

ANGLICANNEWS

a magazine for the Anglican Community of Canberra & Goulburn Vol. 34 No. 8 August 2017

FROM BISHOP MATT



Bishop Matt responds to recent news regarding DV in the church

page 2

TREE-PLANTING DAY



South Wagga Parish partners with CSU in revegetation project

page 3

YOUTH ON MISSION



New Director of SOMA taking youth to Vietnam

page 3

WATOTO WONDER



African Children's Choir visits South Wagga parish

page 4

Sew and tell the Gospel



Maryann Webb, Founder of Project KIN

Former CSU students and college friends of 13 years, Maryann Webb (mother and primary school teacher) and Ali Robinson (mother and lecturer/former student of St Mark's National Theological Centre), along with several volunteers, have founded an Australian charity with a vision to see children and communities in need educated, empowered, and equipped through the gifting of 'Play and Learn' packs.

In late 2015, Maryann had an idea – make dolls for children in need. Though simple, she knew the impact would be more profound than just gifting a toy. As she looked around, she noticed that her own children had so much and yet there were children in her very own community who did not have access to the same beautiful resources. So, she began sewing.

As she shared her vision with other women (Ali included), this small idea started to gain momentum. They, too, dreamed of a world where all children felt valued and were given the opportunity to play and learn. Ali, with experience in children's ministry and after completing her PhD in New Testament Studies, instantly began to dream of ways to share the gospel with these children. Ali has a love for teaching

the bible, training young people and using creative methods to explore the gospel. Drawing on these skills she has helped develop the books and ministry resources now used by Project KIN.

With funding won from an Anglican Deaconess Ministries grant in 2016, the Project KIN Play and Learn packs were born. These packs contain a handmade doll, a beautifully-illustrated storybook, an activity pack, educational resources, and guides for caretakers on providing their child with an engaging and personal educational experience.

Project KIN is completely powered by volunteers, primarily women who are becoming instruments of change in their own community – local hands for future change. There are currently 200 active volunteers 'sewing' into the project. Each of these volunteers has played a special role in the Project KIN journey. One volunteer shared her childhood story of how a doll that she received one Christmas, while living in an orphanage, brought her great comfort, 'I clung to that doll, it made such a difference to have something that was mine. I loved her with all my heart!' (Sue). The day she finally left the orphanage, however, she was forced to leave the

doll behind, 'I cried and cried, they dragged me out and still wouldn't let me have my doll'. A grief and pain remained for many years, but 'when I started making cloth dolls for Project KIN, something magical began to happen. I remembered the joy, happiness and a feeling of safety that my doll brought to my life, at that very difficult time. Such is the power a doll can have in a young child's life.'

Each Project KIN doll is a handmade one-of-a-kind doll, offering each child a special companion created and clothed just for them. At the heart of the project, says Ali, 'we want children to know that like this doll, which was specially made for them, they have been specially made by God'. Our accompanying resources teach the gospel and point children and families back to the Christian message because we want children to know that they have a Creator who loves and cares for them.



Written by Dr Alexandra Robinson, shown here at the ADM funding event

We have now gained the support of Anglican Aid, Wesley Mission, and Anglicare in bringing this mission to life. Our packs have already started going out to communities around NSW as well as an orphanage in Uganda. 171 packs have been distributed to supported community playgroups and reading groups where children have lit-



Play and Learn Pack

tle access to such resources. Many of these children live in difficult financial circumstances, have fled from domestic violence, or are seeking refuge. Children are delighted by their gifts and we are seeing a positive impact in these communities. With the help of established aid organisations, facilitators are working closely alongside these families. One facilitator shared that some of the children in their group had never sat still before, but when they received their Project KIN doll they were completely changed, 'focused and settled'. Parents and carers have also been encouraged by the children's engagement with the storybook, saying that reading has now become 'fun and enjoyable'. We have a vision to see 200 packs go out by the end of 2017 and an additional 300 by the end of 2018.

We are calling for volunteers – people to 'sew' into the Project KIN vision. And we are seeking sponsors – people to support this small idea by funding a pack from just \$48. Join us as we watch God help make this small idea into a powerful and exciting reality.

Visit our website at projectkin.org and sponsor a pack today.



BISHOP MATT BRAIN WRITES

Domestic Violence in the Name of God

This piece was written by Bishop Matt in response to the ABC news article published on 18th July.

In the last few days we have been reminded of the reprehensible effects of family violence through the heart-wrenching stories gathered by ABC journalists Julia Baird and Hayley Gleeson, especially as it is perpetrated against women. Their reports make it clear that the church is not immune from this scourge and may indeed provide a place where it may be hidden.

We must be clear that it is never right for a husband to be violent towards his wife, or a male against his female partner. It does not matter how one reads the biblical passages describing submission within marriage, it is not a valid or sustainable reading to use them as a cover for evil – for that is what violence against one’s partner is.

In the Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn we have attempted to address some of the right concerns raised by Baird and Gleeson. These can be collected under four areas:

1. We benefit from and enjoy the leadership of women, both structurally and through their teaching and pastoral leadership.

Their wise voice blesses us all in many ways, not least in hearing what can be assumed or missed by men.

2. Our safe ministry training, developed initially to address matters of child protection, also addresses matters of abuse within adult relationships and the vulnerability that comes through imbalanced power. Everyone, lay or ordained, who is engaged in ministry within our diocese must complete this training and attend regular refresher courses.

3. Our Code of Good Practice enshrines safe and respectful relationships between all as the standard of discipline within our churches. When there are concerns that these standards have been breached (e.g. by clergy perpetrating abuse) then I would encourage those who have become aware of this activity to speak with the Director of Professional Standards, who will investigate these reports and initiate action against those who have breached the Code. The Director can be reached on 1800 070 511.

4. We have contributed to significant forums speaking openly about the reality of family violence in the church. Indeed the latest forum developed a set of



resources to be used by churches to help create a culture in which violence cannot be perpetuated. This resource has been distributed to every parish.

As I have had cause to reflect on my practice as a pastor over the last two days there are two things that have hit home once more.

As pastors we need to think carefully about how we teach doctrines that can be twisted and misused for an abuser’s ends. This is particularly so if we have not experienced abuse in our own lives. I have found Baird and Gleeson’s reports a helpful reminder for me to think carefully about the ramifications of what I teach, and how what I assume to be self-evident may not be so to those who are living in the midst of abuse. I have been reminded that when I speak on the goodness of marriage, and

how it envisages patient faithfulness, I also need to speak clearly about the way that abuse is unacceptable. Indeed it is the abuser who is responsible for emptying the promise of faithfulness and the one who is being abused is not bound to stay in the face of danger and harm.

We also need to know the limits of our competence as we interact with those who disclose that they are living with violence. In previous training as a physiotherapist I was taught to develop my skills: to be great at what I could do, and then to be quick to refer people with needs that were outside of my capacity to others who were able to help. Pastors can and do play a vital role in nurturing people in their Christian faith. However, as the reports have pointed out, the needs associated with living with violence are complex and deep. We must be quick to help those who are being abused find the skilled help that is needed, whether that is to keep them from harm or to provide therapeutic support.

Hearing the stories of those who have been abused under the cover of the church is painful. Yet I am glad that these stories are being told.



creating
safe ministries

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

The Creating Safe Ministries program assists us to fulfil this commitment. Details of these can be found here: www.anglicancg.org.au/pages/safe-communities-training-and-workshops.html

Reporting Abuse Hotline: 1800 070 511

Clergy Moves

The Reverend Andrea de Vaal Horciu has resigned as Chaplain The Anglican School Googong to expand her role with Embracing Ministries, a chaplaincy to children and families living with disabilities.



Safe Ministry eTraining Induction

The online Safe Ministries eTraining course is now here. This course is an alternate way of completing your Safe Ministries Workshop.

For more details on completing your workshop online visit: <http://www.anglicancg.org.au/pages/safe-communities-training-and-workshops.html>

AnglicanNews is a magazine for the Anglican community in Canberra and Goulburn.

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Email: alison.payne@anglicands.org.au ISSN 2207-6484

Community Tree-Planting Day | Youth Engaging in Mission



On Saturday 29th July members of South Wagga Anglican Parish combined with students from St Martin's College to participate in National Tree Day. More than 500 native species were planted in partnership with Charles Sturt University, who are continuing their green goals.

Ed Maher, head of CSU Green, welcomed the volunteers, saying: 'CSU was delighted to partner with South Wagga Anglican Church on this recent revegetation. As Australia's only certified Carbon Neutral University, CSU loves the opportunity to collaborate with like-minded organisations. We hope that this may lead to a long-term relationship between CSU and South Wagga Anglican Church.'

Reverend Scott Goode, Rector of South Wagga, said that the day out achieved a number of goals: 'For our parish this was an important opportunity of building

community partnerships and taking a concrete step in ensuring we are involved in creation care. I really hope that this might be the beginning of an annual event that grows and grows.'

St Martin's College has a proud record of managing its carbon footprint 'so, it was with enthusiasm that some students of the College joined CSU Green and South Wagga Anglican Church in the tree planting as part of the National Tree Day, which was on the Sunday. St Martins hosted a lunch for all the volunteers on what turned out to be a beautiful sunny winter's day. Rain in the following week was also a God-send' said the Acting Head of College.

National Tree Day takes place each year and more information can be found here: www.treeday.planetark.org.

by Reverend Scott Goode

For the past three years I have been working in Youth ministry, with kids between year 4 (primary school) and year 12 (Highschool). Each Friday from 5.30pm-7.30pm of School terms we get up to 30 kids meeting, as we share a meal together, play some games or do other activities and then enter a God spot where we learn many topics of the bible, life and how to be disciples of Christ in our broken world.

We all know the old saying '*never work with animals or kids*'. Well my response to that is ... I love working with kids! Don't get me wrong, it is an absolute challenge at times and those challenges stretch you, but for the most part it's an absolute blessing.

I'm so excited, as newly appointed National Director of SOMA Australia, to now be organising a youth mission trip to

Vietnam with SOMA. In November this year, eight of us will be travelling to Hanoi, Vietnam, to share in ministry with a small Anglican church called Church of the True Light, share our faith walks as young people and join with their young people to practically serve a small community of Vietnam.

As we take the light of Christ with us from Australia and meet the light of Christ in our brothers and sisters of Vietnam, I have no doubt that God's blessings will be overflowing and we will see great growth in our young team. Please keep us in your prayers - Liz, Shaina, Edwina, Clara, Lauchie, Emma, Jayden & Tilly.

*by Reverend Liz Rankin
Deacon, Batemans Bay
National Director, SOMA
Australia*



History Bytes: Bishop Burgmann Fifty Years On



Who was Bishop Burgmann? This year marks the fiftieth anniversary of his death in 1967, and only a few members of the Diocese will have clear memories of him. Various functions have been planned to remember him. I think Burgmann and his successor, Bishop Clements, came to a Student Christian Movement

Conference which I attended in 1960, and he died some years before I entered the Diocese. I am sorry I never knew him.

This year also marks sixty years since Burgmann founded St Mark's Anglican Memorial Library in 1957. He dreamed that this collegiate library might develop a distinctive Australian theology, with an emphasis on issues of social justice. He hoped that the Anglican Church might be seen to be allied to the Australian working class in peacefully transforming the capitalist system.

For those who seek more information on this prophetic Christian I recommend Peter Hempenstall's biography *The Meddlesome Priest* (1993). My copy is autographed by the au-

thor, who also wrote the informative entry for Burgmann in Volume 13 of the Australian Dictionary of Biography, an excellent brief introduction to his thought.

I treasure memories of some of the priests who were ordained by Burgmann. Bishop David Garnsey, a member of my parish in O'Connor, in his retirement often spoke of the great influence that Burgmann had on him. He particularly recalled Burgmann's attitude to big national issues like the Referendum to ban the Communist Party in Australia in 1951. Burgmann was of course opposed to this move by Robert Menzies and helped to ensure that it was lost.

Canon Peter Davies recalled that when Burgmann wished to interview him they met not in an

office but at his home. The Bishop would invite Peter to go for a walk while they shared ideas.

Bishop Burgmann was born in 1885 near Taree and was of German and Irish background. He wrote a small book about his struggle to gain an education. Entering St Paul's College in the University of Sydney he finally obtained an MA degree. Eventually he and others founded St John's College Armidale which later transferred to Morpeth. He was called to the Diocese of Goulburn in 1934 and the rest, as they say, is history.

I warmly commend the life of this fascinating Australian, including his own writings on religious and social issues, all to be found in St Mark's.

By Reverend Robert Willson

Watoto Wonder



On Wednesday 26th July the Watoto Children's Choir visited South Wagga Anglican Church for a powerful and moving performance. More than 250 people attended St Paul's Turvey Park to experience a story of personal and community transformation.

Since 1994 Watoto has cared for more than 4,000 orphaned and vulnerable children, with over 3,000 currently receiving care. Some are former child soldiers and some were born to rebel leaders during the civil war. Watoto has enabled these disadvan-

taged children to regain control of their lives and, as a result of the care and education they have received, they are now impacting society in a positive way.

Watoto's Living Hope initiative provides crucial support to vulnerable women, helping them to stay alive and to care for their children, and has restored more than 3,000 vulnerable women. These women have been empowered with literacy, business and practical skills. Their children – numbering more than 15,000 boys and girls – now have a better chance in life.

The Reverend Scott Goode, notes: 'For us, having Watoto share with us in this way was a privilege. It was not just about the concert, but about connecting with the church in East Africa.

A significant number of the African community in our church and in our city came along to this event, many of them arrived to Australia via Uganda. Moreover, we had the chance to watch a joyful and life-giving community set up in our church and the entire choir was billeted in the homes of parishioners.'

The Children's Choir regularly tour Australia and enquiries can be made to watoto.com.

by Reverend Scott Goode

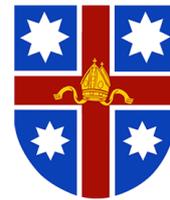


What's On



Diocesan Synod 2017

Our Diocesan Synod will be held from 6-8 October 2017 in Goulburn



General Synod 2017

General Synod will be held from 3-8 September 2017 in Maroochydore

Celebrate the **500th** ANNIVERSARY of the beginning of the *Reformation*

Tree-planting Event | 18 September | St Mark's

ANGLICARE Sunday
Make a difference in your local community

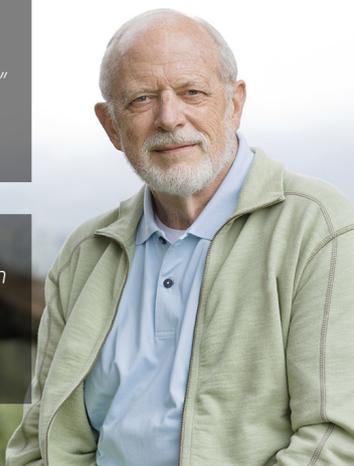
Anglicare Sunday 15 October

WORKSHOP:
"Enabling Spiritual Reminiscence in later life"

By Rev'd Elizabeth MacKinlay
Thursday 28 September | ACC&C

SYMPOSIUM
"Offering spiritual care in aged care settings"

Multiple speakers
Friday 29 September | St Mark's



With kind permission from Bishop Stuart, Sunday 15 October is designated as Anglicare Sunday. Sunday 15 October marks the start of Anti-Poverty Week – a week aimed at encouraging everybody to help raise awareness and reduce poverty in Australia.

Anglicare would like to share with the churches in the Diocese about what they are doing to transform the lives of those living in poverty and disadvantage. It is an opportunity for churches to partner in Anglicare's mission to reach those who are doing it tough and to break the cycle of inter-generational poverty. Anglicare is also interested in partnering with churches to help people in your local communities.

If you want to be a part of Anglicare Sunday, Anglicare will send you information, videos with personal stories, prayers and other materials for worship, and also for children. Anglicare may be able to offer some churches, on request, a preacher or speaker.

To find out more and to register interest, please visit:
<http://tiny.cc/AnglicareSunday>