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# The Gippsland Anglican

Volume 117, Number 3, April 2020

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Tim Green

More than 120 friends and parishioners came together in February to celebrate 50 years of ministry by the Rev'd Ken Parker. So many attended that the beautiful heritage church of St Thomas was filled to overflowing, such is the high regard past and present parishioners from many communities have for Ken.

The sermon was delivered by the Rev'd Clem Taplin who was curate to Ken in his time at St Peter's Mornington. She spoke about the importance of ministry, not just by those who have been ordained, but by each and all of us. Her message was illustrated by references to Ken's time in numerous parish appointments, many of them bringing forth a ripple of laughter.

A highlight of the service was the presentation by Bishop Richard to Ken with the licence as Priest-in-Charge at St Thomas, changing his position from long-term locum. This was greeted with applause. At the end of the service, Ken knelt for a blessing from Bishop Richard.

Following the service, the congregation enjoyed a vast spread of sandwiches, cakes and drinks. Ken cut his 'birthday cake' and was presented with a beautiful new stole, made by Anne Connelly with support from Trish Braithwaite.

The walls inside the hall were covered with photographs, newspaper clippings and other memorabilia highlighting the work of Ken in his many appointments.

## 50 years of ministry for Ken Parker



Left to right: Rev'd Clem Taplin, Rev'd Ken Parker, Bishop Richard, Margaret Carlile and lay reader Tim Green

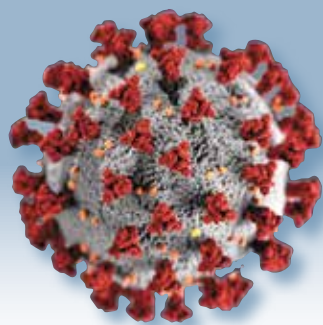


Image credit: US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

### Response to COVID-19

For the latest information about measures the Anglican Diocese has put in place in response to the coronavirus pandemic, please visit

[www.gippsanglican.org.au](http://www.gippsanglican.org.au)

See also Bishop Richard's reflections on page 2.

### Gippsland Emergency Relief Fund

The Diocese of Gippsland and the communities of east Gippsland are deeply moved by and profoundly grateful for the prayers and generous support offered by so many individuals, parishes, dioceses and other organisations around the Anglican Communion in response to the bushfire crisis, and assures those dealing with fires and the threat of fires in other parts of our state and nation of the continuing prayers of the clergy and people of Gippsland for you also.

Donations to support the continuing work in the fire affected parishes can be made directly to our diocesan emergency trust fund by EFT:

Account name: Gippsland Emergency Relief  
BSB: 705077 Acc: 00040664 (zeros must be included)  
Ref: (Name or organisation) – Fire Relief  
Cheques can be sent to the fund at:  
PO Box 928 Sale Vic, 3850.

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## GIPPSLAND DIOCESE VACANCIES

Drouin  
Paynesville  
Wonthaggi / Inverloch

## The Gippsland Anglican

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# Grace and peace

I often sign off with the words above at the end of a letter or an email. It strikes me that – in our current circumstances – grace and peace are the two qualities we most need, and what we have most to offer.

We have not yet begun to scratch the surface of our bushfire response – even with all the wonderful ministry that has been exercised by so many, and the support from the wider church and community, including Cathy Turnbull's work as our Bushfire Response Coordinator (see page 7).

Barely a month after the fires were finally extinguished by welcome rain (almost too much in some parts) the COVID-19 pandemic swept over our shores with no less devastating consequences in terms of the loss of life, livelihoods, and damage to the underlying framework over which our socio-economic canvas is stretched – in every sense of that word.

These are enormous challenges for us, on top of chronic dry conditions and other cultural factors that contribute to a sense of things seeming very marginal in some of our churches and the towns they serve.

Once again, the response of our clergy and people to the constraints we face has

been magnificent. We are blessed to have a wonderful spirit of collegiality within the diocese and between church leaders across the region and the country. Thank you for the spirit in which you have adopted the need to suspend public worship and other core activities, a course of action I never imagined I would need to ask of you.

As well as the best in human nature, we have seen the worst, as the COVID-19 crisis has held up a sometimes less-than-flattering mirror. It's as though the elevated baseline of anxiety that our society seems to live with – heightened by a summer of hyper-vigilance with respect to the bushfires – suddenly, and understandably, spiked.

What has been described as the 'principle of scarcity' – a deep-seated fear that there is not enough to go around – enough love, enough land, enough money, enough ... you know what! – is not just a modern Western phenomenon, however. The Scriptures are full of examples from the ancient Near Eastern world of struggles over birthrights and wages and a place at the table: primal human insecurities that feature in Jesus' parables and in the great narratives of the Hebrew Bible.



Bishop Richard Treloar

The counter-intuitive Christ-ian response to such fears is an economy of grace, where all is gift. This is modelled for us as nowhere else at the Eucharist, that table at which there is room for each and for all, and always enough and to spare.

In these days when access to eucharistic worship is drastically diminished, the practice of 'spiritual communion' is one we may draw upon, and you may have seen the prayer offered in association with eucharistic services on the diocesan website. That prayer is adapted from one made available by Bishop Cecil Wood, Anglican Bishop of Melanesia, at Easter 1916, drawing on the BCP rubrics for Communion of the Sick. A version of the same prayer appeared in The Episcopal Church's *Armed Forces Prayer Book* of 1951.

During the suspension of services, I have undertaken to offer the Eucharist every day in the Chapel at Bishops court

(my young and housebound communicant children have found it a surprisingly welcome diversion!), holding up the diocese and the people of Gippsland in prayer at the altar-table, under the canopy of the grace of the Sacrament.

It is hard to imagine, as I write this, Holy Week and Easter without the pattern of liturgy that has sustained us, and those before us, over the generations. Wherever we find ourselves this Eastertide, whatever shape and form our households of faith and fellowship may take, let us not fail to echo the Church's first and greatest exultation: Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

And let us recall, as we read and reflect on the Scriptures separately or together, that so often the first words of the risen Christ to those confused and frightened disciples – hidden away behind closed doors for fear – were 'peace be with you'. Not the sort of 'she'll be right, mate' assurance that we tend to mistake for peace, but God's peace; the peace that passes all understanding; the peace that comes from knowing there is enough love, and a place at the table; peace that is born of the abiding presence of God with God's people in the Crucified and Risen One, and in Holy Spirit, near as our breathing.

So may the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

+RM

## Prayer Diary: around the parishes

"That we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith..." (ROMANS 1:12)

### CROAJINGOLONG COOPERATING PARISH – EASTERN REGION

St John, Cann River  
St Peter, Mallacoota  
Priest-in-Charge:  
Rev'd Jude Benton

The Parish of Croajingolong is now in a state of recovery and rebuilding following the massive bushfires that tore through the parish on 31 December. Although both of the church buildings were untouched, two parishioners lost homes and many had other property damage, and one church member passed away during the fires. Our op shop became a major place of mission and

ministry, and provided both physical and emotional support to locals. Now, with coronavirus fears, plus our already exhausted community, we have had to close the op shop to protect volunteers.

We face an uncertain future, but God has led us through January and February, and will be with us for whatever lies ahead.

Please pray for the finances we need, as well as energy, wisdom and safety on the roads for these remote congregations as they rebuild their lives and communities.

### DROUIN – WESTERN REGION

Christ Church, Drouin

St James, Jindivick  
Locum: Rev'd Liam Matthews

Please pray that we will grow in our ability to deepen our relationship with God, each other and our community; that we might live more deeply into our baptismal identity where ministry is understood to be a commitment of the whole congregation. Pray for the Holy Spirit's outpouring, bringing healing, the seeking of reconciliation and wholeness; for development and continuation of relational bridges to other associations in the Drouin and Jindivick communities Kurnai (Gunaikurnai) Nations; other denominations; Baw Baw Shire Council; Baw Baw Singers; RSL; CWA; CFA; Rotary; the

Warragul Municipal Band; and for relational bridges to our baptismal families. Pray for the growth of intergenerational ministries and a new intergenerational worker. Pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance as we seek a new rector for the Parish of Drouin.

HEYFIELD – EASTERN REGION  
St James, Heyfield  
St Matthew, Tinamba  
Priest-in-Charge: Rev'd  
Judith Lake

The people of the parish give thanks for the ministry of Rev'd Judith Lake and for the work of the ministry team as we rediscover what it means to be 'church' in today's society. Pray for the people of Heyfield and surrounding districts as we continue to struggle with the long-term effects of below-average rainfall.

# Call for 'fill the gap' funding at St Paul's

Susanna Pain, Dean of St Paul's Cathedral in Sale, is inviting present and past residents of Gippsland, and Friends of the Cathedral, to contribute to an important project: funding repairs to the building's walls.

The mortar at the cathedral in Sale, built in 1884, has been dissolved and weathered by the elements, leaving gaps in the brickwork. This is allowing moisture to enter the internal walls of the cathedral, causing problems such as peeling paint.

Some of the brickwork has normal mortar, which can be replaced quite quickly using repointing; however, the arches around the windows need to be tuckpointed, a much slower and painstaking process and hence more expensive.

Guttering has recently been replaced, and weatherproofing of external walls can commence. The following stage will be filling the internal gaps and repainting interior walls. The walls are rather high in places so not only is there the cost of tradespeople, but of scaffolding as well. Total cost of works could be over \$20,000.



Dean Susanna with some of the St Paul's brickwork in need of repair

"We are commencing a public appeal to help fund this urgent work," said Dean Susanna, "Many people in the Gippsland region have been to events or services at St Paul's and admired the building and stained glass windows. Anglicans across the diocese have attended ordinations, Synod and other special events. As the mother church of the diocese, it is important to ensure the building itself is in good repair for the future. Assistance with the restoration of this priceless and much-loved historic building will enable the cathedral parish to refocus on financing the ministry of the cathedral.

Donations can be made to: Acct St Paul's Building Fund BSB 705 077 Acct no 000 409 69 Reference 'fill the gap' Enquiries to: stpaulssale@wideband.net.au

# Mustard Seeds of Action and Hope

Ballarat Diocesan Training Day, February 2020

Robyn Shackell

The Ministry Development Committee of the Anglican Diocese of Ballarat, which includes some laity, clergy and our bishop, meets monthly to plan and provide training and resources for ministry and education. Each year, the committee adopts a theme to help the diocese focus on our mission. Recently, we have been choosing themes from ABM's Five Marks of Mission, and in 2020 we have chosen 'Challenging violence, injustice and oppression and working for peace and justice.' The year's theme becomes a focus for our training days, quiet days and publications throughout the year. We encourage individual parishes to use the theme to help them to consider the needs of their local communities.

Mustard Seeds of Action and Hope was the title of our first training day for 2020. It was held in Ararat, a fairly central place in our diocese, and over 40 people came from across the diocese, including from Horsham, Stawell, Ararat, Portland, Warrnambool, Mortlake, Creswick, Ballarat and Ballan. The Parish of Ararat proved to be wonderful hosts, providing great lunch and morning tea, and allowing people to browse in their op shop.

The day began with Bishop Garry sharing the story of Paul, who, the bishop said, often worked with dysfunctional

and struggling church communities – not so different from ours. He referred to the recently released novel *Damascus*, by Christos Tsiolkas, a confronting story where the author was trying to discover who Paul was. Bishop Garry reminded us that Paul himself, in his writings, was trying to discover who he was in his journey with Jesus. Paul challenged violence, injustice and oppression, and worked for peace and justice. Those attending the day then shared stories of people who inspired them to challenge violence, injustice and oppression. Some of the inspirational people suggested included Nelson Mandela, Sr Joan Chittister, the Salvation Army, parents, Bishop Nathaniel of Sudan, Rev Richard Rohr, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Rosie Batty, Rev'd Tim Costello, Saint Mary McKillop, Mother Teresa, teachers, priests and ordinary, inspiring people.

Six people from the diocese, both lay and clergy, then shared stories of people whose lives inspire them to be people who challenge violence, injustice and oppression. These inspirational people included Saint Francis, Mother Emily Ayckbown CSC (Founder of the Sisters of the Church), Thomas Merton OCSO (Trappist monk, mystic and social activist), Etty Hillesum (World War 2 diarist and mystic killed by the Nazis) and the Rev'd Henry Matthews (PNG martyr, born in the Ararat parish). Joan Grace AOM shared her love of St Francis, as

well as the story of the Francis Foundation, a not-for-profit organisation that provides residential care for people with mental health issues in Warrnambool and surrounding areas, and assists them to move back into society. Joan, aged 84, helped establish the Francis Foundation and has run it for almost 40 years. She is truly someone who lives out our theme. Bishop Garry then interviewed each presenter, asking some penetrating questions about why they had chosen their person and the ways in which these people affected their lives and ministry. Bishop Garry noted that while five of the presenters talked about other inspiring people, Joan was actually doing inspiring things herself. Each of the other five were also listened to avidly, because they were all respected members of our faith community, who actively live out their faith.

At our Eucharist, Bishop Garry challenged us to think about the Collect for Ash Wednesday, reminding us that God created us to serve Him and each other. The day ended with some time for reflection and thinking about how the stories we heard relate to our theme and how they call us to action individually and as parishes in our local communities. It was an inspiring day and our challenge now is to put our learnings into action.

*The Rev'd Robyn Shackell is Chair, Ministry Development Committee, Anglican Diocese of Ballarat.*

LOVE HOPE JUSTICE LOVE HOPE JUSTICE LOVE HOPE JUSTICE

## ABM GOOD FRIDAY & EASTER GIFT APPEAL 2020

During this Holy Season, your gift will help others experience the wholeness of life God offers in Jesus Christ.

To donate, please visit [abmission.org/GoodFriday2020](http://abmission.org/GoodFriday2020)

## The Gippsland Anglican

*Q: Is there a faith question you're afraid to ask?*

*A: Chances are others have that question too!*

Send your question to the editor at [gippsanglican.org.au](http://gippsanglican.org.au) or 0407 614 661 and we will publish an answer from a clergy person. (Your details won't be shared or published.)

# Human Flourishing in a Waning World

## — a Lenten conversation

Sally Woollett

‘Human Flourishing in a Waning World’ was the topic of choice at an ecumenical Lenten conversation held in February. The day was hosted by Bishop Richard and Bishop Patrick O’Regan (Roman Catholic Bishop of Sale) at The Abbey on Raymond Island, and Dean of St Mary’s Sale, Peter Bickley, directed the proceedings.

The conversation was led by the Rev’d Mark Lindsay, Professor of Historical Theology, Trinity College Theological School, and Dr Frances Baker RSM, Senior Lecturer in Moral Theology and Systematic Theology, Catholic Theological College. Responding to their respective sessions were Bishop Patrick and Bishop Richard. Professor Lindsay and Dr Baker focused on passages from Matthew and John that feature in the common lectionary during Lent this year.

Professor Lindsay reflected on the “almost apocalyptic tenor” of public and political discourse in “difficult and dangerous times”—of bushfire, impeachment/acquittal and coronavirus, and their devastating and still unfolding human and economic consequences. In the context of this waning world, he invited those gathered to consider two pieces of scripture that can be thought of as ‘desert texts’: Jesus’ temptation in the wilderness (Matthew 4) and the story of his encounter with the Samaritan woman (John 4). He asked whether the first text may suggest that the suffering we see around us may be a sign not of abandonment, but that we are all God’s children. Of the second text, Professor Lindsay said that Jesus and the Samaritan woman, in the depths of their “existential deserts” of rejection, hostility and social isolation, “not



Duccio di Buoninsegna, Christ and the Samaritan Woman

only meet one another, they meet one another’s needs.” Quoting the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, he said, “Whether we realize it or not, prayer is the encounter of God’s thirst with ours.”

In responding to Professor Lindsay, Bishop Patrick gave the reminder that faith is not a “self-help program. Jesus has been on a journey and is there with us.” He described the desert as a stripped back and solitary place – of trial and revelation, of radical decisions. During Lent, he said, we are called to unmask the tempter. Not only does Jesus not wear a mask – he does the unmasking.

We can read in the scriptures about what Jesus did, but “what was he on about?” was the opening question posed by Dr Baker for her sessions. We are innately relational, she said, and this is at odds with being told we are autonomous individuals. Reading from Genesis 2, in which Adam and Eve have eaten the forbidden fruit and are hiding from God, Dr Baker asked the group to “listen to how true this is about us:”

*The man said ... ‘she give me the fruit from the tree, and I ate’ ... The woman said, ‘The serpent tricked me, and I ate.’*

Although the lesson is that it is hard to take responsibility, said Dr Baker, “we are free in a deep sense to choose,” despite the lingering sense of “should have.” Who we are is inextricable from what we do, and Lent is an opportunity, if we want to change, to do so by “striving for new habitual practices.”

Bishop Richard was taken by the title of Dr Baker’s presentation: ‘We’re Only Human: Our Lenten Call to Discipleship’. He commented that the Genesis text teaches us that “to be fully human is to accept we’re ‘only’ human: no more and no less, which means observing the limits to our god-like reach that enable sustainability.” In closing the conversation, Bishop Richard asked “How can our worship in Lent – and every season – more intentionally shape our journey towards a virtuous life, especially with respect to the moral courage that the integration of our spirituality and activism demands?” The lively discussion throughout the day suggests that future seasonal ecumenical conversations will be welcome.

## St Paul’s Lent Quiet Day: Bonhoeffer retrospective

Cynthia Grove

German evangelical pastor and theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer was born in 1906 and was executed by the Nazis in 1945, just two weeks before the US army liberated the camp in which he was held. He was a man of faith and has left for us much writing, including *The Cost of Discipleship*, *Letters and Papers from Prison* and *Life Together*.

On 29 February, St Paul’s Cathedral in Sale hosted The Very Rev’d Dr Andreas Loewe (Dean of St Paul’s Cathedral, Melbourne) and poet Dr Katherine Firth to talk about Bonhoeffer’s book *The Cost of Discipleship* and their recently published book, *Journeying with Bonhoeffer: Six Steps on the Path to Discipleship*. I’m not sure what each of us expected: perhaps something deep and challenging; perhaps we had no clear expectations; but we knew Bonhoeffer was renowned for his theology.

What we received was two people in conversation, sparking thoughts from each other in a continuing personal exploration, but also talking to the more than 30 people present.

*Journeying with Bonhoeffer* offers an introduction and short biography of Bonhoeffer, then six chapters – each forming a week’s study. We had only time to explore, briefly, two chapters. Each

chapter begins with a poem, a reading from Bonhoeffer, a bible reading, the context of the bible reading, a reflection, and questions to enable the reader to challenge their thinking and their faith, ending with a prayer. It was never a question of right or wrong answers, just asking God and letting God lead us to the answer He wishes us to hear, which may differ for each person.

Andreas and Katherine took us through a brief exploration of cheap grace versus costly grace, and then posed two of the questions from Chapter 3, ‘Costly Grace’, to the group as a whole. We were blessed with some erudite and thoughtful questions and comments from our group – some who had travelled from Morwell, Orbost, Stratford and other places, as well as our local Sale community. One point wisely made from the floor is that when we ask God to come to us we seem to forget that He is already present in each of His followers; He is within us, each one of us.

We listened to two people who were warm and clearly God-filled sharing knowledge and inviting each person there into a journey with God, through Bonhoeffer. The time was too short but it was a time of blessing. Our thanks to Andreas and Katherine.

*For a review of Journeying with Bonhoeffer, see page 12.*



Andreas Loewe and Katherine Firth with a copy of their latest book

# Make way for justice

Cathrine Muston, Anglicare Development Officer, Parish Partnerships

Justice Sunday is on 3 May, and each Anglican diocese of Victoria has committed to place the work of its prison chaplains and volunteers front and centre on this day.

In building safe, caring and inclusive communities, there is a place for providing support and pastoral care for those who have been incarcerated or who have a family member in prison. The Anglican Criminal Justice Ministry, in partnership with Anglicare Victoria and the Diocese of the Province, provides chaplains in every prison in Victoria as well as the post-release program Get Out for Good here in Gippsland.

At Fulham Correctional Centre, Anglican Chaplain Heather Toms provides pastoral care and support to the men inside as well as opportunities for worship and Christian discipleship. She has a regular bible study that has focused on topics such as forgiveness and how to order priorities in life, topics that are quite confronting, but that provoke much thought and discussion. Her aim is to enable the men to see that change is possible.

Heather has had support from Dee Harry, who has brought a ministry of music to the chapel services for the past 12 months. Dee has used her musical ability to write a song especially for the chapel services in Fulham Correctional Centre and it has brought real joy for the men.



Heather Toms (left) and Dee Harry

After release, there are so many uncertainties that former prisoners face. There are issues with housing and employment, but also in reestablishing relationships with partners and children. Many of those who experience prison feel as though they are forever stigmatised by it, and find settling back into the community difficult. Get Out for Good is a post release program that is available for anyone who has been incarcerated to find pastoral support as they re-enter society. Volunteer mentors provide a listening ear and a non-judgemental attitude in order to support people as they transition.

Justice Sunday provides an opportunity for your parish to pray specifically

for this ministry and to learn more about the work that is done by Anglican chaplains inside prisons and how our communities can better support people leaving prison and their families.

Your parish can get involved by:

- showing the video-clip on the significance of prison ministry in your service(s): [anglicarevic.org.au/acjm](http://anglicarevic.org.au/acjm)
- having a display
- hosting a guest speaker
- praying specifically for Anglican Criminal Justice Ministry and prison ministries.

For further resources or enquiries about Justice Sunday, contact Cathrine Muston (0458 450 370, [cathrine.muston@anglicarevic.org.au](mailto:cathrine.muston@anglicarevic.org.au)).



Preparing to plant the commemorative tree. Left to right: Les Ridge, Richard Prideaux, Sandy Ridge, Rt Rev'd Dr Richard Treloar, Rev'd Jo White, Ken White and The Very Rev'd Dr Andreas Loewe

## St Philip's 150th anniversary at Cowes

Kath Kent

On 2 February, St Philip's Cowes celebrated the 150th anniversary of the dedication of the church by the Dean of Melbourne, The Very Rev'd Hussey Burgh McCartney. The dedication, on 30 January 1870, was of the little weatherboard building in Thompson Avenue, set apart and consecrated as a place of worship in and for the township of Cowes. It has been a place of worship and a focus of the spiritual life of Cowes ever since. It is the oldest building in the town that has continued in its originally intended use for those 150 years. Georgiana McHaffie is the founding mother of St Philip's, and it is her image (painted by St Philip's parishioner Paul Woodford) that graces the

much-photographed mural on the south wall of the parish hall.

We were honoured to have Bishop Richard and The Very Rev'd Andreas Loewe, Dean of Melbourne, in attendance. Rev'd Loewe preached a thoughtful sermon on the Beatitudes, reminding us that giving and serving were more important than getting and receiving. Rev'd Jo White presided, her careful planning and leadership helping the day run smoothly. We are all very proud of our church and indeed our parish as we demonstrated both the quality of our fellowship and our unity of purpose.

What a wonderful day. It was a celebration of the past, a joyous occasion and a perfect entree to a bright future serving God in the community through our shared vision to choose hope, love and justice.

## Yarning the sea in Mallacoota

*And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labour or spin. (Matt 6:28)*

There were no worries but lots of spinning at the Cooperating Parish of Croajingolong's Yarn the Sea event on 29 February at St Peter's. Lay readers Leanne Wicks and Kate Cowden led 25 delighted yarners, including a busload of Eden Spinners, in opening two 100 kg bales of offcuts from Wangaratta Wool Mills. Hours of fun!

Regular visitor to Mallacoota, Hebe from Comboyne, NSW, took bags of yarn for her rustic beanie projects. The wonderful Red Cross bushfire

recovery women have been given yarn to knit trauma teddies, paramedic Sandra wants to make a penguin, and we are all still making beanies for the Mission to Seafarers, Eden. Some offcuts went to St Peter's op shop where customers can sit and roll balls of yarn whilst chatting with our volunteers.

The fellowship continued with some of us learning to spin for the first time, Kay from Bairnsdale showing us rhubarb string and Diana workshopping felted soaps.



Lay reader Kate Cowden (left) and Hebe Strong with the 100 kg bale of offcuts



# Friendship Day 2 a resounding success

Marty Shaw

In March, a group of 60 English Language students travelled by bus from Dandenong (refugees, migrants and asylum seekers) and were met at Cape Paterson beach by 60 south Gippsland locals to share in a day of cultural exchange and friendship.

The students were from 11 different countries, including Afghanistan, China, Pakistan, South Sudan and Cambodia, and for many it was their first time to visit a beach.

Friendship Day was initiated by retired primary school teachers Fiona and Philip Beggs from Korumburra. Since becoming volunteer English teachers at the Program for Improving English in Dandenong, they were keen to share beautiful

south Gippsland with their students.

"Many of the students at the language school have had very difficult backgrounds and have often endured great hardship and trauma. Yet they are incredibly resilient, generous and kind-hearted people. We wanted to enable them to meet with some of the friendly and welcoming people of our area and to learn more about the Australian way of life," said Philip.

The first Friendship Day was held in March 2019 after a huge fundraising effort by the Korumburra parish and Milpara Community House. That day included visits to Coal Creek Community Park and Museum, and a local dairy farm. Each student was teamed with a local to encourage friendship and language practice.

Many ongoing relationships developed as a result.

"The feedback from the inaugural Friendship Day was so positive from the students and the local community participants that we were encouraged to do it again," said Philip. "This year we decided to focus the day on the beautiful Bass coastal region."

On the day, the bus arrived first at the Cape Paterson Surf Beach, where greetings were exchanged over a shared morning tea on the clifftop. This was a great vantage point for some amazing sand art, created by local artist Scott Bugbird, who had raked some beautiful Fibonacci spiral designs into the sand to express his interpretation of the theme of 'connectedness'.

Everyone went on to walk along the coast and clifftops whilst practising

their English. People explored rock pools, paddled, laughed, and many photographs were taken.

After leaving Cape Paterson, the bus and a convoy of cars travelled along the picturesque coastline to Inverloch for a barbecue lunch. There followed some singing and dancing, with music provided by members of local band beggs2differ. Cultural talks were given by several of the students, who shared a little about their home countries and their journeys to Australia. A heartfelt rendition of *I Am Australian* was a fitting finale to lunch. Colin Maslin, the Program for Improving English language school coordinator commented, "Days like this prove that world peace and harmony are possible."

The afternoon's activities included a walk to Townsend Bluff via the beach and Screw Creek, a visit to the shell museum and some beach games.

After some emotional farewells, students hopped onto the bus filled with the beauty of the Gippsland coast and the love and care of Gippsland people. Friendship Day 2 was a resounding success and a memorable experience for all involved!

There are many opportunities for people interested in supporting refugees and asylum seekers in the community. For more information about becoming a one-to-one mentor with people seeking asylum and refugees, contact Simon Dalton (Friends of Refugees Team Leader) on 0422 524 529.

## Listening Post launched in Moe

Julie Bruce

On a warm and beautiful Valentine's Day, the official launch of the Moe-Newborough Anglican Listening Post took place in the newly refurbished Madge Vinell Centre in Moe. This facility offers an open and welcoming space for people in the community to come and share with a team of volunteers trained in the skill of listening.

The centre was opened and dedicated by Bishop Richard Treloar, with accompanying speakers Rev'd Sathi Anthony (Rector at Moe-Newborough), Gwyneth Jones from Mothers' Union,

Denis Minster from Anglicare Victoria and Councillor Sharon Gibson representing the Latrobe City Council. Thirty diocesan members were also well-wishers of this new venture, which has taken much dedicated effort to come to fruition.

Bishop Richard congratulated those who had caught the vision, which had its seeds in the engagement of Mothers' Union and GFS Australia with gender violence, including the Million Stars project. The germination of these seeds was the result of the parish council's community forum with Victoria Police, Anglicare

Victoria and Latrobe Community Health. Growth resulted from the project's subcommittee, a parish partnership grant, input from Anglicare and a think tank.



The Listening Post team with Bishop Richard at the launch in February

As Bishop Richard summed up, "It's a vision based on experience of God as one who listens: not just to eavesdrop, or chide, or catch us out, or even tell us what to do, but to hold the words of our heart safe in the heart of

that Word made flesh: God with us, God for us, God beside us, in every listening ear."

The launch concluded with a morning tea and grateful thanks to all those involved with this memorable occasion.

# Economic ‘double whammy’ in Lakes Entrance and Metung

Philip Muston

The economy of Lakes Entrance, in east Gippsland, has suffered a ‘double whammy’ hit – from last summer’s bushfires and now the coronavirus pandemic. Businesses are struggling and a few have already closed.

The town’s economic health depends annually on commerce from Christmas through to mid-January, when its population quadruples in size with holidaymakers and tourists. Takings during this period carry many businesses through the rest of the year.

When 20,000 visitors were pressured to evacuate the town before New Year, and heavy smoke made things unpleasant for those remaining, caravan parks and motels were emptied, and through-traffic and day visitors disappeared as the Princes Highway east of Lakes Entrance was cut for many weeks. Then, just as the state government advertisements encouraging people to go east for a break were taking effect and people were starting to return, the coronavirus emergency prevented tourists from coming.

Among businesses worst affected have been restaurants, accommodation providers, and those geared to leisure, such as surfwear shops, boating and fishing gear outlets, and holiday service providers. There has been a flow-on effect to many other businesses in the town generally. Freight providers have suffered through long-term closure of roads.

For church members of the Parish of Lakes Entrance-Metung, the biggest impact came through evacuation – Metung was evacuated twice and about half of the permanent population of ‘Lakes’ was evacuated. Because many worshipping Anglicans are on retirement incomes, they have not yet been personally affected by business closures. As evacuations have made people re-evaluate priorities and possessions, the parish’s Nicholas-John op shop has been the beneficiary of furniture and excess clothing

resulting from consequent downsizing. However as the coronavirus pandemic grows, the op shop has had to close.

Parishioners are aware of businesses in trouble, sometimes within their extended families. The Chair of Business and Tourism East Gippsland, Mr Ian Harrison, said many businesses had done only 10 per cent of their usual business over summer. Local state MP, Tim Bull, said east Gippsland businesses had been decimated and needed increased state and federal government support. Mr Bull said the current crisis on top of three years’ drought was forcing some businesses that had been around for decades to close their doors.

Federal government bushfire grants of \$50,000 are available only to businesses that were actually burned. Since the fires never reached Lakes Entrance and smoke caused no permanent damage, local businesses were unable to apply. The federal government’s bushfire support package announced in mid-March will make available grants of \$10,000 to businesses that have lost 40 per cent or more of their regular trade, although these will be delayed because they are made on the basis of regular quarterly reports.

Interest-free loans are available to Lakes Entrance and Metung enterprises but must be repaid by businesses that may not survive in the meantime. Retail has struggled in Lakes Entrance in recent months for various reasons. Businesses that have closed recently include Lakes Toys, the Party Shop, Pinocchio’s restaurant and the Telstra shop. Westpac closed its Lakes Entrance branch late last year. Often, a combination of the bushfires and exorbitant rents along the Esplanade has forced closures. The crises have made it difficult for those wanting to move on to be able to sell their businesses – thus closures.

The Surf Shack surfwear store found the week after fires and evacuation was very quiet at what was usually their busiest time.

Things were gradually returning to normal, however.

The village of Metung had just been gearing up for renewed business, with properties rebuilt after a fire destroyed several shops in the town’s main street at the end of 2018. Two evacuations put a dampener

on this year’s season.

Ms Sarah Carlisle, proprietor of Venture Out in Lakes Entrance, which sells bikes, kayaks, paddleboards and other outdoor equipment, said that the bushfires had “hit us where it hurts most: in the peak season. ... I’ll have to be a bit

creative in how I go about business this year.” Ms Carlisle has had to “massively cut” casual staff hours and work extra time herself. She said government and Tourism Australia campaigns to persuade people to holiday in east Gippsland this year had proved helpful – weekends had gotten gradually busier. People had been making a special effort to visit since mid-February and residents were hearing the ‘shop local’ campaign messages.

## Bushfire Response and Recovery, Diocese of Gippsland

Cathy Turnbull

As I have travelled around the fire-affected localities and townships of east Gippsland, it has been good to catch up with the clergy on the ground and also a number of lay people working tirelessly to help those so adversely affected by the fires. It has been encouraging to speak to people within the communities, in witnessing their positivity towards recovery and the great community spirit that epitomises communities across the region. Having said that, there is much trauma and many are finding it really tough going, both individuals impacted directly by the fires and those who are indirectly impacted financially, physically and emotionally. For most, recovery will be a long process. It is the challenge of the diocese to work through options to support and sustain vital ministries within the fire-affected areas and also to establish how to most effectively support individuals and communities.

The diocese is well on the way to providing the support needed to sustain ministries across east Gippsland. We have had a lot of additional support from a number of Melbourne parishes offering to partner with a parish or church centre over the long term. Both clergy and lay people have been walking alongside those who have



Left to right: Leanne Wicks (op shop manager), Gail Rands (op shop volunteer) and Rev'd Jude Benton at the Croajingolong parish op shop

lost houses, property, livestock and, sometimes, simply the beautiful environment they call home. Parishes are actively supporting local small businesses, both materially and pastorally, and those with op shops have been providing a wonderful ministry, working hard to respond to many requests for assistance, both directly, and indirectly through others, from those affected by the fires.

I know that so many of you are eager to assist in some way, which is wonderful. Please contact me as the bushfire recovery coordinator, rather than contacting the parishes themselves. The clergy and wardens are swamped daily with offers of assistance and it becomes a burden often too heavy to carry, along with their normal day-to-day duties as parish priests. I will endeavour to match your wonderful offers of help with real need on the ground and once more thank everyone for their generosity and compassion for those affected by the bushfires.

As I have driven around east Gippsland, through so much burnt-out forest and farmland, it has been great to see the new growth. The grass is now green (creating a false sense of normality), tree ferns are shooting soft green fronds from blackened stumps and bracken fern is growing strong in places, providing a green floor to the forest. The eucalypts are giving out new shoots along their burnt trunks and branches. Nature is determined to survive and eventually thrive once more. I pray that all affected by these fires may find a way to do likewise and am pleased to say the church will be with them, journeying through the process of recovery – no matter how long it takes.

*The Rev'd Cathy Turnbull coordinates Bushfire Response and Recovery, Diocese of Gippsland. She can be contacted on 0400 687 771.*

# Principal David Baker to leave Gippsland Grammar

Zoe Curtis

The simplest way to give a snapshot of someone's time in a position of leadership is to do so by numbers. For outgoing Gippsland Grammar Principal David Baker, this translates to seven years as principal, more than 2300 students who have studied at the school during this time, almost 600 assemblies and fellowships, and 60 staff meetings.

The end of term 1 marks the end of seven years for Mr Baker as principal of Gippsland's oldest independent school as he embarks on his next challenge as principal of Woodleigh School, on the Mornington Peninsula.

While Mr Baker is excited about what lies ahead, it's clear he's also melancholy about leaving the community where he and wife, Jane, and their two children – Caitlin (class of 2017) and current Year 12 student, Amy – made their home and where he has made lifelong friends.



David Baker

Under his watch, Gippsland Grammar has grown to a school of more than 1000 students, with waitlists for enrolment in many year levels. The Garnsey campus now boasts the Laurie Payne Sports Centre, the St Anne's Campus now features the *Kukun Kalak* building for the Years 3 and 4 students, and Early Learning Centre

students at the Bairnsdale campus now enjoy playing in Caitlyn's Garden, a tribute to Old Scholar Caitlyn Fisher who was tragically killed in an equestrian accident in 2016. In the rowing shed there's a coxed quad scull boat named after the Baker family as a tribute to Mr Baker's hands-on interest in the school's rowing

program and Jane Baker's significant contribution to the McColl Club.

But Mr Baker's legacy extends well beyond these physical additions. In 2016, Mr Baker completed a course at Harvard University in the USA, which he says helped him understand the importance of extending a learning program beyond the academic to also develop students who are critical thinkers and problem solvers. "That tied in everything we did at the school and it drove our last strategic plan," Mr Baker said. "Academic care has been my biggest achievement. It's about the academic program and the pastoral program working side by side with the wellbeing of the students integrated into everything we do."

As Mr Baker prepared for his final fellowships and assemblies, one theme that shone through in his reflections was the connection Mr Baker has formed with both the staff and students.

"The teachers and support staff at Gippsland Grammar are among the best I have worked with," he said. "They are professional, dedicated, first class at their work and good fun to work with."

"As for the students, wow, all our families should be proud of the character of the kids coming through our school," he said. I'd really like to thank our community for their support," Mr Baker said. "Our parents and our families are amazing and I've always felt overwhelmingly supported by all of them."

## Pancake feast and community service for Shrove Tuesday

Pancakes were in abundance when the Traralgon Junior School recently held Pancake Races for Shrove Tuesday at St Paul's Anglican Grammar School.

There was plenty of laughter as students and teachers dropped pancakes, tossed pancakes and lost pancakes, with everyone working up an appetite to enjoy a fresh pancake after the race.

Meanwhile, St Paul's Year 6 students graciously provided a helping hand at St James Church in Traralgon to help set up tables and chairs, and to cook and serve pancakes to other members of the community. The community members were keen to listen to the students' stories about their school and seemed to enjoy the musical performances the students provided for entertainment.



St Paul's Anglican Grammar School Year 6 students Shalini and Gabrielle helping to cook pancakes for the community at St James Church under the guidance of Alan



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# ‘Bloody Beachheads’ and the meaning of sacrifice

Jeffrey Driver

Popondetta is hardly a tourist town. It is dirty, messy, smelly, busy and noisy, with the red splatter of betel nut forming its own human graffiti on the footpaths among the plastic bags, empty soft drink cans and slinking dogs.

No-one goes to this part of PNG for the urban attractions. Yet this area is well known and well loved by many Australians and that’s largely because of the associations with World War 2. Popondetta is the jumping-off point for the northern end of the Kokoda Track and there is a regular stream of Australians through the town as they head off on that arduous pilgrimage.

Towards the end of last year, I made a World War 2 pilgrimage near Popondetta, but this time I headed in a quite different direction, going away from Kokoda. I was going to Buna Beach.

Buna is one of three places that came to be known as the ‘Bloody Beachheads’. Not so well known and visited as Kokoda, the beaches of Buna, Sanananda and Gona are where the Japanese forces landed in their attempt to go overland and capture Port Moresby. It is on these beaches that the Japanese made their stand after they were beaten back down the Kokoda Track. The conditions were appalling, the terrain terrible and the Japanese were dug in with a network of trenches and tunnels, and cleared avenues of fire. The Australians lost more than 3000 troops, the US soldiers more than 600 and the Japanese about 7500. Disease took as many casualties as bullets.

Working at Newton College, Popondetta, as I have been – assisting with something of a redevelopment of what is the Anglican Church of PNG’s one training college for priests – I live day by day with the history of deep friendship between the peoples of Australia and PNG.

The college itself was established with significant



The wing of a World War 2 fighter plane forms a skeleton memorial among the palm trees of Buna Beach

input from Australia and New Zealand, and for a time the church in PNG came under the Province of Queensland. These links, and my own family connections, have made me keen to visit some of the places of struggle and sacrifice.

I had already been to Gona, where the Australian Rev’d James Benson served, as well as the two young women who were murderously martyred, May Hayman and Mavis Parkinson. There was a sense of standing on holy ground as I stood during that visit before the white and bullet marked cross where once stood All Saints Church at Gona.

As we set out to Buna, I had a sense once again of going to a place of sacred memory. On this trip I was accompanied by Dr John Wright from Cowes in Gippsland, as well as other members of the Newton College community.

Although the more serious side to our trip was there in the background, we were also just looking forward to some time at the beach, because Popondetta is a hot and humid place. At

times the air can be like liquid, with an average three metres of rain a year, and certainly no air conditioning in the college accommodation, or even electricity for most of the day to turn a fan or cool a drink. A dip in the water at Buna seemed very attractive.

We hired our usual transport, with our cheerful driver Lawrence, also known as Froggy. Our salubrious saloon was a Toyota 15-seat bus of unknown but ancient vintage and with its sliding passenger door hanging off.

We went about a kilometre and our trusty diesel belched and surrendered to a breathless coast. We were out of fuel. But fear not, there are fuel stops everywhere along the road. They consist of a rough bench with a half dozen dirty plastic four-litre bottles, selling for about 20 kina (\$9) each.

Fuelled up with our dubious diesel, it was time to head off. But the ‘froggy-mobile’ gave one or two asthmatic coughs, passed some wind and refused to go any further. Then it started to rain; not the reluctant rain we

Aussies know, but the sort of afternoon storm that a region with three metres of rain a year can produce. Lawrence (aka Froggy) had his head in the motor and his rear end out in the rain, and after trying one or two things he delivered the news: the fuel line was split and leaking diesel.

It was still pelting down and the precariously attached sliding passenger door was delivering rain inside by the bucketful. The day was not looking cheerful. But the pen is mighty, they say, and Froggy had an inspiration. He ran off and procured a cheap plastic biro, took the insides out and shoved it up the fuel line, joining the leaky bits together.

The temperamental Toyota burst into a contented diesel rattle and we were off to Buna.

Leaving the main road, we took to a road (track) made by Australian troops during World War 2 and subject to not much maintenance since. We passed the wreck of a two-engine bomber sitting still in a paddock, and took a detour down the strip of a long-abandoned allied airfield.

As we approached Buna, I was struck by the terrain. It was mostly swamp and high kunai grass. We were there in the dry season. In the middle of the wet, when the battle for Buna was fought, it must have been hell. This is one of the most malarial parts of the planet, with dengue and scrub fever cutting soldiers down ahead of the bullets.

The Japanese were well dug in, and the Australian and American troops were short of ammunition. But Macarthur and Blamey wanted a quick victory, and strategy and

lives were sacrificed in the push for quick results. I stood before a granite memorial, where a list of the units involved and the numbers of casualties reminded me how these beaches earned their tragic title of ‘bloody’. Nearby, the wing of a fighter plane hung still in a palm tree as an equally poignant memorial of the screaming noise of battle.

But now Buna is silent. It is not a tourist destination, though it is beautiful. The granite memorial to a battle that had a higher casualty rate than the infamous Guadalcanal does not receive many visits. Waves lap the beach. Grey sands and palms; a few pikininis splashing in the shallows; a distant figure in a canoe in search of fish.

We sat and picnicked, swam and took some moments to reflect on another time when this beautiful place was disfigured by noisy violence.

As I returned to Popondetta and Newton College, the story of Buna Beach came with me. Beyond the horrendous statistics of battle, the bumbling of military and political leaders, there remains a story of human sacrifice – not to be celebrated, but most certainly to be remembered. And as I returned to the college, working with less than slender resources and broken facilities to train leaders for our church in PNG, I was reminded that remembering should never be just about the past. Theologian Miroslav Volf said, in *The End of Memory – Remembering Rightly in a Violent World* (Eerdmans, 2007),

(Continued on page 11)



This memorial at Buna Beach commemorates the Bloody Beachheads, where about 3000 Australians and 600 troops from the US were casualties as the retreating Japanese made a last stand. There were about 7500 Japanese casualties, and many perished from swamp fever, dengue and malaria. Two young missionary women from nearby Gona Beach, May Haymen and Mavis Parkinson, were killed near Popondetta



Left to right: Rev Paul Chalson (Uniting Church Australia), Padamdeep Singh (Sikh), Rabbi Shimon Eddi (Jewish), Muhammed Aksu (Muslim), Dean Sahukhan (Chair of Canberra Interfaith Forum) and Rev'd Rod Bower (Anglican)

## Faithful speak out at People's Climate Assembly after bushfires

Buddhists, Anglicans, Catholics, Quakers and people of other faiths joined thousands of concerned Australians in Canberra during the first sitting week of Parliament in February to stand up for meaningful action on climate change.

The distress caused by the bushfire crisis has, for many, heightened their sense of urgency that much stronger national action is needed.

The Australian Religious Response to Climate Change (ARRCC) co-hosted the gathering, known as the People's Climate Assembly. Christian ARRCC supporters made a meditation tent available and a number of faith leaders participated in the peaceful, silent encirclement of Parliament House on the Tuesday afternoon.

Well-known Gosford Anglican priest, Rev'd Rod Bower, helped lead an Interfaith Mourning Ritual on the Tuesday morning for bushfire victims. The ritual was organised by the Canberra Interfaith Forum and the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture.

Rev'd Bower said, "A religious response to climate change is essential for a healthy spirituality. It's an expression of our connection with God, with each other and with the earth. Our responsibility to care for the earth is something that is common to all the faiths."

Gillian Reffell, a Buddhist and Secretary of ARRCC, was part of a panel of faith speakers on the Monday, which included the Rev'd Bower and a Catholic Brigidine Sister, Jane Keogh.

Ms Reffell said, "With the wake-up call that has been the bushfire crisis, we ask that the government be guided by those experts who are offering pathways to a prosperous and sustainable future which does not depend on fossil fuels."

"Australia is very vulnerable to global warming," she said. "It would be in the interests of country people, our children, Australia's Pacific neighbours and the world if we finally begin to embrace the new, clean technologies of the future."

Sr Jane Keogh spoke about the need to reach out to the "unconvinced". "With so many suffering the direct effects of climate change, now is a pivotal time to counter the lies ..."

"People are good at heart, but they don't understand the facts," she advised the gathering. "Right now, as long as they think that you do respect them, they

might be more interested in talking about the issues. Talk about how the climate issue has affected you personally and what you're doing about it. Then listen, be respectful."

The People's Climate Assembly hosted five days of events, with a coalition of more than 20 community organisations, including School Strike for Climate, Stop Adani, Maritime Workers Union, Aboriginal Elders, Extinction Rebellion, ARRCC and Doctors for the Environment.

*People's Climate Assembly*

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### EDITORIAL

## Honouring ancestors and heritage

Qing Ming (Ancestors Day for people of the Tao religion) and the UNESCO International Day for Monuments and Sites (World Heritage Day) both happen this month, and an interesting link between them can be found in China's Hubei Province. This region in eastern China, where the coronavirus outbreak began, is home to a religious complex of international importance.

The Ancient Building Complex in the Wudang Mountains was inscribed to the World Heritage List by UNESCO in 1994. It meets three World Heritage criteria, representing a "masterpiece of human genius (criterion i)," exhibiting "an important interchange of human values" (criterion ii) and is "associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance" (criterion vi). More than 60 buildings and sites, some dating back to the seventh century, cover an area of over 300 square kilometres.

According to UNESCO, these ancient Taoist buildings "represent the highest standards in Chinese art and architecture" over almost 1000 years. They have had "an enormous influence" on religious and public art and architecture in China. Further, this centre of Taoism was important in shaping the region's belief and philosophy. Today, this complex is also an important source of evidence for research into the Chinese history of religion.

The most recent Australian addition to the World Heritage List was the Budj Bim Cultural Landscape in the traditional country of the Gunditjmarra people in north-western Victoria. For more than 6000 years, the volcanic rock of this area was used by the Gunditjmarra to channel and dam the water of Lake Condah to trap *kooyang* (short-finned eel).

Australia's current submissions to UNESCO's Tentative List are for the Murujuga Cultural Landscape in the Pilbara region of Western Australia and extensions to the Fraser Island National Park and the Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage sites. The next World Heritage Committee annual meeting is planned for late July, but given that 184 States Parties to the convention have Tentative Lists, some patience is called for.

Many activities other than inscription of sites happen under the auspices of the World Heritage Convention. These include the Initiative on Heritage of Religious Interest, the World Heritage Education Program and the World Heritage Volunteers Initiative. Workshops, seminars and experts' meetings also happen regularly. For a virtual tour of current World Heritage sites, visit the interactive map at [whc.unesco.org](http://whc.unesco.org).

Sally Woollett

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# 'Bloody Beachheads' and the meaning of sacrifice

(Continued from page 9)

that true remembering is not just focused on the past, but "recalls us to what we should be now."

The sacrifices that make a difference in PNG today are not as loud and bloody as those that occurred on those beach heads. But as I thought about PNG and Newton College, it seemed to me that sacrifice still makes a difference in that needy land.

The lecturers at the college work for a grand total of \$5000 a year in an area where the prices are much higher than Australia, and worry that they cannot afford the cost of educating their children or providing decent health care. The students live a subsistence lifestyle for three or four years, sometimes receiving support from their diocese and sometimes not. There are the volunteers, like my friend John Wright, from Cowes, approaching 80 and giving of himself over nearly two weeks of lectures. So many have approached me with generous and sometimes ill-afforded contributions.

As we approach Anzac Day, Australians will once again remember and use the language of 'sacrifice'. Buna Beach reminded me once again that sacrifice should not be just a matter of memory, but a call for the 21st century. We privileged Christians

in Australia have those friends not so far away where we once shared profound and tragic sacrifice.

Those friends are still there and they still need us. Throughout the country, the need is profound, but as I look to the year ahead at Newton College, I think about the \$8000 we need to connect electrical power to the college; the money we need to refurbish some very broken down buildings, including a

medical clinic; a slightly better salary for lecturers; a vehicle so that we can have some form of motor transport.

And as the waves now lap quietly on Buna Beach, I am reminded that the best forms of sacrifice are made with love and care.

*Jeffrey Driver is former Archbishop of Adelaide and before that Bishop of Gippsland. He is currently Acting Principal of Newton College Popondetta. For more information on Newton College, or to make a contribution, contact jeffrey.william.driver@gmail.com*

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Center down.

And when your body has become still,  
reach out with your heart.  
Know that we are connected  
in ways that are terrifying and beautiful.  
(You could hardly deny it now.)  
Know that our lives  
are in one another's hands.  
(Surely, that has come clear.)  
Do not reach out your hands.  
Reach out your heart.  
Reach out your words.  
Reach out all the tendrils  
of compassion that move, invisibly,  
where we cannot touch.

Promise this world your love –  
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Lynn Ungar ([lynnungar.com](http://lynnungar.com))  
11 March 2020



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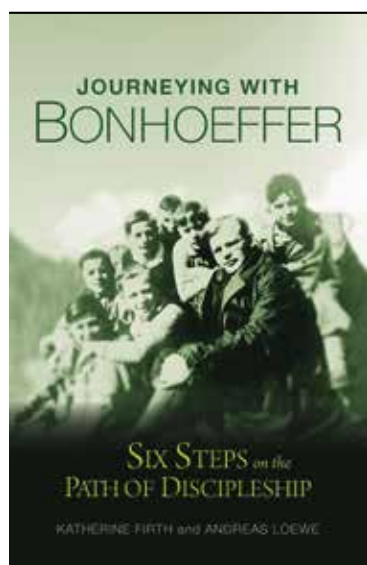
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# Two remarkable wartime men

Richard Prideaux



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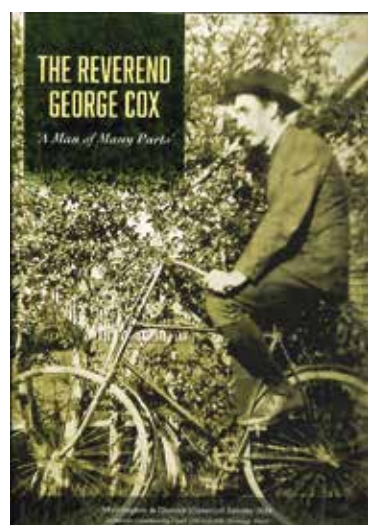
by Andreas Loewe and Katherine Firth. Morning Star Publishing, 2019

This year is the 75th anniversary of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's martyrdom in the Flossenbürg concentration camp in Bavaria, just three weeks before the camp was liberated by US Army soldiers and World War 2 ended. The authors of this book – Dr Andreas Lowe, Dean of St Paul's Cathedral in Melbourne, church historian and expert on Protestant German history, and Dr Katherine Firth, translator, academic, poet and educator – are both fluent in German. They have produced two books in one that, together, in the form of a powerful new biography of Bonhoeffer and six lessons for Lent, enrich our understanding of Luke's Gospel for the Lenten season and at the same time invite us to drink deeply at the well of Bonhoeffer's terse, demanding and trenchantly challenging theology in his book *The Cost of Discipleship* and in fresh translations by Firth of some of his intensely personal poetry.

Younger folk today will be less familiar with Bonhoeffer than the post-World War 2 generation. They will not have heard his clarion call that when Christ calls us he calls us, his call leads to death; that God's grace is costly, because it is costly to God, it cost him his Son; that discipleship is more than formulaic worship; that Christ did not call his disciples

to a life of holy introspection, but a life of doing; that if we truly turn to Christ, then we need to shun those who claim to be alternative mediators; that as followers of Jesus Christ, then, we cannot remain hidden, and many more shafts which, once read, are not easily forgotten.

Ideal for a Lenten study group, this little book contains chapter questions, careful footnotes, further reading suggestions and a useful index. To be read with care – there is dynamite here ... but also good comfort!



## The Reverend George Cox: 'A Man of Many Parts'

by Joy Cullen. Mornington & District Historical Society, 2019

Teacher and historian Joy Cullen has uncovered a remarkable story with her investigation into the 'Renaissance life' of the Gippsland clergyman, naturalist, historian and community leader the Rev'd George Cox.

Cox was a parochial reader in Coalville, Narracan and Mirboo North before being ordained deacon and priest in 1899 at Mirboo North and later St Mary's Caulfield. In 1908 he returned to Gippsland and served as rector of Neerim South (1908–1910) and at Yarram District (1910–1915), when he enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force and served as a staff sergeant and unofficial padre in the Langwarrin Camp isolation hospital. Cox 'retired' from the ministry due to ill health after the war but continued to serve in many effective ways in the parish of St Peter's Mornington for 27 years, until his death in 1946.

What is remarkable about this man is the combination of his outstanding leadership and vocational evangelistic ministry skills, which included running scout groups, youth groups, camping trips and his own outstanding tenor singing. His much-loved parish ministry would be a good story in itself but Cox had two other consuming passions.

Cox was a remarkable scientific field naturalist and fossil collector. His notes and presentations on the flora, fauna and geology of both Gippsland and the Mornington Peninsula (illustrated with his "powerful electric lantern with micro projection"), his formation of a children's naturalist club and his notes and many contributions to *The Victorian Naturalist* are now held by the State Library of Victoria.

Quite separate from these activities, Cox was an outstanding historian of early Gippsland and the Mornington Peninsula. Cullen notes that his curiosity, research skills and energy resulted in an ongoing association with the History Society of Melbourne (now the Royal Historical Society of Victoria), where he read many formal papers. Cullen notes that Cox had an evidenced-based approach to history that was based on independent research (and sometimes led to serious arguments), and his cautious approach to premature publication demonstrated his care for accuracy and the avoidance of personal bias. A mark of Cox's significance as a Gippsland historian was his invitation by Albert E. Clark to write the preface to his history of the church in Gippsland, *The Church of Our Fathers*.

This remarkable booklet comes with many beautifully presented photographs and detailed references. George Cox was a true blue Aussie polymath and Renaissance man. This is a story to inspire and encourage all Gippslanders today as we continue to fight those fires, whether literally or spiritually.

Richard Prideaux is a licensed lay reader at Bass-Phillip Island.

## OPEN FORUM

### 123 Cafe: an ending or a new beginning?

123 Cafe, a social enterprise in Sale and a mission initiative of the Anglican Diocese of Gippsland, will be closing its doors in its current form and location at the end of 2020, after almost five years of service to the community.

This decision was made by the management committee in conjunction with cafe manager, Julie Lanham, in January, long before the impact of the coronavirus pandemic began to take effect in Australia. An announcement is being made now to open up a conversation about whether and how this project might live on, notwithstanding the necessary trading restrictions imposed in response to COVID-19 over recent weeks.

The committee, which was established by Bishop-in-Council last year, hopes to attract possible partnerships with other service providers, churches and community groups so that 123 Cafe might be given every chance to operate in a new dispensation next year.

A vision first cast by Rev'd Rich and Julie Lanham imagines church done in a different way – what the Anglican Communion worldwide has termed a 'fresh expression' of church. The idea was to create a space where people could feel at home, relaxed and not alone; a community space where connecting was valued and support was given freely; a place where people felt accepted, no matter where they came from or what they believed; a place of getting alongside others. Amazingly, this vision was fulfilled with no money to begin with; just a little faith, and a lot of good will.

Preliminary conversations about what such a project might look like were started in 2014. Fast forward to 2020 and we have a social enterprise that has been operating successfully for four years, supporting young and older people alike in learning new skills and building connections.

Although the cafe cannot provide a physical venue for coming together in these testing times, it still connects volunteers and patrons in a network of mutual care and support, as evidenced by Julie Lanham starting to cook meals for distribution to those who are vulnerable or isolated.

When it is possible to do so, an open forum will be held at 123 Cafe to discuss the future of this much-needed and much-loved gathering place for 'coffee with a purpose'. In the meantime, please continue to support the cafe in the months ahead as you're able, including through your prayers.

123 Cafe Management Committee

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