



## WHEN A PANDEMIC PREVENTS A SYNOD

Over two weeks in September Diocesan Update zoom meetings were held in four regions across the Diocese, in lieu of the Annual Synod in Goulburn, which will now take place in April 2021.

Bishop Mark opened his presentation by sharing a slide show of the year set to the soundtrack of *Smoke*, written and performed by Canberra Girls Grammar School student Lara Buchanan. It's a song based on her experience of living through the bushfires of last summer, with all its challenges, and yet featuring the refrain 'Don't Lose Hope', which has been the message for all of us this year.

He continued by reflecting on the Scriptural image of breath and how it speaks of the fragility and transience of human life in this world, but also of the renewing and life-giving work of God, then expanded on the way both of these aspects have been

experienced across the Diocese in this extraordinary year.

Bishop Mark used the four questions asked of Ministry Units earlier in the year to unpack the journey so far across the Diocese.

### 1. What griefs and losses have we experienced during this journey?

There have been very real physical losses, particularly during the bushfires, as well as lost opportunities to gather and lost opportunities to celebrate as we normally would.

### 2. What signs of God's grace have we experienced during this journey?

These have included the tireless disaster response from Anglicare, parishes and schools; parishes using technology to connect within and beyond their congregations with people hearing the good news through online evangelistic courses; and Diocesan staff and parish treasurers working to access government support.

### 3. What new skills and insights have we developed during this journey?

The Diocese has displayed a surprising capacity for change, hosting online conferences and

gatherings, has deployed home-based learning from schools on a large scale and continued to engage with Anglicare clients in the absence of physical proximity.

### 4. What new relationships have we developed during this journey?

Local relationships in our neighbourhoods have been strengthened rather than diminished, with neighbourhood really mattering during the height of the pandemic and crises. We need to recognize and nurture these relationships.

#### What can we learn?

Bishop Mark summarised what we can learn from this by:

*The past twelve months have highlighted the necessity of and opportunity for deepening our ministry and mission mindset from one of presence to one of engagement.*

One way to do this is by reframing the questions we ask ourselves from 'do we have Anglican worship in this community at a particular time and day?' to more searching questions like 'how is this community present in our Anglican worship, however and whenever this worship occurs?'

There will be further exploration to come on how we can engage with

the priority areas identified at last Synod:

- Gracious and patient witness
- Safe and sustainable ministry
- Compassionate and skilled service
- Creative and informed advocacy
- Just and generous stewardship
- Inspiring and empowered worship

Bishop Mark concluded by presenting some new initiatives to help us move forward, exploring ways for Ministry Units to take up the new opportunities, particularly relating to technology. There has been budgeting to assist licensed clergy to access professional supervision, and also to seed the development of regional administrative hubs. He proposed three focused engagement areas for 2021: *Lent* – a series of studies to understand pressing social issues; *Easter to Pentecost* – a time of intentional prayer for sharing the love and truth of Jesus; *After Pentecost* – encouraging outreach through evangelism activities.

In each meeting there was then a presentation by the local

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# THE NEARNESS OF GOD BISHOP STEPHEN WRITES



Picture by Al Ishrak Sunny on Unsplash

I remember a conference on the nature of God in Christian and Islamic traditions I attended in Edinburgh some years ago (in the days when travel to the far side of the earth was both normal and affordable). At one stage in the proceedings Professor Mona Siddiqui, who visited the Australian Centre for Christianity & Culture a few years ago, said she felt it was important in inter-religious dialogue to address our different understandings of the nearness of God. The phrase echoed in my mind then and has continued to. In one sense it is a familiar enough phrase. Yet we so easily skate over it, miss it, or are simply forgetful of just how near the divine presence is to each and every one of us and the creation. The nearness of God is captured beautifully in the words of the remarkable Medieval theologian St Thomas Aquinas (1225-74), 'God is in all things, and intimately'. Of course, such statements are not just reserved for the great scholars of

the Christian tradition. Rather, such words spring from the experience of the human heart that seeks the Lord and finds, to its great surprise, that we have already been found by the God who is near to all things.

I asked a friend, who is being treated for a serious stage four cancer and is now in his fifth course of chemo, what 'the nearness of God' meant for him. He thought for a moment and said he and his wife had recently been reading one of the Psalms and were struck by the phrase 'we are surrounded by mercy on every side'. I tried to find the phrase and found these well-known words from Psalm 139:5-7. 'You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it. Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?'

My friend said that the words from the psalm echoed in their minds for days. In the ensuing days, in conversations with others, they

realised that in so many ways they had been in receipt of the mercy of God. The words of Holy Scripture resonated with the events of their life. They found that as they brought to mind the words of the psalmist in their daily life, filled as it has been with many challenges as you might imagine, they became acutely aware of God's mercy up-close and personal; the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The great Bard spoke of mercy thus: 'The quality of mercy is not strain'd. It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven Upon the place beneath'. As the gentle rain over time soaks the earth; so too the mercy of God soaks into the human heart, soul, mind, and strength. Such is the nearness of God.

Jesus spoke of the kingdom of God being near: 'The kingdom of God is not coming with things that can be observed; nor will they say, "Look, here it is!" or "There it is!" For, in fact, the kingdom of God is among you.' (Luke 17:20-21, NRSV). The Greek word can be rendered in various ways: in the midst, among, within.

How important it is for us frail humans to remember God's nearness especially in the difficulties, challenges and perplexities we encounter and in the upheavals of the times in which we live. I was reminded of this when I read the Prayer for the Week recently:

*O God,  
You know us to be set amidst*

*so many and so great dangers  
That by reason of the frailty of our natures*

*We cannot always stand.*

*Give us such strength and protection  
As may support us in all dangers  
And carry us through all temptations  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Who would dare pray such a prayer? Someone who was in need of God up close and personal? Certainly. An individual, a people or a nation, who longed for the Lord to draw near? Most likely. Are such persons justified in praying such a prayer? Most certainly! The reason is to be found not in the one who prays, but in the character of the God whose Spirit draws us from every side into the very heart of the Divine. God's constant nearness is the source of energy, peace and joy for those who follow in the footsteps of Christ into a world in need.



## CLERGY MOVES

The Reverend Romeo Dinale has had his ATO extended on 9.9.2020.

The Reverend Kenneth King has had his licensed updated as Priest, Collector, Priest, Marulan (till the end of 2020) and as NSW Rural Fire Service Chaplain from 21.09.2020.

The Reverend Ian Marshall has been licensed as the new Rector of Queanbeyan & District Anglican Church from 23.09.2020.

The Reverend Stuart Haynes has been granted an ATO on 30.09.2020.

### AnglicanNews

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Phone: 02 6245 7154 Advertising: enquiries to the editor.  
Email: alison.payne@anglicans.org.au ISSN 2207-6484  
Articles for each edition need to be submitted by the 25th day of the previous month.

The Anglican News welcomes contributions of up to 600 words that highlight ministry and mission initiatives across the Diocese or explore new ways of engaging a world of difference with the love and truth of Jesus.

Any statements or opinions expressed in articles published in this newspaper are attributed to the identified author and are not necessarily endorsed by or representative of the Diocese or its officers.

## BERRIDALE GETS AMENITIES



After more than a 100 years without 'facilities', All Saints' Berridale now has a new building which boasts a disabled-friendly convenience and a meeting room with a kitchenette. On Sunday, 13th of September, Bishop Carol visited to worship with the parish, officially open the new building and share lunch with parishioners – all COVID-safe of course. The parish sincerely thanks its generous donors who helped make the new building possible.

by Bishop Carol Wagner

# WHEN A PANDEMIC PREVENTS A SYNOD (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)



Archdeacon(s) on the particular challenges and blessings experienced across their region.

The Registrar then gave a presentation, speaking of the unique and challenging times, but also the many stories and blessings in their midst to be thankful for as we seek to be faithful to our Lord, through God's grace, and continue to advance our collective mission. He then provided an overview of the range of activities that have been undertaken by BiC and the ADS since last Synod. These included:

► **Bushfire Response** – outlining the response provided to the 18 impacted parishes, including fundraising, insurance and first responder chaplaincy support,

in particular noting the damage done and repairs required at St Peter's Anglican College Broulee.

► **Hailstorm** – noting the damage done primary to St Mark's National Theological Centre, St Paul's Manuka and fleet vehicles.

► **COVID-19 Response** – an update on the Government stimulus initiatives (JobKeeper and Cash boost payments) and direct support and relief initiatives, which have assisted in mitigating the financial impacts to parishes that have lost most usual income-producing activities; also highlighting the significant work done by the ADS Risk & Compliance Directorate in relation to COVID-Safe planning

and implementation for ministry units and agencies and the regular communications provided to keep ministry units and agencies informed of public health advice across ACT & NSW.

► **National Redress Scheme and Professional Standards** – an update on the settlements made via both the NRS and our existing Diocesan Redress processes, noting that the issue of redress continues to be a significant focus for BiC, the Diocesan Finance Committee and Professional Standards bodies, particularly in the light of recent legislative changes in response to recommendations from the Royal Commission. A significant amount of work has been done to review all Diocesan Policies and Protocols and Guidelines pertaining to Safe Ministry and Professional Standards to ensure these are consistent and compliant with recent legislative changes and National Anglican Safe Ministry Related Canons.

► **BiC focus areas and mission priorities** – noting that BiC has continued to pursue various mission and ministry initiatives through the lens of the six key priority areas as well as

encouraging and supporting agencies and ministry units to embrace missional opportunities and enhance connections and engagement with local communities.

► **ADS key highlights** – including the new and expanded SLAs, the roll out of Zoom to ministry units, an update on the ADS Fleet and the future Xero accounting project, involving engagement of larger parishes to assist smaller parishes, which the ADS had hoped to roll out this year but will now occur next year.



► **2021 Budget overview** – noting that it is a conservative budget with a small surplus.

The number of attendees at each session was Goulburn/Southern Tablelands – approximately 25; Coast, Monaro, Alpine Region – approximately 35; Wagga Wagga/Western Region – approximately 35; Canberra and Region – over 100.

## DEACON PROFILE - JUDY HOLDSWORTH



I am an Honorary Deacon serving The Southern Monaro Parish for the last twelve years. I have lived in the Bombala region for twenty three years now. When I arrived in Bombala, I was not sure where my ministry would take me, having been involved in Lay Ministry for some time in a another parish. But I have been surprised by the way it has unfolded over the years. Even

as we tend to resist God's plans for us, He tenderly prods, being patient with our failures, and continues His ministry in and through us. When I answered God's call I did often wonder how I would be able to do all that it entailed. But the 'One who calls us will also equip us', as I have found over these years. Many doors have opened for me, I just needed to trust God.

I am involved in many areas of Pastoral Care; to the elderly, the isolated, making home visits and work through the Op Shops in Bombala and Delegate. One could say I work on the fringes of community. I am employed for five hours weekly to oversee, train volunteers and provide Pastoral Care to a local Nursing Home, residents, staff and family members. In ministry to all these people I feel very humbled and privileged to listen and talk with them in their hour of need. Sometimes it is by enabling others to come with me on their journey.

Ministry since COVID-19 has certainly been different. But it gave me time to reflect on my own life, to relax and spend time in the presence of the Lord, a time well spent. One of hardest things I face now is talking to loved ones who have lost a dear relative, who were unable to see their relative under the COVID-19 restrictions. Attending to them in their grief is overwhelming.

The property where I live is a haven for me. It is a very much-loved place in a beautiful valley where many

people like to come and visit. It is an oasis of beautiful sunrises and sunsets, rivers where you may see a platypus, if you are lucky. Quiet and peaceful, it is nestled away from the hustle and bustle of the outside world.

But this same place can be a challenge when it rains heavily as my home can be cut off by the flooded river. I have chosen to stay at home when flood cuts me off from the town. At other times I have journeyed across the river to stay in town. Following heavy rain, which has been most welcome following years of drought, I recently had a wedding to perform and I needed to cross the flooded river. The tractor in the picture came to my rescue. On another occasion I have been rescued by canoe!

My home for me is a refuge when I return from all my work in town, where I spend time with God. For me, the words 'Be still and know that I am God' have much meaning. This is how I recharge my batteries for the work to which I have been called.

*by Reverend Judy Holdsworth*

# DOING YEAR 12 IN 2020



Bishop Mark recently recorded a message for Year 12 school students, encouraging them with a reminder of the unchanging truth that education is far more about the people we are becoming than the facts that we remember, which is why times of challenge can sometimes be our

greatest teachers.

I'm well aware that 2020 has been a challenging year for Year 12 students in particular. You've experienced changed learning environments and faced uncertainty about assessments and end-of-year celebrations. Along with all this there's been the background noise of a world that seemed to turn upside-down.

That's why I am so grateful to hear from your schools and your parishes how you have faced these challenges with courage and with creativity. You've leaned into your support networks, you've stood by your friends and you've reached out for help when you've needed it. You've

learned the importance of caring for the environment and caring for the vulnerable.

I want you to know that I admire you and that I am praying for you.

James 1:5 says that if we ever need wisdom we should ask God who gives to all generously without finding fault and that wisdom will be given to us.

In this season may you know the wisdom of God; the God who has entered into our world in the Lord Jesus Christ and the God who loves us not because of what we do but because of who he is.

Watch the video at: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=QzhBk82HQ1s](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QzhBk82HQ1s)

We spoke to two Year 12 students to find out more about their experience - see page 5.

## SIX MONTHS FEELS LIKE A LIFETIME



**On 2nd September Chaplain (Flight Lieutenant) Emma Street received a certificate from the Director of General Chaplaincy – Air Force, Mark Willis, in recognition of outstanding ministry in 2020, particularly during Operation Bushfire Assist and in the early months of the COVID pandemic. Emma shares this story of her experiences this year.**

In an ordinary week I work two days as an Air Force chaplain alongside my role as Priest-in-Charge at St Barnabas Charnwood. That was the plan when I joined as a Reserve in July 2019. However,

I am sure all would agree 2020 has not been an ordinary year. This year has involved more adventures than a new chaplain in the Defence force should ordinarily expect.

I have no Defence work over the Christmas season, which fits well with parish celebrations. It also meant that I could travel to Cooma in early January, with the blessing of parish, to join the Bushfire Evacuation Centre as a chaplain with the NSW Disaster Recovery Chaplaincy Network (DRCN).

Returning to Canberra, I was just finishing a shift at the Dickson Bushfire Relief Centre when I was called to go to the HMAS Harman Bushfire Evacuee Reception Centre, where the Defence Force were hosting evacuees from the NSW South Coast. I was there for ten days, receiving people of all ages, and their pets; helping them to settle in and feel safe and secure on a Navy Base while receiving the support they needed during that difficult time.

From Harman I returned to the Cooma area with the Air Force to provide pastoral support at the C-130 tanker crash site. One can't really describe such a confronting experience. I think this was particularly so for me because the fire-front was still active, and I have a close personal connection with the area from ministry in the Cooma parish.

Only the day after we returned, the Monaro highway was closed as fire moved through the Bredbo area. In the midst of that terrible sadness it was also a personal highlight of the summer to meet members of the Numeralla RFS. That certainly inspired me to feel a bit braver.

After a bit of rest and reconnection with my parish, my final contribution to the Bushfire effort was a week at the Bateman's Bay Bushfire Recovery Centre as a DRCN chaplain.

In March I started the initial chaplain course at the Defence Force Chaplain's College in Canberra. I had wondered how to juggle the course with Lent and Holy Week preparations, especially after being away in January. This was unfortunately resolved with the arrival of COVID-19 cancelling the course and our Easter services. Undaunted, the parish moved on to Zoom.

Once again, I found myself working for the Navy. This time on a COVID-19 response team. I was on the phone, or zoom, or running errands for the parish every morning, and in the afternoons, I was on the phone supporting sailors and their families in isolation or quarantine. That was probably the most difficult period this year, particularly supporting people stuck in unfamiliar places when State borders closed.

In July I finally completed the initial chaplain training course I had started in March. I am now officially qualified to tackle any challenges of next summer.

For now, it is good to be home and focus on our gradual return to the ordinary joys of parish life. Weekly worship is settling into a comfortable rhythm and we are seeing a few new faces, the Op Shop is open, and we are planning COVID-Safe Christmas celebrations.

I hope to start 2021 with a holiday on the NSW coast.

*by Reverend Emma Street*

## HANNAH SIMON - RADFORD COLLEGE

Hannah has been a blessing leading the singing in the church livestream at Curtin.

**• Did you do school from home for long? What did that involve?**

I did school from home for about five weeks, with a two-week holiday break in the middle. My online schooling was structured much the same as regular school days. We were required to follow our regular timetable and join the online chat (via Microsoft Teams) at the start of each class in order to receive instructions from our teacher and ask any questions. As senior students our attendance is monitored closely in a regular school environment, therefore in order to ensure records were correct, students were required to both:

- Join the online chat, and say 'hello' or send a message indicating presence; and also
  - Show evidence of completed class work through email or loading into our other online platforms.
- Did you find that difficult/frustrating/annoying?**

Personally, I greatly enjoyed working from home and being able to structure my time according to priorities. There were little distractions for me, so I managed to complete work quicker than usual, leaving more time for finishing other work and assessments, as well as taking time to exercise and be outside.

**• How has this year affected your assessment? Will it make a difference to university or other entrance procedures?**

I completed a number of assessments while learning from home. These were modified to allow access to internet and external resources, as this is something that is difficult to monitor from home. Students were sent the task at a given time and were required to send back the completed task strictly within the time frame. Personally, online learning and the impact of COVID-19 have not significantly changed my tertiary study options. I have completed my ACT Scaling Test, which was held as normal on September 1st and 2nd, and have received two early offers to University.

**• Have a lot of other school activities been cancelled?**

Yes! Our cohort has missed many of the standard year 12 events throughout the year, including many guest speakers, service trips and our swimming carnival. More recently, we have been able to



engage in virtual presentations and were able to livestream our Year 12 Production. Our end-of-year formal and graduation have been altered to reflect COVID guidelines and will be held at the school with only students and limited teachers in attendance.

**• Did you have any extra-curricular activities planned this year that have been cancelled/postponed? Has that affected your future in those activities also?**

My dance school was closed for an extended period of time, and as a teacher I was required to facilitate online classes and videos. Our end-of-year concert has been redesigned into a pre-recorded movie of dances and many modifications have been made to the operation of the school.

**• What about activities connected to church/your faith? Were many things cancelled for you? Was that difficult for you?**

The annual CMS MMM camp was cancelled, which is usually a highlight of my year. Our church was lucky enough to livestream our services when people were not able to meet, and I was still able to connect with camp members through social media.

**• Do you think being a Christian has helped you respond to and/or make sense of this year?**

It has definitely been difficult not seeing the church seats fill up and not seeing how big the church has grown through the pandemic, and it definitely has! But I think that being able to still be connected to others through online church and virtual morning tea has helped to somewhat normalise the circumstances. Especially while learning from home, I felt a relief from stress, which allowed for more time to engage with my faith. Having the livestream, I have been able to re-watch the services later in the week which has been helpful as well.

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## GWYLLYM YOUNG - ALFRED DEAKIN HS

Gwyllym has been working hard helping to produce the service livestream at Curtin.

**• In what ways has Year 12 been different to what you expected or hoped as a result of the pandemic?**

We had no major testing at the end of term 1, and about half of term 2 was done from home. However, we had no big tests in that semester either, which messed up my results a bit. Instead we had a variety of assessment, which particularly messed me up for Chemistry.

**• Did you do school from home for long? What did that involve?**

We missed seven weeks of school, two at the end of term 1 and the first five from term 2. During term 2 we had a shortened timetable and took classes on video and did assessment all online.

**• Did you find that difficult/frustrating/annoying?**

Yeah, I did. The software for some classes was a mess to use, especially for assessment. And the department did not do enough to help our teachers adjust.

**• How has this year affected your assessment? Will it make a difference to university or other entrance procedures?**

The ANU changed their offer system so that we'd receive full offers based on year 11 results, rather than conditional offers. So that got me into the course I wanted.

**• Did you have any extra-curricular activities planned this year that have been cancelled/postponed? Has that affected your future in those activities also?**

I had two International Championships for my racewalking cancelled, namely the Racewalking World Cup and World U20 Athletics Championships. Luckily the U20 Champs have been scheduled for next year, and I'll still be the correct age group to compete. But it has changed the nature of my training over this year.

**• What about activities connected to church/your faith? Were many things cancelled for you? Was that difficult for you?**

I had Boys Brigade Queensland



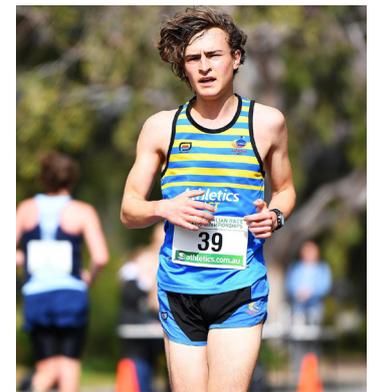
Leadership cancelled, which is disappointing as it's certainly a worthwhile course. However I got to help out with livestreaming my church services which has been fun.

**• Do you think being a Christian has helped you respond to and/or make sense of this year?**

It has certainly helped me move forward with the year. It has especially helped me work through some of the mental hang ups that got amplified by the stress of lock down.

**• Are there ways you think this year will negatively affect the future you had planned for the long-term?**

It will certainly change how my walking ends up, as it now appears I will have a major international championship to attend every year at least until 2024, rather than getting next year off to build up. This will affect my studies, but I don't know to exactly what degree that will be.



*Gwyllym Young racewalking. Photo from Athletics Australia, used with permission.*

**• Are there ways you think this year will negatively affect the future you had planned for the long-term?**

I think there are many aspects of life that will be different in the long-term such as a greater awareness for social distancing and hand hygiene even when the pandemic is no

longer a global issue. I know many year 12 students this year, including myself, were hoping to take a gap year to travel or work but as a result of the pandemic these have been challenged and more people are choosing to start tertiary studies next year in the hope of taking a 'gap year' of some sort in the future.

# DIRRUM FESTIVAL 2020: FROM CANBERRA TO THE WORLD



by Reverend Dr Katherine Rainger  
Radford College Senior Chaplain

Canberra's Radford College hosted a very different Dirrum Festival over Friday 14 and Saturday 15 August.

This year's Dirrum Festival theme, 'Tipping Points', was chosen in 2019. As the Dirrum Festival fast approached, the theme felt increasingly apt. The Dirrum team, made up of Year 12 students, brought together a range of speakers who addressed 'tipping points' in our individual and collective lives.

It was a remarkable event, for many reasons. The heartbeat of Dirrum Festival remained the same, with an emphasis on student voice and action, challenging and inspiring speakers, hospitality, music and art.

We had a limited in-person audience, and others watched the livestream from around Australia and throughout the world. Each of our speakers Brooke Prentis, Tom Calma, Anote Tong, Bernard Collaery, Camille Wilson, Ahmed Kelly, David and Emma Pocock, Mark Whithear and [Craig Foster](#) spoke with grace, truth and conviction.

including many within the Radford community.

The student voice, an important feature of Dirrum Festival, was strong again this year, with students reporting on their Dirrum challenges in the areas of responding to climate change, connection with place, and refugee rights.

Another highlight of the festival was the release of two books *I Just Want to Make a Difference: a journey in social change-making* by Richard Browning and *Enacting a Public Theology* (ed. Clive Pearson) with two chapters on Aboriginal justice co-authored by Dirrum speaker Brooke Prentis and a chapter on lament in the context of Israel-Palestine written by Katherine Rainger. The responses from past and present Radford students to these books were insightful and attentive, and demonstrated a desire to understand the world and their place in it.

Perhaps the most rewarding feedback about Dirrum Festival came from our youngest attendees.



Paralympian Ahmed Kelly

All the speakers made an impact on their audience. Many were motivated by Craig Foster's appeal to logic, reason, compassion and humanity as a framework for our treatment of asylum seekers. His 'game over' movement is creating momentum amongst people of different ages,

### Caitlin (Year 6)

*I really enjoyed Dirrum Festival as it was an amazing eye-opener to what is happening in the world. I was really interested in Camille Wilson's story about her panic attacks and how she couldn't find many people to help her,*

*so she ended up publishing her blog to help others. What really touched me was how Mark Whithear described being invited to a Christmas lunch by a friend's mother and coming inside to find that the mother had changed the name on her son's present to his name. Brooke Prentis talked about the issues Indigenous people are having to face. All the speakers gave practical life advice and it was a very interesting show to watch.*

Another student preparing for her final major project with the Junior School – Exhibition – found Dirrum Festival aligned with what she is currently learning.

### Nadia (Year 6)

*Last week, Year 6 started tuning in to Exhibition. This year, our Exhibition theme is 'Unless'. It comes from the quote from the Lorax; 'Unless someone like you cares an awful lot, nothing is going to change. It's not.'*



Radford Chaplains Katherine Rainger and Andy Fleming and former chaplain Richard Browning

*Last Friday, we had Brooke Prentis as a guest speaker. Brooke Prentis is a Christian Indigenous person and is the CEO of an organisation called Common Grace. She cares a whole awful lot about Aboriginal justice and the land we live on. She feels very*

*passionately about closing the gap and Reconciliation. She was told at a young age that she should dream impossible dreams and pursue her passions to make a change.*

*Brooke really cares for the Aboriginal community and works hard to make sure the past doesn't repeat itself, and that Aboriginal people are treated as equal to other Australians. Her advice to everyone is to support and encourage others, because the people who care an awful lot could feel lonely and like the only one who has ever cared. Supporting and encouraging others would create the change we need for our world.*

Dirrum Festival 2020 was a massive team effort, ably led by a group of Year 12 students who decided to continue with the Festival and adapt it as needed. Special thanks to Radford's Media Teacher Tim Minehan and his crew for making us 'virtual'.

As we continue to grieve the impact

of COVID-19 in Australia and throughout the world, may Dirrum Festival 2020 be an inspiration for us to live in truth, rise in compassion and walk in wisdom as we respond to it, and other challenges.

### Multi-Generational Family / Multi-Generational Faith

How we as people of faith pass the baton of faith from generation to generation? More than ever our children, youth and young adults will need to be told of Jesus love for them as His children following this time of great uncertainty and anxiety Post COVID -19.

#### Conference details:

Friday 1st April 2022 (5.30pm –9.00pm MU Delegates)  
Saturday 2nd April, Open Forum – Invitation to Canberra & Goulburn Parishes (9.00am -4.30pm)  
Sunday 3rd April, Sunday Eucharist at the ACC&C – Preacher Bishop Mark Short

Over the coming year (2021) we would like to keep you informed of our plans and how we might support you and encourage you to attend and join us in this forum to explore the issues of passing on our faith in ministry to young people who will carry on the faith.

# CREATIVE FESTIVAL CONNECTING COMMUNITY, FAITH & SUSTAINABILITY



*Caleb and Reuben Combs of Hackett in Canberra pedalling a kinetic sculpture snail on show at the Festival.*

In a spirit of community-building and healing, the faith communities of Holy Cross Anglican and St Margaret's Uniting in Hackett in Canberra's inner north recently hosted a festival focussed on sustainability.

The 'Sustaining Our Future' Festival on the weekend of September 19-20 brought together local groups and speakers to offer information on climate change and inspiration on how to reduce one's individual or household waste and carbon footprint.

'During these pandemic times, it's even more important we find ways to get together safely and discuss common concerns, be inspired and make a difference,' said Reverend Chris Lockley of St Margaret's.

People were able to test-ride electric bikes and learn about composting. There was also a concert in the church featuring singer-songwriter Lucy Sugerman and local youth bands, a visual arts exhibition,

and an ecumenical 'Celebration of Creation' worship service.

The program included an ACT election candidates forum moderated by Dickson College students.

'It was a great opportunity for our young people, who have a lot invested in a low-carbon future, to quiz local candidates about their sustainability policies ahead of the October poll,' said Reverend Tim Watson of Holy Cross.



'This event, the first of its kind in Hackett, demonstrated the potential of the venue for more community events in the future where people can gather for spiritual and personal resourcing, community development, and to encourage each other in working for the Common Good.'

The Festival was organised as part of Holy Cross/St Margaret's joint Carbon Action Project, launched earlier this year. Both churches have committed to making their operations carbon neutral within two years, and to help church members and the local community take climate change seriously through local action and engagement.

The once-fixed pews in the ecumenical Hackett church were recently removed to allow for more dynamic and mixed uses of the interior worship space.

'The event was joyful and inclusive, and it put our mandate to evangelise as followers of Jesus into practice in so many different ways. It was a real celebration of beauty (art, music, God's creation), truth (political debate, scientific and practical learning) and goodness (community,



*Canberra singer, 18-year-old Lucy Sugerman performing at the Festival at Holy Cross Anglican / St Margaret's Uniting in Hackett.*

social and environmental action), said Reverend Watson.

'It also resonated with Bishop Mark's encouraging comment about enabling people to return to church after lockdown: "re-integrating people to community through community, and helping us think about how we could implement similar steps with people who've never been part of our gathered worship"', Reverend Watson added.

The two ministers also thanked volunteers who worked hard to make it happen.

'So many people made the event work. There were many hours served planning it and then during - to ensure it was safe and kept the festival moving along,' said Reverend Lockley.

*Story from Toni Hassan and Reverend Tim Watson*

# WORLD WEEK FOR PEACE IN PALESTINE AND ISRAEL

13-20 SEPTEMBER 2020



Each year the World Council of Churches (WCC) designates the second week in September as the World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel (WWPPI). If one were to be somewhat cynical, we could see this as just another of the days, weeks or months designated by the United Nations or other bodies, some of them most worthy, some

quite humorous. From one prayer to others, however, I see this call as a sign that here is something worthy, even vital, that we bring before our God. Justice and peace are so sorely needed for all Israelis and Palestinians.

The Palestine Israel Ecumenical Network (PIEN) in Australia has brought together at this time threads from two different organisations, the WCC and Kairos Palestine, a Palestinian Christian body who have embarked on a Cry for Hope campaign. By distributing certain wording for prayer in early September, PIEN hoped to remind people of the need for prayer and then call them to prayer.

This year's WWPPI theme is

'creative solidarity in common fragility'. The restoration of peace in the Holy Land, as various efforts over the decades have already shown, is a very fragile process. In addition to existing troubles, the harmful consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic only accentuate, day after day, this fragility. The prayers below are from the WCC and the Cry for Hope campaign.

*God of all creation, your love is infinite and embraces all people and all of creation. Hear our prayers for peace in the lands of Israel and Palestine. Give wisdom to all who work for a just peace that they will not grow weary in their efforts. May the cries coming from your people in the Holy Land resonate around*

*the world, awakening us to prayer and solidarity. Inspired by your love, may we acknowledge our common humanity.*

*Jesus, born in the lands that we call holy, we hear you weep as closed minds and acts of injustice separate people in that place today. We issue our cry for hope, a cry that hope is still possible. We dream of equality for all Israelis and Palestinians and embrace your vision of love, mercy, forgiveness and compassion.*

*Holy Spirit, lead us and all peoples to reach out across the barriers that divide. May hearts be opened and fists unclenched. God of Peace, hear our prayer.*

*by Helen Rainger  
St Saviour's Cathedral Parish*

# THE GOVERNOR AND THE PRIEST AT LAKE BATHURST, 1820



*Memorial at the location of the first church service at Lake Bathurst.*

I greatly enjoy reading the journals and records of the early European explorers in Australia. We must never say that they ‘discovered’ various features such as mountains, lakes and rivers. These were known to the indigenous peoples from the beginning. European explorers simply named and mapped them, often not bothering to record the traditional name.

Governor Lachlan Macquarie, born on the island of Mull in Scotland, and after long military service in Canada, India, the East Indies and Egypt, served as Governor of NSW from 1810 to 1821. His name appears many times on the map of Australia. He was an enthusiastic explorer and traveller.

1820 was an important year for the energetic Governor. Earlier that year he laid the foundation stone of the first official place of worship for Roman Catholics in the Colony, the genesis of St Mary’s Cathedral. That year he also decreed that all traffic, carts etc, should keep to the left on the roads, a rule we still follow. Then he took a trip to the South to see what they called ‘the new country’.

## First Christian Service

On Sunday 29 October, 1820, in the presence of Macquarie, the Reverend Robert Cartwright conducted the first Christian service in what is now the Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn. It was on the shore of Lake Bathurst and today a memorial in the shape of a Celtic Cross marks the place. Plans to hold a service to commemorate the 200th anniversary of this event had to be abandoned because of the pandemic, but we should not forget this important anniversary.

The full story of that journey by the Governor and his party is recorded in Macquarie’s Journal of a Tour of Inspection of the Western and Southern Counties ... 16 October 1820 – 6 November 1820.

The manuscript may be found at A782 in the Mitchell Library. For the 60-year-old Governor, it must have been an arduous expedition. As the famous biographer of Macquarie, MH Ellis, wrote: ‘his story, full of records of vicissitudes, of exposure, of lost horses, and of the jolting travel of a journey for which the road was being cut just ahead of him, show the strain of such an expedition ...’ Ellis wrote a life of Macquarie that is one of my favourite books.

## The Journey Begins

Macquarie’s Journal describes the commencement of his inspection tour. On Monday 16th October, 1820, he set out in his carriage, accompanied by Major Antill, Lieutenant Macquarie, Mr Meehan the Deputy-Surveyor, the Reverend Mr Cartwright, Dr Reid and Mr Charles Throsby. Cartwright was the Church of England parson at Liverpool and they apparently picked him up on the way. I have researched Cartwright’s long and colourful life.

They stayed briefly at Charles Throsby’s home at Bong Bong. Throsby had played a large part in organizing the Governor’s visit to the southern counties. The expedition bypassed the present site of Goulburn and reached Lake Bathurst on 23rd October. There they were joined by another party coming overland from Bathurst led by Mr Commissioner Bigge and with the Surveyor-General, John Oxley, in the party.

## Oxley

I have a particular interest in Oxley. He was the first European Explorer to sight the Warrumbungle Mountains where I lived as a child. He was the father of three children born out of wedlock before he married, and was also a very active member of St James’ Church, King Street, Sydney (when he was home from his travels).

From Lake Bathurst Macquarie and his enlarged party travelled to a much larger lake which the Governor named Lake George, after the then reigning monarch. At first I wondered if this would be George III or George IV. As George III died on 29 January of that year news would have reached the Colony that his son George IV was now the King.

## Lake George

Governor Macquarie described the

beauty and rich wild life of the lake he had named after George IV. Of course, he did not bother to wonder if the aboriginal people of the district would have had their own name for this important geographical feature.

In fact the local traditional owners were members of the Budawang tribe. Their tribal area is from Conjola in the north, to Lake George in the west and the Moruya River in the south. Like the firebrand Presbyterian cleric, John Dunmore Lang, I believe that traditional names should always be preferred and Lake George should be known as ‘Weereewa’, but it is probably too late to change it now. The traditional name of Lake Bathurst is ‘Bundong’ but it was named ‘Lake Bathurst’ after the British Secretary of State for Colonies, who never set eyes on



*Reverend Robert Cartwright from the NSW State Library Collection.*

the place.

## Robert Cartwright

But this rich aboriginal heritage was clearly in the mind of the Reverend Robert Cartwright on Sunday 29 October when the whole party gathered for a service of Christian worship in front of the Governor’s tent on the shore of Lake Bathurst. The service was probably Evening Prayer from the Book of Common Prayer.

Governor Macquarie recorded that Mr Cartwright gave a very appropriate sermon on the importance of ‘civilising the natives of the country and settling them in townships’. With the language barrier no one thought to try to ask any of the local people what they thought of such a plan.

Cartwright was a native of Shropshire, England, and was ordained in 1794. After study at Oxford and many years as a curate in Bradford, Yorkshire, he was encouraged by Samuel Marsden to come to NSW, and arrived in 1810. He was well aware of the disastrous impact of European settlement on the people who had lived peacefully in the continent for thousands of years.

While his vision remained just a dream, his concern and compassion for them was a lifelong reality. Cartwright had a simple but very strong evangelical faith. He constantly reached out to those on the margins of society with the love of Christ.

He died in December 1856 in Goulburn shortly after he met Bishop and Mrs Barker on their travels. I commend the short biographical entry on Cartwright by Professor Cable in the Australian Dictionary of Biography, Volume 1, pp 211-212.

Governor Macquarie had hoped to reach what we know as the Murrumbidgee River but it was too far away, so he and his party packed up and began the slow journey back to Sydney. Little did he dream that one day, just a few miles to the south of his camp beside Lake Bathurst, a great city would rise, with a national parliament and a suburb to be named ‘Macquarie’ after him. Canberra would bear an aboriginal name said to mean a ‘meeting place’.

*by Reverend Robert Willson*

## From the Anglican Historical Society

On Sunday 29th October 1820 the official party was camped near Lake Bathurst, south of Goulburn, where at 4.00pm Cartwright conducted Divine Worship – almost certainly the first Christian service in what is now the Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn.

The Goulburn Historical Society has spent the past year planning a range of events, under the banner ‘Goulburn 2020’, to commemorate Macquarie’s visit to the district. It is a commemoration rather than a celebration, recognising that the impact on many of the original inhabitants of the area was disastrous.

The Anglican Historical Society had planned two events as part of the Goulburn 2020 commemoration. One at St Saviour’s Cathedral on Robert Cartwright’s life and ministry, and at 5.00pm one at St John’s Church, Lake Bathurst, to mark the 200th anniversary of Cartwright’s service. Unfortunately these events have had to be cancelled because of COVID restrictions.

For details of other Goulburn 2020 events please see the website <http://www.goulburn2020.com.au/>.

# NEW RECTOR FOR QUEANBEYAN DISTRICT ANGLICAN CHURCH



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The Reverend Ian Marshall was Inducted as the new Rector of The Parish of Queanbeyan District Anglican Church on 23 September

2020. Ian has been Locum for the Parish for about the last two years.

Bishops Mark and Carol and Area Dean David McLennan presided.

Reverend Ian was welcomed to the Parish by Pastor Peter Junor from the Baptist Church, Queanbeyan, and Richard Broughton as a Warden for the Parish.

Reverend Ian was presented with the usual symbols of ministry during the service, and also a local symbol of ministry which consisted of six vials filled with different coloured sands representing the diversity of our Parish.



The sand colours represent:

- red – Christ Church, Queanbeyan – ‘the heart’
- ochre – St Paul’s, Burra – ‘of the land’

- green – St Matthew’s, Karabar – ‘vibrant in community outreach’
- blue – Waters’ Edge, Googong – ‘by the water of Googong’
- purple – St Thomas’, Michelago – ‘surrounded by mountains’

The sixth vial combines all the colours of the others to represent the unity of the one Parish.

Reverend Ian, and his wife Robyn, are warmly welcomed by the Parish, and we pray that the continued ministry of Ian and Robyn is strengthened and guided by God’s wisdom and grace.

## BURGMANN OPENS A NEW SENIOR SCHOOL BUILDING

On Monday afternoon, Senator Zed Seselja officially opened our most recent Senior School Building. The opening had been delayed from last year for a variety of reasons and I was delighted to welcome Senator Seselja, and James Milligan MLA, to the school for this long-awaited event.

In line with COVID guidelines, a small number of special guests were able to attend including Bishop Mark Short, who opened the ceremony with a prayer, Board Chair Mrs Natalie Vandeppeer-Bradley, Mrs Margaret Heyward, who has attended every building opening since the school’s inception, Mr David Holmesby Anglican Diocesan Services, members of the board, Cox Architects, Built, and various other special guests.



Our Senior Student Leaders represented the school admirably and I was particularly delighted to share with our guests a Religious Studies artwork assessment item created by Year 12 student, Yichen Li.

by Stephen Bowers, Principal, Burgmann Anglican School



## THE 221 CLEANING FAIRIES



Nynka Lucas



Delene Mason-Waugh

It’s amazing how every morning and every afternoon, the offices at 221 London Circuit strangely sparkle with germ-free ambience. How does this happen? We think it must be the cleaning fairies, who in addition to their normal duties, faithfully fly around the offices spraying and wiping all touchable surfaces. Who would have thought that COVID-19 would elicit such magical service? Our sincere thanks to the 221 ‘Cleaning Fairies’ Delene Mason-Waugh and Nynka Lucas!

by Bishop Carol Wagner



### NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST

Monday 12 Oct 2020  
7.30am to 8.30am

Parliament House, Canberra  
Livestreamed to you

On behalf of the Parliamentary Christian Fellowship, Senator Amanda Stoker and Mr Luke Gosling OAM, MP invite you to join the 31st Australian National Prayer Breakfast!

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, we will gather with one spirit in Christ’s name across our nation through a single online event.

The Prime Minister, Members of the House of Representatives, Senators, and our guest speaker, will be sharing with us their faith journey in their demanding service to our nation. During this difficult time, we wish to pray for all our leaders and for the Father’s blessing in every aspect of Australian life.

There will be no charge and you are invited to host a breakfast (ensuring you obey local COVID-19 restrictions) to watch the livestream. You could even consider inviting your local Member, Senator or civic leaders!