parents. This group meets socially to get to know each other, as well as helping with fund-raising. The college reputation is growing daily. The majority of parents applying for enrolments say, 'I've only heard good things about the college.'

As I conclude, I'll do it the same way as I did last year: we are blessed to be doing God's work, and in Him we trust.



SCAC offers quality education in a strongly pastoral context, for students from pre-Kinder through to Year 12.

The Anglican School, Googong

Mr Ian Hewitt was appointed Founding Principal of The Anglican School, Googong, a year before the school opened its doors.

It's a pleasure to be here to talk to you this year, not about a school without students as it was last year when I started, but a school with students and staff and families.

We opened the doors for the first time on the 28th of January, with 33 students spread over five years of schooling.

We have Anglicare partners running our Early Learning Centre for three- and four-year-olds, with 34 enrolments, and in the main part of the school we commenced with Kindergarten to Year 2.

The story of Googong is exciting, and began well over ten years ago. Googong township is a five-kilometre drive south of Queanbeyan, and this time last year there were just four residents in the township.

In January of this year, when the school commenced, there were about 100 residents in the town, and by the end of October there were about 700 residents in Googong.

The original vision of about 1,000 people per year is now coming to fruition, and in the coming 15-plus years Googong itself will grow to around 16,000 people plus.

If we add that onto the Queanbeyan-Jerrabomberra and surrounding districts, it's a

population of well over 50,000 people within the region.

Why would you get involved as a diocese, in education in a fledgling community? Well, it's not just about building a school up on top of a hill, but about actually building the community as we go.



IAN HEWITT says the school is helping build community in the growing township of Googong.

When we think about the number of students we have now, that equates to about 150 people who are members of our school community, and we see those children for about seven hours a day, five days a week.

It's a significant amount of time to do life with them; help them understand who we are as Christians. They get to question us and see us in action – and that's what it's really about.

Later this year an exciting venture will continue to grow, and it's called 'Tongs and Songs'. It's happening in a town park, and the Water's Edge community and the school have claimed a space for Christmas Carols at Googong. Rather than it being something the community is doing, it is actually a Christian community driving this particular event.

For us to have maybe 500 people in that space, with a town of less than 1,000, is a pretty impressive effort –

and our children will sing in the first part of that evening. So for the 6th of December, if you're in the area and you're looking for a different Christmas Carols, please come along.

As a school, we have three aspirations for our staff and our students. Because we live in a globalised society, the students who are starting in our school now will enter, and will help create and become stewards of, a very different place from the world all of us have grown up in.

When I was at school, to know, to have knowledge was a fantastic thing. But we have to do far more than that now, so we want our students and our staff to actually know and discover, to go and explore beyond that knowledge and help create knowledge.

We want not just to understand, but to dream what else is possible. And most importantly, it's not just to have a faith, but for all of us to continually grow in faith.

As I talk about these aspirations we need to keep in mind that this is the first school in the Queanbeyan region offering an education experience for three-year-olds, right through to when they are 18 – so, 15 years of schooling. Our current three-year-olds can graduate from the same school in 2029, so we've got them for a long time to come.

In terms of our future, we go to Year 3 next year and in 2018 we will start Year 7. In terms of our planning and predictions, 12 months ago we looked at the population of the township, the population forecasts for the school, and what we are now seeing is all of those predictions come to fruition.

We have students currently enrolled out as far as 2027, and when you think about the maths on that, that child is currently one year of age and the parents are very well organised. If we have a look at the ELC, I don't have enrolments for 2020 because those children are not yet born – but we are seeing an enormous amount of interest. It's very exciting, because what people are saying is that they actually want a faith-based education and they are very comfortable with the Anglican brand of faith-based education, because they see it and they feel it is very welcoming.

What happens in the school? Early in the year, our Kindergarten teacher was talking to her class about managing their distractions. One little boy told her that he



COUNTDOWN: With Christmas getting closer, the children at Googong School are getting quite excited! The school helped to host a community Christmas Carol evening in a local park in early December.

thought he could best manage his distractions by standing up – so we adjusted his desk and moved it over so he could look out this beautiful window that faces north, out across the playground.

So we have this boy, managing his distractions by setting up a stand-up desk, and you walk into the classroom and he's doing his work – he's fidgeting all the time, but he's managing his distractions.

That's a lovely story of what actually happens when you teach them how to be learners.

As we start the day, we have a time called 'Kick-off' for the first ten minutes of the day when we come together as a community and we give the usual announcements, merit certificates, and what's happening today or next week, and we conclude that with the children actually praying.

What learning looks like

Let me give you an insight into what actually happens in the classroom. One day earlier this year, I could hear these noises – it was like excited noises, and I didn't know what was happening, but it sounded like a lot of fun, so I had to go and explore what it was about.

It was a Year 1-Year 2 maths lesson. But the maths lesson involved the children moving all the furniture in their classroom, and they were graphing it. So there were lines of lounges and chairs and tables to make their graph of the furniture in their classroom. They weren't just talking about graphs, they were making a graph in their classroom – with, as you can imagine, a lot of noise.

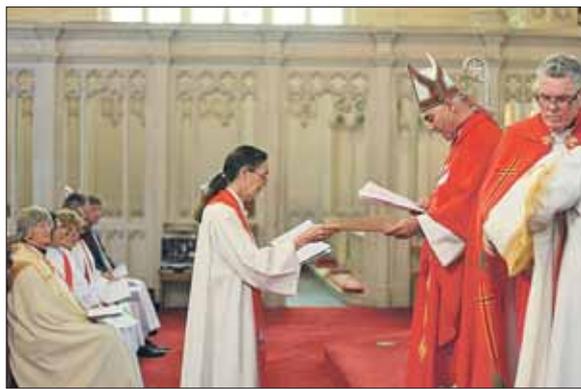
They then had to work out what the graph was showing – so it wasn't just about learning how to count the items, but the graph they built with the furniture actually made sense because there were three great big lounges in their classroom that took up as much space as the 12 little chairs. So there was a discussion about how we can show this in a mathematical graph so it actually makes sense.

That's what learning looks like, and what it sounds like in our school. It's not just a place where there are rows of desks and chairs; children are actually there experiencing their learning.



GARDENERS: The wonder of watching tiny seeds grow to become a garden is just one of the delights of childhood, and part of the learning experiences for students at Googong School.

NEWS IN PICTURES



NEW ARCHDEACON: The Reverend Dr Erica Mathieson, Rector of the Parish of Hackett, was collated as Archdeacon for North Canberra at the beginning of the Priests' Ordination Service on Saturday 28 November.

In response to Bishop Stuart's formal question asking her to "confirm before this congregation your acceptance of this ministry", Erica replied: "I readily accept this ministry as a call from God and commit myself to it, trusting in the power of the Holy Spirit."



COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS MORNING TEA: Dorothy Nash, Jill Barr and Lyn Ledger serving the festive community morning tea at St John's Young. While last week's event was a special one for the Christmas season, the free morning tea is hosted by St. John's each Wednesday morning throughout the year, and during 2015 volunteers served over 2,370 morning teas.

The team of volunteers - usually about six people each week - rely on donations of cash and cooking to fund the morning teas, which attract a regular and rather ecumenical clientèle as well as occasional passer-by who might choose to just drop in.



COMMISSIONING: Also commissioned for his new role during the Ordination service was The Reverend Steve Clarke, who was installed as Honorary Canon in Residence (Arts) at St Saviour's Cathedral. Canon Clarke is also undertaking a PhD at Charles Sturt University.

Historybytes

by Robert Willson

A Gaelic Christmas Carol

One day many years ago my wife and I left the lovely West Highland town of Oban and boarded a ferry to take us to Mull, where my ancestors had lived two hundred years ago. On the way we passed the magnificent Duart Castle, principal home of the Clan Maclean, where the movie *Entrapment*, with Scottish actor Sean Connery, was filmed.

Reaching the large island of Mull we boarded a bus to take us across the island to another ferry for the short trip to Iona. On the way we saw a sign telling us that this was the village of Bunessan, and it was the birthplace of Mary Macdonald. Bunessan is a sleepy little village of about 300 people, with one church and one pub and a thriving lobster industry.

There is not a large number of Scottish Christmas Carols because in the Scots tradition Christmas is not as significant as New Year. The name after all means "Christ's Mass" and in very Puritan Scotland this made our Scottish forefathers uneasy. So they stressed New Year.

But the Gaelic poet Mary Macdonald, who lived from 1789 to 1872, and probably never left her native Mull, contributed the beautiful Christmas Carol we know from the first line:

*Child in the manger,
Infant of Mary,
Outcast and stranger,
Lord of all!
Child who inherits
all our transgressions,
All our demerits
On him fall.*

You will find it as number 241 in the *Australian Hymn Book*. I am sure that you have

sung it in Church each Christmas.

The author was born Mary MacDougall in the year that the French Revolution broke out and the settlement at Sydney Cove celebrated our first birthday. Mary was the daughter of Duncan, a farmer. She married Neil MacDonald and settled down to the arduous life of a crofter's wife. While sitting at her spinning wheel she discovered that she had a gift for Gaelic poetry. She sang the hymns and poems she knew and some she composed herself. Mary was a devout Baptist.

Gradually some of her poems and hymns reached a wider audience. A scholar named Lachlan Macbean was doing research for his *Songs and Hymns of the Scottish Highlands* and this research was published in 1888. He translated the title of Mary's Hymn into English as "Child in the Manger" and decided to name the tune to which it was sung "Bunessan" after her native village. Mary did not write that tune but her hymn made it famous.

Today that tune has reached an even wider audience. The editors of the 1925 hymnbook *Songs of Praise* asked the English writer Eleanor Farjeon to write another hymn for that tune. She wrote *Morning has broken*. So two hymns, a Gaelic Christmas Carol and an English morning hymn, both use this beautiful tune. *Morning has broken* is number 91 in AHB.

As we crossed Mull we saw the memorial to Mary near Bunessan and the ruins of the croft on the hillside where she had once lived. We went on to visit Iona, the birthplace of Scottish Christianity, but that is another story.

stuff you need for life's journey

Let us supply all your Church's Christmas needs. Advent candle sets in three sizes. Full range of Childrens gift/award books in stock. We mail order direct to you. For more info call us or email orders@pilgrimbooks.com.au

Serving Orange & Country NSW Since 1973

Your Local
Christian
Store

pilgrim books
stuff you need for life's journey

52 McNamara Street Orange NSW 2800
02 6362 5725 | pilgrimbooks.com.au

Celebrating Christmas in Kenya

From ABM

ABM's 2015 Christmas Appeal focuses on the Children's Education program in Kenya and the Evangelism and Christian education project in the Philippines.

ABM asked staff from our partner in Kenya to share both Anglican and national Christmas traditions.

In Kenya preparations for Christmas start with nativity programs in the weeks of Advent and the main activities start on Christmas Eve.

Program Coordinator Wilson Kiio said, "People start celebrating on the evening of 24th December. In some churches they start celebrating from 6:00pm all the way through until after midnight. During that time there are plays and concerts relating to nativity."

On Christmas Day people go to church for a Christmas celebration. Children recite verses from the Bible on the birth of Jesus Christ, short plays are performed by the youth in some churches and people exchange gifts as well as Christmas cards.

Mr Kiio said, "The service ends at midday to give people time to go and celebrate Christmas with the rest of their family members. Families come together to celebrate Christmas - they enjoy different meals such as fried chicken, roasted goat's meat, roasted cow's meat and well-to-do families enjoy turkey meat. Many also enjoy pancakes (chapatti), rice and other traditional meals."

Like in Australia, Kenyan churches are decorated with different types of colours and people put up Christmas trees in their homes.

Mr Kiio said, "Churches donate food and clothes for the poor and marginalized, they also take food to prisons and those in jail to show the love of God and the joy of salvation."

At Christmas Sunday School children who have done well in church activities throughout the year are given gifts and Sunday School teachers are awarded as well.

In Kenya, ABM supports the Christian Education program which builds young children's faith from



BENEFICIARIES: Children in Kenya will benefit from ABM's Christmas Appeal, which aims to build a learning area in Nairobi to train leaders (photo courtesy ABM).

the age of 3 through to 12. The aim of the project is to build a learning area in Nairobi for the training of leaders to further develop ministry in Kibera and to grow the number of Formation Leaders.

So this Christmas, ABM invites you to share the joy of giving and help our Partners further develop their education. Donate at www.abmission.org/christmas2015



St Mark's
National Theological Centre



VET courses

CHCS1712 Dip of Counselling
10348NAT Grad Cert in Professional Supervision (Clinical) (Pastoral)
10435NAT Ad Dip of Christian Ministry & Theology

Offering vocational training
and higher education
courses

Apply NOW for 2016



Higher ed courses

Bachelor of Theology
Graduate Diploma of Theology
Master of Ministry
Master of Theology

ADVERTISEMENT

CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2015

*Lighting the way
for new life*



Giving birth is an amazing yet precarious event for women all over the world, but even more so for women in developing countries.

When Mary gave birth to Jesus in a stable, it was most likely a frightening experience in difficult conditions that many women in poor communities can relate to.

In Solomon Islands, nurses have had to rely on their mobile phones, or their own small, personal solar light, when assisting women giving birth at night. With our support, the Anglican Church of Melanesia (ACoM) is aiming to change this by installing large-scale solar lighting at regional health posts.

Our Christmas Appeal this year aims to continue and expand this work of lighting the way for new life.

The birth of Christ is described as a great light in Matthew's Gospel. Help us to light the way for new life in poor communities by donating to our Christmas Appeal.

HOW TO DONATE

1 Online:

www.anglicanoverseasaid.org.au

2 By phone:

1800 249 880

3 By post:

Christmas Appeal 2015
Anglican Overseas Aid
PO Box 389, Abbotsford Vic 3067

All donations over \$2 are tax deductible

Anglicord: ABN 39 116 072 050

ABOUT ANGLICAN OVERSEAS AID

Anglican Overseas Aid is an overseas aid and development agency of the Anglican Church of Australia. Our work is inspired by the gospel of Christ, with a vision for a peaceful, just and sustainable world for all.

Anglican Overseas Aid works with Anglican and like-minded agencies to create and strengthen partnerships in developing countries to overcome poverty, injustice and disaster. We support projects in countries across Africa, Asia, the Middle East and the Pacific.



Anglican Overseas Aid is a member of

actalliance

Anglicare offers Riverina kids a better start

By Hannah McQuiggan

Last month Anglicare in the Riverina launched a new community based child and family support service in Wagga Wagga to strengthen relationships and improve children's wellbeing in the city.

The *Survive and Thrive* program will be funded by the Commonwealth Government's Department of Social Services providing a range of services including supported playgroups, therapeutic parenting programs, one-to-one family support as well as services to assist families in crisis including advocacy, financial literacy and emergency relief.

Anglicare opened the same program in Orange earlier in the year.

Anglicare Riverina Community Services Manager, Kristy Daley said the program is primarily aimed at families with children aged 12

years and under with a key focus on early intervention for children aged 0-5.

"We are also mindful of the need to deliver a service that is universal and holistic that engages parents, not only in their child's early years of care and education but also equips them with developing skills to remain engaged with their child's learning throughout childhood and adolescence."

The *Survive and Thrive* program will complement Anglicare's current suite of Child and Family programs in the Riverina including the Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters (HIPPY) and the Lifetime Learning Indigenous Family support Program.

"The community programs provide services for children and their families within the community to keep families strong and resilient." Mrs Daley said.



LAUNCH: Federal Member for Wagga Michael McCormack, Anglicare Church and Community Development Manager Ian Coutts, Anglicare Community Services Manager Kristy Daley, program coordinator Ro Rosetta and support worker Amanda at the launch of the *Survive and Thrive* program in Wagga.

Will you Share the Benefit during Lent next year?

Lent will be early next year (Ash Wednesday is February 10) and once again Anglicare is inviting people to take up the Share the Benefit challenge, either individually or as part of a small study group, or even as a whole congregation.

Share the Benefit (STB) is a challenge that involves four weeks of studies and activities centred around what it would be like to have to live on a low income.

Participants are challenged in week four to live on Newstart for a week - a very confronting and educational experience for many of us!

At the conclusion of the challenge, participants are encouraged to donate to Anglicare the difference between what they spent in the Newstart challenge week on food and essentials and what they would normally spend.

STB allows us, in a small but powerful way, to experience the restrictions endured by those who live with poverty.

The program highlights the food insecurity that many people feel when they are living on the Newstart allowance. STB will help participants realise some of the complexities of life on these 'benefits' through the Bible Studies on a Christian response to poverty, together with the challenge to live a week on a Newstart food and drink allowance.P4



Can you live on the CentreLink Benefit for one week?

Share the Benefit; held over Lent, involves a series of bible studies and activities centred on what it would be like to experience poverty in your own community. Participants are challenged to live 'on the benefit' for one week.

"Share the Benefit is really worthwhile doing! It is an opportunity to open one's eyes to what the real needs are in the community"

"It enabled me to reflect more deeply on those in our community who are really doing it tough"



For church groups, families and individuals



Lenten Bible Study Course



Raise awareness of poverty & help Anglicare

All funds raised will be wholly used for supporting parish based initiatives that address the needs of the people Anglicare serves across the Diocese

Are you up for the challenge?

Visit www.anglicare.com.au or call (02) 6245 7100

Be Blessed
Clergy Vestments

Are you in need of new Clergy Vestments?

A new business has commenced in Rural NSW supplying individually designed Clergy stoles, altar linens, clergy shirts and more.

With 35 years experience in garment making & service with prayer, creativity & a smile - phone!!

Hazel Targett

Ph. 6493 2143 - Mob. 0413 623 248

<http://www.beblessedclergyvestments.com.au>



CAMP PELICAN

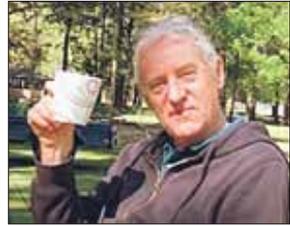
Summer 2016

Meet the Directors

With Camp Pelican just around the corner, we thought it would be great to introduce you to the hardworking and dedicated volunteers that make our camps possible! We asked each of the Camp Directors the same five questions:

Questions

1. How long have you been involved with Camp Pelican?
2. What do you love most about Camp Pelican?
3. What are some of the challenges with Camp Pelican?
4. Why do you lead on Camp Pelican?
5. How can we best support you and Camp Pelican?



Garry Thorpe: Director, Senior High Camp

1. I have been a leader on Camp Pel on and off for 25 years.
2. Being with God's people about God's business. I love the building of a community of trust, the ability to share honestly and witnessing lives deeply affected for God.
3. Finding leaders, please come and join in. The growing risk management and compliance overheads are time consuming. As a

director, some admin help would be great!

4. Young people are open to God and Pel has a track record of encouraging faith and growing leaders. For me personally, nothing gets me praying and connects me more with God than leading a youth camp. I come away deeply encouraged by the faithfulness and integrity of young people.
5. Pray: we need it. Donate: we run on such a tight budget a small extra would mean a lot. Advocate: encourage young people to attend, sponsor them if it helps.

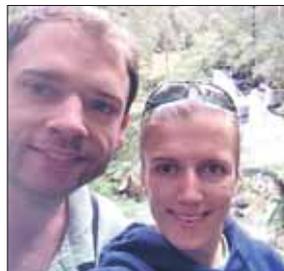


Judy Douglas: Director, Middle School Camp

1. Since 1979. I was a camper on the first camp.
2. Working with young people in a joyful and relaxed environment and the opportunity to enjoy Gods

natural world together. God always shows up and speaks to us all

3. Well it takes bit of time to organise each year and I definitely need a few days of rest at the end of the week. Having said that, I have a really dedicated team and its great sharing the work and being together.
4. It's my happy place.
5. Please maintain and develop our beautiful campsites and resource Synergy Youth so we can keep growing and developing ministry to young people. Encourage more people to lead and take on directing responsibilities. Oh yeah, most importantly thank God for Pel and pray for all the leaders and campers over this summer.



Wil and Kat Newman: Directors, Junior High Camp

1. Between us we have been



HAPPY CAMPERS: The Mad Hatter's hat parade at Middle School Camp two years ago gave campers and leaders alike an opportunity to display their millinery fashion sense (or otherwise!).

on 30 (or maybe a couple more) Camp Pels as both campers and leaders.

Wil: I have been involved with Camp Pelican for practically the last 20 years, both camping and leading (with the occasional break every now and then).

Kat: Not quite as long as Wil, being involved since 2003.

We have led together on 7/8 Pel for the last 8 years and directed the last two.

2. For us it is the community. Camp Pel is what Church should be. It is a loving and accepting community where God is actively at work.
3. Bringing together kids from all walks of life and building a Christian community where everyone is loved and accepted as a Child of God. The amount of time and energy it takes, not just in preparation but afterwards. After spending so much time in such an amazing community real life can be hard to adjust back into.
4. Being a Christian, why wouldn't I want to be part of a community

where God is actively at work?!? Getting to support, serve and encourage the campers as they walk their own faith journey is a real blessing.

5. Prayer. Prayer. Prayer. Camp Pel can be a battleground, and your prayers can make a HUGE difference!! Knowing we have a whole diocese praying for us is a massively supporting feeling. If you want to do something more practical, you could always volunteer next year to come along. Camp Pel isn't just a place for young people, we need the love and support of wiser generations. If you have a heart to serve, we will find you a position. We always need more cooks, camp parents, chaplains and support staff.

Synergy is extremely blessed and thankful for these wonderful Camp Directors. Please join with us in praying for and supporting our camps!

GO!

THE BISHOP'S

APPRENTICESHIP INITIATIVE

Details on the Synergy website: www.synergy.org.au

Synergy contacts

Synergy Youth: www.synergy.org.au

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

Bathurst Youth Officer: (vacant)

Riverina Youth Officer: (vacant)

Synergy Youth Chairperson: Ruth Edwards (contact via 62457101)