

The Gippsland Anglican

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Bringing Hope to Gippsland

Alison Goetz

On a glorious autumn day in late April, the long-awaited official opening of the Odyssey House Victoria Hope Restart Centre near Bairnsdale took place. Originally scheduled for 20 April 2020, then postponed because of the COVID pandemic, this occasion celebrated a project for which the first stage was seven years in the making.

On the evening of 11 August 2015, Peter and Margaret Down – faithful, committed and active members of St John the Baptist Anglican Church of Bairnsdale and the wider Anglican community, as well as Christ-centred members of the local and regional community – attended the first meeting of Rebuilding Broken Homes of Bairnsdale and District. The stories of two young recovering addicts, Mark and Jesse, moved them to tears and inspired their resolve to build a drug and alcohol rehabilitation centre in East Gippsland.

From that day, Peter and Margaret ‘drove the Hope bus’ and everyone, yes everyone, got on board. Locally, this included health-care workers, community groups, churches, politicians, government, business and industry representatives, builders and media. Also behind the project were the Victorian and Commonwealth governments, universities, academics, architects and Odyssey House Victoria. Funds were and continue to be raised by community efforts and have been supplemented by government grants and other sources.



Bishop Richard with Margaret and Peter Down at the official opening of the Hope Restart Centre in Bairnsdale

It was a long and sometimes exhausting journey through red tape, flood, fire, illness and tragedy, but the Hope bus just kept on going. In 2020, despite the COVID pandemic, the people able to board the bus were those for whom the Hope Restart Centre has been built.

Two years on, at the official opening, residents of the centre took great pride in welcoming guests. Far from being a stuffy, formal, self-congratulatory affair, the occasion was an inspirational celebration of what can be achieved when a community sees a need and unites to fulfil it.

Jenny Macklin, Chair of the Board of Odyssey House, and Stefan Gruenart, CEO of Odyssey House, officiated at the opening and we heard

the moving recovery stories of Jess and Chris, two of the first residents. A very special moment was the presentation by Richard Rijs, patron of the centre, of a cheque for \$128,600, which staff of Patties Foods (of which Richard is a founding family member) had contributed to with monthly donations, to kickstart stage 2 of the centre. The Hope bus is continuing its journey.

A Time of Hope, the story of the founding and building of the Hope Restart Centre, written by Tom Valenta, was published by Odyssey House in 2020.

Vale Peter Richard Down, 18 September 1936 – 14 May 2022. An obituary for Peter is published on page 6.

HOPE STORY RESONATES WITH GIPPSLAND MOTHERS' UNION

Maryann Ashton

Gippsland Mothers' Union (MU) became aware of the Hope Restart Centre project when Peter Down spoke at MU Lady Day in 2016. Peter shared his and Margaret's vision of providing a drug and rehabilitation centre in Gippsland. The concept developed through faith, determination, community working together and, at times, luck.

The untiring efforts of a dedicated team saw the Hope vision become reality. MU Australia is

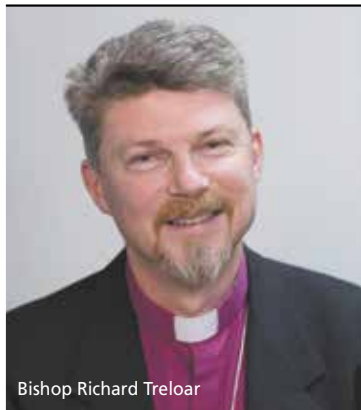
concerned with family life, including the detrimental impact of drugs and alcohol on families. Peter's story resonated with MU members and, following an initial donation, Gippsland MU offered an artwork for a Quiet Room. This was later to find a home in the Quiet Garden (see page 5).

At the official opening we saw the homely atmosphere of the facility. There is a garden that people work in, as well as a tranquil courtyard garden with a water feature and benches where people can sit and relax near the artwork provided by MU.

GIPPSLAND DIOCESE VACANCIES

Drouin
Trafalgar
Traralgon

A fragile and precious ecology



Bishop Richard Treloar

On the Monday morning following the conclusion of General Synod, I was invited by Year 12 leaders at Gippsland Grammar to speak at their Senior School assembly. The students had organised an observance of IDAHOBIT – International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Interphobia, and Transphobia (17 May). I reflected with them on the debates at General Synod on human sexuality, and reassured them that in our Anglican schools in Gippsland there would be no requirement of incoming Principals, Board members – or anyone else for that matter – to make statements of personal belief, including in relation to marriage.

The hundreds of young people in Garnsey Hall that morning, like the hundreds of mostly older representatives in the Synod hall the week prior, heard moving personal testimony from individuals who identify with the LGBTQIA+ community about their lived experience of discrimination and exclusion in religious organisations.

Yet it was hard to explain to the attentive, respectful teenagers in front of me why the Church, which auspices their education, helps shape their school values, and is involved in their pastoral care, struggles to bless what is or may become their reality, or that of their friends or family members.

Instead I would have preferred to share with them the work we did at General Synod on climate change action, and on calling for the age of criminal responsibility to be raised so that the children of our First Nations people are no longer disproportionately represented in the justice system. It would have given me pride to speak of how Gippsland priest Tracy Lauersen led the Synod in resolving to properly resource ongoing work on Family Violence under the banner of a new Families and Culture Commission.

Recognition of the outstanding contributions made by women to our life and mission as priests and bishops these last 30 years was another good news story from Synod, along with moves to address sustainability in regional dioceses, legislation that further strengthens our Safe Ministry protocols, and a nationally endorsed template for professional supervision, professional development and regular ministry reviews for our clergy.

Alas, media coverage of the week seemed to suggest that

the only thing we really wanted to talk about was sexuality, and perhaps there is some truth in that portrayal. Certainly those debates and the various points of impassability we reached overshadowed much on which Anglicans are in furious agreement, including social issues with respect to which our Church is showing real leadership.

This is less surprising in view of the fact that – due to COVID restrictions in 2020 (when the 18th Session was due to be held) and 2021 – General Synod had not met since the changes to the Marriage Act that took effect late in 2017. Add to this last year's Appellate Tribunal's majority Opinion that – while the blessing of same-sex civil unions under the Canon for Services is not unconstitutional – General Synod was the appropriate forum "if it is the will of the Church to have uniformity in ... the matter of what may or may not be blessed in worship" (para 226).

So, where did we land on that vexed and emotive question? A statement put forward by the Diocese of Sydney restating the Church's understanding of marriage (amended on the floor of Synod to refer to our changing context) also described the blessing of same-sex marriages as being "not in accordance with the teaching of Christ and the faith, ritual, ceremonial and/or discipline of this Church."

Having passed in the Houses of Laity and Clergy,

this statement was narrowly defeated in the House of Bishops. It was chiefly this final point in relation to the blessing of civilly contracted same-sex marriages that prevented me – and others, I suspect – from supporting the statement as a whole, which was by and large a summation of the status quo.

Speaking in the debate I expressed the view that it was not in keeping with our Anglican polity to seek to impose a uniformity of liturgical practice in matters not contrary to doctrine (in the constitutional sense of the Appellate Tribunal's Opinion) – a withholding of blessing on those duly married under the law that would test our credibility as a Church, is pastorally and missionally problematic, and that was unlikely to preserve or promote our unity.

Further, as a performative invocation of God's grace, which is always going ahead of us, blessing is neither simply an indicator of 'right belief' (orthodoxy) nor a response to 'right behaviour' (orthopraxy). Liturgical blessing is a point of connection between divine grace and human reality, and as such has a future aspect: calling and shaping us into the fullness of God's vision for our flourishing.

While I think it is important that you know what your bishop has (and hasn't) said, I do not expect all readers of TGA in Gippsland or beyond to agree with me! Such is the genius and fragile ecology of Anglicanism.

There will be opportunity at our diocesan Synod in June, no doubt, to reflect together on these and related issues, and much else besides. In the meantime, thank you for your prayerful support of our four elected Gippsland representatives, pictured with me and the Primate on page 8. In their listening, speaking and questioning, and in the gracious manner of their presence and engagement with other members of Synod and the business before us, their responsibilities were fulfilled with generosity and wisdom.

Those qualities will be much needed in the weeks and months ahead as the work of the long-awaited 18th General Synod is received in our Church and in the communities we serve.

+RM

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"We are learning and we are on this journey of reconciliation and healing together."
The Revd Kathy Dalton

Your donation to Aboriginal ministry is vital.

Gippsland Anglicans is raising funds to continue its support of Aboriginal Ministry. The Revd Canon Aunty Phyllis Andy (L) and The Revd Kathy Dalton (R), pictured here with The Rt Revd Dr Richard Treloar, Bishop of Gippsland, work together to support the spiritual needs of Aboriginal people across the vast area of Gippsland. They are regularly called to other places and interstate to provide culturally appropriate support and care.

Please scan the QR code or visit www.gippslandanglicans.org.au for options.

Role change in diocesan and parish partnerships

Chris de Paiva

Cathrine Muston, who has served nearly six years as the Community Development Officer for Parish Partnerships for Anglicare Victoria in the Diocese of Gippsland, is set to take on a new role. Cathrine has done a wonderful job connecting and developing Parish Partnerships programs across the Diocese and has made a significant impact on the lives of many people. Cathrine will continue with Parish Partnerships and move to a part-time position as State Coordinator for the Get Out for Good program under the Anglican Criminal Justice Ministry. Get Out for Good is a program that uses community volunteers to support people leaving prison. This role will involve providing strategic direction for the recruitment and training of volunteers as well as coordinating referral pathways through prison chaplains and other agencies. This role is perfect for Cathrine and it leads on from

much of the work that she has done in the criminal justice space. The Rev'd Rich Lanham has recently been appointed as the new Community Development Officer for Parish Partnerships in the Diocese of Gippsland. He will work alongside Cathrine as he establishes himself in the role. Rich brings a wealth of experience and skills to the role, having strong connections with both the local community and the Anglican Church. Rich has been an activator in the Diocese through the work of Café 123, a social enterprise he established with wife,

Julie, and as Chaplain at Gippsland Grammar. Both Cathrine and Rich are looking forward to their new roles and the new opportunities to develop connections with those in our community who are

most in need of support. Please keep Rich and Cathrine in your prayers as they embark on this exciting new chapter.

Chris de Paiva is Manager Diocesan and Parish Partnerships at Anglicare Victoria.



Rev'd Rich Lanham

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Cheryl Russell retires as Director of Professional Standards

Marylyn Mathieson

After 18 years of dedicated service to the Anglican community in Gippsland, Cheryl Russell is retiring from her role as Director of Professional Standards.

Cheryl commenced in the newly created role in 2004, under the direction of Bishop Jeffrey Driver. At that time, the Professional Standards Committee was established to oversee the protection of children and vulnerable people, through adherence to the requirements of Faithfulness in Service. Safe Ministry, as we now know it, was the focus of the work being undertaken by Cheryl.

Under the guidance of Cheryl as Director and Dr Ann Miller as Chair of the Professional Standards Committee, Safe Ministry training programs were conducted throughout the Diocese, to educate clergy and laity as to their responsibilities in ensuring the safety of all who were participating members of the Anglican community.

Cheryl brought not only many years of professional experience as a qualified psychologist and counsellor to her role, but also a passion

for protecting children, young people and vulnerable people. One of her many attributes that has endeared her to people across the Diocese and beyond has been her integrity. A person of great compassion, Cheryl has also been able to listen to and communicate with people who were hurting for one reason or another. At times, there were people suffering from abuse that had occurred many years earlier. An encounter with Cheryl was often the first time a person was able to disclose what had happened to them, or the first time someone had actually listened to them. She has assisted many over the years to move forward with their lives and find some healing after what they suffered.

Not only has Cheryl sought justice and provided support for people who have experienced abuse; she has also been able to work with perpetrators in a respectful manner. Negotiation and conciliation have been the hallmarks of many of the interactions in which Cheryl has been engaged. Regardless of their actions, Cheryl always sought to treat those people with respect.

Cheryl has been integral to the development of Safe Ministry across the Diocese. Thanks to her efforts, the

Diocese has an enviable reputation for the policies and procedures that have been implemented in regard to ensuring that it is well placed in its responsibilities in this vital area.

During her time as Director, Cheryl worked with four bishops. She will freely admit that she and they were not always on the same page on certain matters, but each of those bishops valued and respected the work that Cheryl was undertaking, and the manner in which she did it. They found her advice and support invaluable over the years.

On both the state and national stage in Professional Standards circles, Cheryl is a very well-respected member. She has been called on to advise across a wide range of matters, such is her expertise and professionalism. Other dioceses and bishops have sought her counsel over the years.

For those of us who have worked with Cheryl, we know how conscientious she has been in not only carrying out her responsibilities, but in caring for people. Although it has not necessarily been a part of her remit, Cheryl would continue to contact people who may need some care – a phone call here,



Cheryl Russell established Safe Ministry protocols, offering advice and care to clergy, survivors and parish councils

a visit there. The demands on her time and her energy have been enormous, but she has maintained her graciousness even in the face of hostile reactions at times. While her passion has always been to ensure the safety of children, Cheryl has cared about and for all people, and the Anglican Diocese of Gippsland.

Cheryl will be sorely missed but the standards she set will be maintained and followed by those who come after her. Her pioneering work in Professional Standards in the Diocese set it on the path to be an example

to others as to how this vital work could be done. This legacy is a testament to all that Cheryl has brought to the role. We are indebted to her.

Angela Cannon (contact details page 9) has been appointed as interim Director of Professional Standards. She brings a wealth of experience and legal expertise to the role, and will hold the position while the Diocese seeks a permanent replacement.

Marylyn Mathieson
is Chair, Professional
Standards Committee

Rev'd Cathy Turnbull inducted as Deacon-in-Charge of Nar Nar Goon

Missional Deacon to the Eastern Region (Bushfire Response and Recovery), The Rev'd Cathy Turnbull, has been inducted as Deacon-in-Charge of the Episcopal District of Nar Nar Goon.

Cathy brings the community-building skills and passions, and the ministry experience as a Distinctive Deacon, to lead the people of St John's as they expand on the pioneering legacy of Chris McAleer.

Cathy will be well supported by Lay Reader Genevieve Shallard and by The Rev'd Christine Angus, Associate Priest at Bunyip, among others. We are enormously grateful to both Genevieve and Locum Priest David Atkinson, alongside

other clergy and laity who, with Archdeacon Sue Jacka, have ensured that the worship and outreach of this centre have continued to serve this growing district.

Cathy is a 'cradle Anglican' and has always been involved in church life, which during her formative years was at St Matthew's Bruthen. In lay ministry she held numerous roles including leading GFS and teaching CRE at primary school, as a Synod representative, parish councillor and church archivist. Cathy spent four years working with people impacted by what become known as the Black Saturday bushfires, running a women's support group through the church and

gathering stories of bushfire experience and recovery. Following that experience, Cathy felt a call to ordained ministry.

Cathy was ordained in February 2019 in the Diocese of Melbourne and took up a curacy as children and families minister at Christ Church Essendon. When the 2019/20 summer bushfires hit, a grant from the Provincial Disaster Fund enabled the Diocese to engage Cathy two to three days a week coordinating the work of bushfire recovery across East Gippsland. After a period of secondment – which was able to be extended by further grants from ARDFA and other philanthropic contributions – Cathy

resigned her position at Essendon at the end of 2020 to focus solely on her work in East Gippsland as a Missional Deacon for the Eastern Region, which she has fulfilled with distinction.

Cathy and her husband, Glen, own a hobby farm in the Macedon Ranges with angora goats, a llama, two rescue donkeys, and several dogs and cats. Cathy will

divide her time between the Rectory in East Pakenham and Lancefield, and retains her connection with East Gippsland as Chaplain to Buchan Primary School one day a week.

Cathy began her service as Deacon-in-Charge in early May.

Excerpted from Bishop
Richard's Ad Clerum

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MU AND ME

“My life without MU would certainly be poorer”

As Mothers’ Union groups across the Diocese begin to meet again, some MU members are offering encouraging stories about why and how they joined.

Here, Gwyneth Jones shares her story.



(L–R) Merrollyn Wiles, Jan Misiurka and Gwyneth Jones with the artwork donated by MU to the recently opened Hope Restart Centre in Bairnsdale (see cover story)

I joined this worldwide movement of Mothers’ Union (MU) in July 2014. I had moved from St Kilda to Moe and was really a lapsed Christian. The assistant priest knocked on the door; he held a pamphlet called *A Is for Anglicanism*. I invited him in and we had a chat. Later I read the pamphlet, which made me turn up at church; I joined a Bible study group and I was overwhelmed by everything they seemed to know. Gradually my boys joined Church of England

Boys’ Society and the choir, and I joined the Ladies Guild and became a parish council member.

While aware of the MU branch in my parish, I had very little idea of who or what they represented. It just seemed part of the furniture. I sometimes wondered why I was never invited but maybe it was because I was divorced.

I think I was curious – something was going on in my church and I wanted to know what it was.

I invited myself and was

certainly made welcome. Over the years I’ve enjoyed finding out more about the organisation. I found out that it was a worldwide organisation and that it was Anglican. I was surprised that it wasn’t in every Anglican Church, like Morning Prayer or Communion. It interested me that it wasn’t just about local things but also world issues. Since being involved I have been fortunate to attend conferences interstate and in New Zealand, and to broaden my contacts

with other MU members.

I’m currently the President of the Moe-Newborough Branch after doing a stint as secretary. I’m also a member of the Gippsland Executive in the position of Promotion and Development Officer. As part of this role I thoroughly enjoy visiting and encouraging branches

and getting to know members and their issues better.

My life without MU would certainly be poorer and I would have little or no opportunity to be part of a worldwide organisation improving life for families.

I hope to continue encouraging people to join MU.

Supporting Ukraine from Leongatha

Rev’d Belinda Seabrook and Peter Finlayson

On 14 May, St Peter’s Leongatha was transformed to welcome 150 guests, including people from as far as Warragul, Phillip Island and Sale, for a charity dinner to raise awareness and money for the people of the Ukraine.

The gala event was a joint fundraiser made possible by the Anglican parishes of Mirboo North and Leongatha, with the entire proceeds going to on-the-ground humanitarian aid.

The atmosphere on entering the St Peter’s worship area was electric. Guests had dressed for this special occasion and were greeted and seated in a spirit of friendship; the whole room was filled with love and support for the occasion. Hand-made table runners in the traditional colours of the Ukrainian flag were set beautifully against the white linen and the many sunflowers that adorned the tables.

Local musicians played for guests as they were treated to a three-course Ukrainian feast, beginning with traditional



Rev’d Belinda Seabrook (left) with invited speaker Olga Rysko

borscht soup and ending with an assortment of six different homemade desserts including honey cake, poppyseed pastry and caramel wafers. All the food was generously donated by local businesses, and made with love and skill by local caterers and cooks.

The first speaker for the evening was Olga Rysko, formerly of the Ukraine. She was born in the town of Kaharlyk, approximately 80 kilometres from Kiev, and she migrated to Australia in 2005. Olga moved to Leongatha in 2014 with her two children, Joseph and Victoria. Olga’s daughter and The Rev’d Belinda Seabrook’s eldest daughter are in the same

grade at school, and the two mums worked together to gather a team from both the church and community to enable this event.

Olga talked of her family back in the Ukraine: she has an 84-year-old mother living in Kiev and a sister living in another part of Kiev. Both are currently safe but have been subject to significant bombing around their neighbourhoods and the harsh realities of violent conflict.

During the evening a live Zoom link was established with Olga’s friends from her former church in the Ukraine. Guests were able to hear firsthand from Christian pastors and missionaries about

the current situation, as well as the current humanitarian efforts.

Live from the Ukraine, Daniel and Pricilla Gollan and their daughter Elle spoke with guests. All three were dressed in traditional Ukrainian clothes. Daniel is from Australia and has been serving as a pastor and missionary in Rzhyschiv with his wife for the past 30 years. Shane and Jemimah Paxe were also able to speak via Zoom about their missionary work in the Ukraine over the past 11 years.

Both families (who will be assisted by the fundraising proceeds) are providing help to those in desperate need of food and shelter due to being displaced by the conflict or having their homes destroyed. They are working under extreme conditions, helping to clean up the debris of war and assisting refugees with their emotional and physical needs. They have been shot at, had their cars destroyed and are in urgent need of vehicles and fuel (which is currently \$3.50 per litre) for food delivery and

emergency care.

There are many vulnerable older people who refuse to leave the Ukraine as a refugee or simply can’t leave due to physical disability. Lena Loobyloo (another recipient of the raised funds) is involved in a team that ministers to Ukrainian widows. This is a ministry to more than 250 babushkas (grandmothers), helping with food distribution, basic care and emotional support.

The final recipient is Wayne Zschech, a pastor from Kaharlyk, who is doing similar work to those already mentioned in assisting refugees and providing emergency care. Along with Shane Paxe, Wayne is affiliated with Operation Mobilization.

The gala evening raised \$21,015 to directly assist humanitarian efforts, with the amount continuing to climb. Due to the overwhelming response (and the huge waiting list) a second fundraising event has been arranged for 25 June: a 1 pm luncheon at St Peter’s Leongatha.

To join the next fundraising event or to make a donation, contact Rev’d Belinda Seabrook: 0438 622 721.

Open day at Allansfield healing retreat

On 26 March an open day was held at Allansfield healing retreat at Rhyll, Phillip Island. The centre has been operated since 1990 by the Order of St Luke the Physician (OSL), an ecumenical order dedicated to supporting and encouraging the healing ministry of the church.

The retreat is again offering accommodation and opportunity for healing

ministry following closures due to COVID restrictions.

In the absence of The Rev'd Lloyd George, OSL Chaplain for Gippsland, the new host, Kristy Gainfort, was inducted by Dr Annette Rice, a former national chaplain of the OSL. Following a time of fellowship and sharing over lunch, the day ended with a healing service. The service was led by Dr

Rice, with assistance from Bishop Richard and The Rev'd Canon Fran Grimes.

The home is available to any individuals or small groups seeking a place for a quiet retreat in a seaside location.

For enquiries and bookings, contact Allansfield: 5956 9333, allansfield@oslhealing.com.au. To enquire about the ministry of the OSL, contact Lloyd George: 0427 460 485.



(L-R) Kristy Gainfort, Bishop Richard and Canon Fran Grimes at Allansfield

Fellowship and fundraising at Rosedale's garden party

Rev'd Lyndon Phillips

Rosedale Anglican Parish Mission Secretary Ann Williams and family offered their beautiful garden to host a garden party in April. Scrumptious foods to suit all tastes and dietary needs were prepared by the Rosedale parishioners. Bake, Make and Grow stalls were situated around the beautiful garden, raffles were offered, and great conversation and fellowship were enjoyed by all. Folk from Hiamdale, Gormandale, Carrajung, Toongabbie, Cowwarr, Maffra, Heyfield, Stratford, Sale and Rosedale enjoyed this wonderful afternoon.

Around \$1700 was raised through ticket sales, raffles and stalls on the day, and donations continue. To date, around \$2000 has been donated to Caritas Australia/Ukraine Fund.

Well done to everyone for the support and

care shown for those in desperate need. The parish is now contemplating its next fundraiser for Ukraine.

Currently, the Rosedale parish is tithing through the op shop to both the Ukraine Appeal and also to an appeal for flood-affected Australians.

Rosedale Anglican Parish's missional life is varied: support continues to flood-affected areas, World Share and the Hope Restart Centre. Support is also given to Rosedale and Gormandale primary schools, with an annual bursary offered to a grade six student in Rosedale and a grade five student in Gormandale.

The focus of assistance alters as needs arise; in the past the Parish's support has been for fire-affected areas and drought assistance for farmers. All of this is carried out very quietly, with a mindset of 'a servant hearted congregation'.

Vale Peter Down

Sue Fordham

On 14 May 2022, the Diocese lost a man who personified the fusion of faith and works. Peter Down, aged 85, lay reader, former church warden, inspiration to those growing in the faith, community activist and builder, died, with his work having left the church a better place.

Active at St John's Bairnsdale for many years, Peter and his wife, Margaret, were responsible for the building and renovation of churches across Gippsland. It was a true partnership. It was Peter and Margaret. While he was the builder, they were partners in the business, partners in faith and partners in community engagement.

Renovations to St Luke's Moe, Christ Church Foster, St John's Bairnsdale and St Thomas Toora, the building of the new church of St Mark's Yarragon and an addition to St Peter by the Lake Paynesville are just a sample of the excellent craftsmanship and dedication they brought to their work.

In addition, Peter spent time building in Gahini, our sister diocese in Rwanda, then, on return to Australia, spoke of his work there and encouraged parishes to support the growing Christian community in that place. He was tireless. He was persuasive.

Peter was a diocesan leader in Cursillo, and an enthusiastic participant, together with Margaret in the Education for

Ministry program, Peter and Margaret were ubiquitous in the parish and across the Diocese.

In recent years, Peter and Margaret developed a vision for a drug rehabilitation centre for the region. Single-mindedly, they identified and approached people and organisations that might help progress this passion: members of Parliament, Odyssey House, local government.

Earlier this year, Peter and Margaret appeared in full colour on the front of the *Bairnsdale Advertiser* at the opening of the Hope Restart Centre (see page 1), which is a triumph of vision, tenacity and a faith that expresses itself in works.

The Diocese will miss him. His friends and church family will miss him. Margaret most of all will miss him. His legacy, their legacy, will live on in so many ways.

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Centenary of St Mary's of the Virgin, Munro

David Luxford

On 24 April, a congregation of 55 joined Bishop Richard and the Anglican Vicar of the Avon Parish, The Rev'd David Perryman, to celebrate the centenary of St Mary's of the Virgin Anglican Church at Munro.

St Mary's of the Virgin was first licensed and dedicated on 23 April 1922 by Bishop G.H. Cranswick and The Rev'd Allan Adeney, Rector of Stratford.

Visitors came from far and wide, all drawn together in celebration because of a love of Munro and fond memories

of their childhood attendance with their parents at this church.

Some of those attending had ancestral connections with the community of Munro far beyond the inception of the town itself. For example, the Lake and Blake families, who eventually merged, date back to the earliest times of this district in 1849. The Blake family have been actively involved and staunch supporters of the church for over 100 years, with Marj Blake representing the family at the service. Shirley Tribe (nee White) has similar connections to Munro

and the church. Her great, great grandparents arrived by bullock wagon in the 1870s. Many other members of the congregation had family connections to the early 1900s and those responsible for the establishment of the church.

For the generation of 'new' seniors in attendance, it was a joyous reunion with former state school mates and extended family connections.

After a beautiful service, country hospitality was high, with afternoon tea served at the Munro Hall, where merriment and fellowship continued for the remainder of the day.



(L-R) Bishop Richard, Rev'd Laurie Baker (who grew up in Munro), warden and longstanding Munro resident Linda Tatterson and Rev'd David Perryman

St Paul's Traralgon campus celebrates 20 years

Paula Walland

St Paul's Anglican Grammar School in Traralgon is growing, having just celebrated its 20th Anniversary Service while looking forward to expansion.

It was a beautiful day for Prep to Year 10 students to assemble together for the first time in a few years for this momentous occasion on 4 May. Bishop Richard Treloar, Archdeacon Clem Watts, Mr Darren Jennings (Board Chair) and guest speaker Richard Prideaux, who was Principal of St Paul's in 2002 when the Traralgon campus opened, were among the special guests.

The campus began in 2002 with students from Pre-Kinder to Year 3. Planned to commence in term 1, 2002, the buildings were not ready and, thanks to the generosity



Students, staff and guests took part in a whole-campus photo to commemorate the campus' future expansion to accommodate Years 11 and 12

of John and Jan Richardson, the school operated for a period from the former Birchwood House Early Learning Centre. After moving onto the 40-acre site in Cross's Road, in 2003 the school worked hard to acquire an adjacent piece of land, expanding the site to over 130 acres

40 years of ministry for Rev'd Bruce Charles

Rev'd Sue Jacka

On 25 April, The Rev'd Bruce Charles celebrated the wonderful milestone of 40 years of ministry as a priest with a special Eucharist at St Mary's Morwell. It was attended by people from across the different parishes where he has served recently.

Bruce was ordained Deacon in 1981 and priested in early 1982 in the Bendigo Diocese. He has served in Newborough-Yallourn

North, Wonthaggi-Inverloch and Moe-Newborough parishes and is currently an associate priest at St Mary's. Until recently Bruce took a monthly Anglican service in the Churchill Cooperating Parish. Just now, he is serving as long-term locum at the Drouin parish.

We are grateful for Bruce's thoughtful and caring ministry; he constantly encourages us to think through issues of how our faith impacts the way we live and to go deeper in prayer.

20 years for Maffra op shop

Janet Wallis

St John's op shop in Maffra has just celebrated 20 years of operation. The shop raises money to support the local community and the local Anglican church. Donations from local people are always amazing and received with thanks. One of the projects supported is the Maffra Community Meal, which offers a free meal to anyone, in the evening of the third Monday of the month. Plans are underway to contribute to the local schools by making sandwiches for children who could do with a helping hand.

Over the years, the op shop has been able to help several families by providing household items in emergency circumstances, such as after a house fire.

The team that keeps the shop running is made up of a variety of volunteers.

Some come in for the company; others to offer help and support in the community. The management team is amazing, working many hours to keep products up to date and to create a clean and welcoming atmosphere.



The op shop front window, ready for the anniversary celebration

that now extends to the Latrobe River. In 2008, Year 7 students were welcomed for the first time and the school expanded annually to reach Year 10 in 2012. During the past decade, the school has regularly considered demand and consulted with the community, resolving in 2020 to take the final step and offer Years 11 and 12 commencing from 2026.

Preparatory works for the expansion to VCE have already commenced, with a recently completed four-court outdoor basketball/netball complex, paving the way for construction of the \$7-million Futures Centre.

The op shop was the brainchild of a previous minister at St John's, The Rev'd Russell MacQueen. He and his wife, Karen, are still deeply involved with every aspect of running the shop. Roster coordinator, Cheryl Briggs, spends many volunteer hours on the phone, talking with the teams who come in each day to serve customers, as well as hours in the sorting room. Jo and John Inglis also spend hours helping with sorting and clearing stock.

Late last year, the loan secured to purchase the op shop was paid off, which is a wonderful achievement and a great credit to all involved.

There is a very real and important network of people who visit. Customers may come in a few times a week, just to have a friendly chat.

The op shop really makes a difference in people's lives.



Anglican Primate Bishop Geoffrey Smith (far right) with Gippsland Diocese representatives at General Synod in May

Anglican Church urges pursuit of net zero emissions by 2040

The Anglican Church of Australia has urged its members to pursue net zero carbon emissions by 2040 in operations across the country.

“We are facing a climate emergency and we need to respond to that in ways that are a living testament to our faith,” said The Very Rev’d Dr Peter Catt, Dean of St John’s Anglican Cathedral, Brisbane, who moved the motion.

Dr Catt, who holds a Bachelor of Divinity as well as a PhD in Evolutionary Microbiology, said that the crisis was not just a problem that could be left to science to solve, but a religious one. “It is also a crisis for God’s creation and a fundamental injustice,” he said.

Richard Connelly, Gippsland Diocese Registrar, speaking as part of the Gippsland House of Laity, said “Miss Thunberg implored global industrial, corporate and governmental leaders to stop talking of climate change and to start taking action. ... our collective voice, in being added to the voices of our young people, along with a growing mobilisation of people in the nation, may lead to real and urgent change required of our government in setting policies to address the impending impacts of climate change.”

Climate change will be a prominent feature of the Diocese of Gippsland’s Synod, to be held this month.

The latest resolution by the Church’s General Synod is built on a 2017 resolution for member churches to work towards building climate resilience. The Australian Church also follows a 2020 resolution of the General Synod of The Church of England to work to achieve year-on-year reductions in emissions, with a more ambitious target of reaching net zero emissions by 2030.

Under the Australian resolution, member churches submit their best estimates of carbon emissions annually.

Families and Culture Commission to tackle domestic violence

The Anglican Church of Australia has established a new Families and Culture Commission to tackle intimate partner violence, which affects some of those in its Church and broader community.

“The commission is set up to safeguard the well-being of families and to respond pastorally to victim/survivors of violence in our church communities,” said the Rev’d Tracy Lauersen, Rector of Warragul Anglican Church and the Convenor of the Family Violence Working Group for the Anglican Church of Australia.

“It will also address the drivers of violence and help inform how the Church tackles the problem at both a national and parish level, resourcing its priests and lay leaders.”

The establishment of the Commission follows on from research commissioned by the Church that uncovered similar levels of domestic violence in its own communities as the wider community.

Around 75% of Anglican clergy were aware of people in their churches who have been victims of abuse by an intimate partner.

Rev’d Tracy said the research reports gave a breadth and depth of information about the nature of violence that was invaluable in guiding prevention strategies and appropriate pastoral responses. It showed women are overwhelmingly the victims of violence perpetrated by men.

“Most men do not commit violence, yet most of the violence that does happen is at the hands of a current or former partner and is gendered, with men more likely than women to perpetrate it, and more likely to use frequent, prolonged and extreme violence,” Tracy said.

The new Families and Culture Commission will assist the Church in advancing the strategies contained in The Ten Commitments adopted

by General Synod and a growing number of dioceses to prevent and address domestic violence.

“The resounding support shown by our national Church Synod members to establish and to resource the Commission demonstrates the Church’s strong resolve to be a part of the solution to this national problem and of their concern for victim/survivors of intimate partner violence,” the Primate of the Anglican Church, Archbishop Geoff Smith, said.

The Anglican Church is the first Christian denomination in Australia to conduct such extensive independent research into domestic violence affecting those in its church communities.

The results suggest there may be a bigger domestic violence problem in all faith communities than previously thought.

Statement on marriage blessings not upheld

The majority of Diocesan Bishops of the Anglican Church of Australia voted against a statement that, in reaffirming the Church’s doctrine of marriage, added that the blessing of (civil) same-sex marriages was contrary to the teaching of Christ. The vote in the 18th General Synod of the Church highlights the divisions within the church over the issue of marriage as it met in May for the first time since the Marriage Act was amended following the postal survey in 2017.

While the House of Laity supported the motion by 63 votes to 47, and the House of Clergy by 70-39, the House of Bishops voted against the statement by 10 votes to 12.

The statement was moved by the Archbishop of Sydney, Kanishka Raffel,

in a response to a written opinion by the Church’s judicial authority, the Appellate Tribunal, last year that found that the blessing of same-sex marriages in the Anglican Church of Australia, was not inconsistent with the Church’s Constitution.

The rejected statement first sought to affirm that “the faith, ritual, ceremonial and discipline of this Church reflect and uphold marriage as it was ordained from the beginning, being the exclusive union of one man and one woman”. It sought to clarify that same-sex marriages remained unlawful in the Anglican Church, saying, “The solemnisation of a marriage between a same-sex couple is contrary to the teaching of Christ and the faith, ritual, ceremonial and/or discipline of this church.”

It further said: “Any rite or ceremony that purports to bless a same-sex marriage is not in accordance with the teaching of Christ and the faith, ritual, ceremonial and/or discipline of this Church.”

Archbishop Raffel said, “I deeply regret the outcome, although of course I accept it.” “Failing to make these affirmations today has left us in a perilous position, and no one should be mistaken about that,” he said.

With Anglican Church of Australia. See page 2 for more about General Synod.

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Christian hope in a time of climate change

Rev'd Dr Chris Mulherin

World Environment Day (5 June) is the United Nations' designated day to draw attention to human interaction and care for the environment. The word 'environment' is slightly nebulous, and Christians might prefer to think about care for God's creation.

As the Executive Director at ISCAST—Christians in Science and Technology, I've had the privilege of witnessing recent fruits of our efforts to foster conversations centred on creation. ISCAST's mission to bring Christianity and science into conversation means that understanding climate change and promoting creation care is one of our most relevant and pressing topics. As we engage in that conversation, two streams flow into one.

On the one hand the science seems clear: humans are causing significant damage to the natural world. Each report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change tells of increasing confidence about the science. Of course, while decision makers have to take into account more than science, the science paints a picture of grave concern.

On the other hand, as Christians, we believe that there are a number of reasons for creation care:

- The creation is valuable in itself; it was proclaimed 'good' before human beings were on the scene in the first chapter of the Bible.



Tony Rinaudo explaining FMNR (selection of trees, thinning and pruning of shoots) to a community in Ethiopia

- God's mandate to humans (Gen 1:28) calls for "responsible dominion."
- Loving one's neighbour (Lev 19:18, Luke 10) in a world of global interconnectedness challenges me to consider how my ways of living are detrimental to my global neighbours.

In the spirit of ISCAST's vision "to engage Australians in constructive conversation between Christian faith and the sciences," we have taken a number of initiatives focused on creation care.

CREATION CARE CONVERSATIONS

This year, we teamed up with New Zealand Christians in Science (NZCIS) to host 10 weekly online Conversations, inviting experts to speak on topics under the theme of Creation Care in the Climate Change Century. Ten diverse people, ranging from theologians and other academics to a New

Zealand dairy farmer and philanthropist, reflected on what it means to care for the planet God has bequeathed us. The 150 people registered for the series were not disappointed and were vocal participants in the Q&A following each talk. It was appropriate that the series ended with us thinking about the end of the world as Dr Andrew Shepherd spoke on Apocalyptic Imaginations: Theology, Science, and Literature at the End of the World. All ISCAST–NZCIS Conversations can be viewed online via the events tab on the ISCAST website.

TONY RINAUDO, THE FOREST MAKER

A major project at ISCAST is the publication in May of the autobiography of Tony Rinaudo, an Australian missionary agronomist from Myrtleford, whose work has revolutionised reforestation across Africa and beyond. In his 17 years in Niger, Tony identified a simple

and affordable method of regreening land by reviving damaged trees rather than planting new ones. This technique not only alleviates poverty and soaks up carbon, it does so at a tiny fraction of the cost of planting trees from scratch.

There are now over six million hectares of regenerated African landscape as a result of Tony's method, called Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR). With his employer, World Vision Australia, Tony promotes FMNR as a major climate change mitigator, with potential to be implemented across one billion hectares of the planet.

The book of this amazing and inspiring story is now available. *The Forest Underground: Hope for a*

Planet in Crisis was launched online with over 100 guests across 23 countries, and the face-to-face launch was held at St Paul's Cathedral Melbourne.

PROMOTING CONSTRUCTIVE CONVERSATIONS

These recent ISCAST activities are not without their perils. Some Christians are thoroughly 'green' and might be described as climate alarmists. Other Christians are sanguine about the future of the planet, perhaps sceptical of catastrophic scenarios, or maybe just focused on saving souls.

While ISCAST does not have an official position (beyond a commitment to both Christ and the best of science) we can find ourselves in hot water with Christians who are uncomfortable with a diversity of opinion. However, in a cultural climate that is increasingly polarised about so many issues and where people don't or won't hear what others are saying, we remain committed to promoting constructive conversations. Better a heated conversation than the comfort of an echo chamber!

Rev'd Dr Chris Mulherin is the Executive Director of ISCAST—Christians in Science and Technology. More information and resources, including ordering options for Tony Rinaudo's book, can be found at www.ISCAST.org.



Our commitment to a Safe Church

The Anglican Diocese of Gippsland does not tolerate abuse, misconduct and harm in its Christian community.

We are committed to ensuring all people in contact with the Church can participate in a safe and responsible environment.

If you have been harmed by a church worker, or you know someone who has, please contact Angela Cannon, the Director of Professional Standards, for a confidential discussion.

Contact: 0457 813 500, ps.office.gippsland@gmail.com

To find out more about Safe Church, and about Safe Ministry resources, visit www.gippsanglican.org.au/safe-church.

Gippsland Anglicans Christine Morris OAM (left) and Lorraine Kinrade OAM were presented with their medals in late April at an investiture ceremony for Victorian recipients of the 2022 Australia Day Honours, hosted by the Hon Linda Dessau AC, Governor of Victoria, and Mr Anthony Howard AM QC.



Migrants and refugees share hopes for greener pastures

Lauren McNeil

A short film that shares the trauma, hope, courage and resilience of Gippsland's multicultural community is hoped to improve the experiences of migrants and refugees settling in the region.

With funding from the Victorian State Government, Latrobe Community Health Service (LCHS) partnered with production company StoryIsConnection to produce *Greener Pastures*.

The aim is that *Greener Pastures* will become a tool that local health services, councils and other service providers use to educate their staff and the broader community about inclusive practices.

"When we initially planned *Greener Pastures*, our aim was to start important and

challenging conversations around racism and inclusion, and welcome those from multicultural backgrounds into the Gippsland community," said Goshu Tefera, LCHS Multi-cultural Strategic Partnerships Coordinator.

"By doing this we hope to create a welcoming environment for migrants and refugees, where they feel comfortable making new friends, trying new things and accessing services within their community."

Renowned arts director Catherine Simmonds OAM produced *Greener Pastures* by engaging with migrants and refugees who attend LCHS-led multicultural friendship groups in Wonthaggi and Warragul.

"I have worked for 30 years with migrant and refugee communities, and I never tire of their



Photo: Courtesy Bass Coast Council

Director Catherine Simmonds OAM hosts the Wonthaggi discussion panel with three of the film's participants and one colleague, Irene Metter

stories," Simmonds said.

"I continue to learn through the lens of their experience. Cities challenge migrant and refugee people's sense of belonging, yet rural areas reveal a different set of challenges and realisations as the people in our film come

to terms with the realities and new sense of self."

The film premiered during Cultural Diversity Week 2022 with four screenings at Gippsland's premier performing arts centres. Attendees heard from those who featured in the film

during a panel discussion led by the director.

"The discussion panel at each screening provided an opportunity for those in attendance to ask questions and learn a little bit more about what it's like to come to a new country and not have a support network around you," said Dr Tefera.

"Many people said they didn't realise the impact a simple 'hello' could have on someone who is settling into a new area."

LCHS is now looking at how it can leverage the film and the conversations it creates to bring more multicultural professional development opportunities, and other training sessions, to Gippsland.

To find out more about the work LCHS is doing with the local multicultural community or enquire about hosting a screening of the film, contact LCHS Manager Prevention and Partnerships Michelle Ravesi: Michelle.Ravesi@lchs.com.au.

Refugee support in South Gippsland

Felicia Di Stefano

Refugee Week is a celebration of the many achievements and contributions of refugees to the countries where they build their new homes. Refugees have survived brutal circumstances because of their ingenuity, courage and creativity.

This year the theme of refugee week is 'healing'. The idea of the theme is to educate us about issues faced by refugees. Last year the theme was 'unity'; we learned of refugees' forced separation from their land, family and friends and showed how we can all be united as a family here in Australia. In 2020 the theme was 'year of welcome', and we learned that many refugees were expelled from their countries because of their religion, ethnicity or political beliefs and we could show them that we accept and welcome them into our communities.

The themes teach us about the hardships refugees face



An SGRAR rally in support of refugees

before they are forced to leave their birthplace and further hardships they face after arriving in a land with a different culture, language and laws. By welcoming and accepting refugees into our communities, we help them on their way to healing from the traumas they suffered.

I am a refugee advocate and part of South Gippsland Rural Australians for Refugees (SGRAR). One of the refugees I have tutored in English was a South Sudanese woman, 'A'. She and the couple's children had followed her husband

to Wonthaggi where he was able to work full time in a nearby meat processing plant active here at that time. A and I were introduced and I gauged her level of English and ascertained her needs. The following week I came prepared with all sorts of plans and support material only to realise that A wanted to talk. She wanted to tell me about the cruel, vicious war that forced her to escape from her homeland, and about the people she had left behind. We sat at the table in A's dining room with books spread out

in front of us and talked and cried for many hours and for many days. Before A could learn, she had to complete her healing journey and before I could teach, I had to listen and learn her stories. Now, A has purchased two houses in Wonthaggi and is working hard to pay them off. One of her children is married and another is working in our area. The others are still attending school.

Another refugee I tutored was 'Z'. Last year, Z asked SGRAR to sponsor his family, who were trapped and in

danger from the Taliban in Afghanistan. Z escaped the Taliban in 2012 and was granted refugee status in Australia. He now works to support himself as well as his family in Afghanistan. Yet Z has only been allowed a temporary visa, which precludes family reunion. Z has been separated from his wife and children for 10 years. SGRAR has applied to the Australian Government to bring Z's family to join him in Australia. We are waiting for a response.

In the lead-up to this year's Refugee Week, SGRAR hosted the film *Flee* at the Wonthaggi cinema. This true story is about a man who escaped the horrors of Afghanistan as a child to arrive in Sweden. Amin Nawabi has kept the story of his escape secret for 20 years and has now told it, mostly through animation, to director Jonas Poher Rasmussen. All funds raised on the evening are helping Z's family in Afghanistan with food, heating, passports and airfares to whichever countries they need to get to before they are hopefully given permission to come to Australia.

Libby Willems, Development Officer

I acknowledge the First Nations Countries and Peoples of the lands that we also know as Gippsland. I pay my respects to their Elders past and present, and those emerging. I acknowledge that sovereignty was never ceded. I promise to work for just and equitable outcomes for all because I believe this is how God's kingdom is meant to be.

Hi, my name is Libby Willems and I am a Gippsland Anglican from the Parish of Drouin.

Recently, I accepted the role of part-time Development Officer for the Diocese of Gippsland, where I will be working alongside parishes with some specific projects relating to the Diocesan Vision 2021–2024 over the next six months.

In this role, I will be focused on two main priorities:

- our Aboriginal Ministry work – how we support this as a Diocese and also as individual parishes and communities



Libby Willems

- piloting Tithe.ly (a digital giving and communication tool) in selected parishes to support our ministries and the growth of our church life.

Before I accepted the Development Officer position, I spent many months meditating on my ability to do the work. During that time I faced a very difficult personal matter, which I was able to grow through, with the love and support of my family and community. As hard as it was, I feel that I have come out with a much clearer understanding of my strengths and convictions, ready to walk with the people and parishes that I meet.

I love working with people and communities! You can see this in my work as a musician and a conductor for Baw Baw Singers. I would say that my strongest personal values are inclusion

and equity. This motivated me to undertake a Bachelor of Applied Science (Disability Studies) at Deakin University many years ago. I went on to work in community sector roles for about eight years, and also community development roles in state and local government over 14 years.

My family is made up of seven people: my partner John and his two children (25 and 14 years) and my three (23, 21 and 15 years). John and I live in West Gippsland and join in many parish and community activities and ministries.

Alongside my work with the Diocese this year, I will be studying a Master of Teaching (Secondary) at Federation University. Your prayers for my success in these ventures would be most appreciated.

I look forward to meeting you!

Across the ages

Gippsland Grammar celebrates inclusivity on IDAHOBIT Day

Lisa Baker

Gippsland Grammar students celebrated this year's IDAHOBIT Day with a rainbow of colour, cupcakes and inclusivity across its senior Garnsey campus.

IDAHOBIT Day, the International Day against Homophobia, Biphobia, Interphobia and Transphobia, falls on 17 May each year to mark that day in 1990

when the World Health Organization removed homosexuality from the International Classification of Diseases. The day has since evolved into an annual celebration of the LGBTQIA+ community and is an annual occasion when Gippsland Grammar can publicly reaffirm its commitment to providing a welcoming, safe and respectful teaching and learning experience for all.

School captains Mia Mackintosh and Rory McLeod were joined by a previous school captain Ellen O'Brien and Bishop Richard to speak with students in years 7–12 about the importance of inclusivity.

Bishop Richard commended Gippsland Grammar for recognising IDAHOBIT Day and noted it was a school where there was no place for discrimination of any kind towards members of the community who are same-sex attracted or who identify with a gender other than their birth gender.

Bishop Treloar also referenced recent media coverage of Anglican schools in Sydney about the requirement for new principals and board members to sign up to a statement of belief, which includes a commitment to more traditional views of marriage. He assured

the student body and staff present that this will never happen in Anglican schools in Gippsland.

Gippsland Grammar's school captains took the stage and spoke about why days such as IDAHOBIT were important for the students to understand and embrace.

"As a year level we understand the importance of us setting the standard of homophobia not being tolerated at our School," Rory McLeod said. "We hope this sets a clear expectation of behaviour and that (we all) carefully consider how our language can affect others."

Referring to the ALLY badges that many staff and students chose to wear as a show of support, school captain Mia Mackintosh agreed. "These badges have meaning," Mia said. "And they act as an indication of our support to the community. Perhaps they will

start a conversation among people around you about your own behaviours and you might consider standing up to discrimination you hear. We know it's not easy, but having a friend call out another friend will be a real wake up call for them. This is something we should all work on and understand the importance of. We all deserve to feel safe at school and this is a step towards that."

Rory and Mia introduced 2020 school captain Ellen O'Brien, who returned to the campus to speak about her own experiences being a member of the LGBTQIA+ community.

The campus was a rainbow of colour on the day as the Year 12 students held a cupcake sale, with all proceeds donated towards programs that support LGBTQIA+ youth in Australia.



Gippsland Grammar Year 12 students Naomi Sjerp, Peggy McDonald, Olivia Miles and Danyka Lujan at the IDAHOBIT Day cupcake stall at Gippsland Grammar's Garnsey Campus



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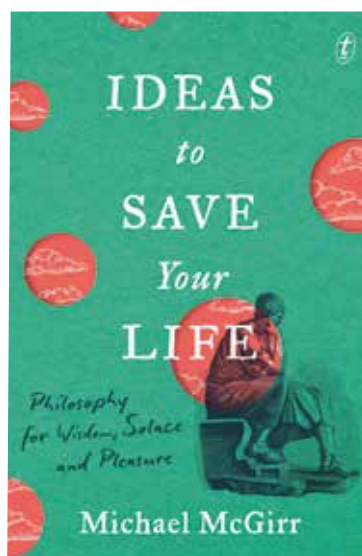
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Ideas to Save Your Life: Philosophy for Wisdom, Solace and Pleasure

By Michael McGirr
Text Publishing, 2021

Richard Prideaux

Michael McGirr joined the Jesuits immediately after finishing high school and trained with them for 14 years before being a priest for seven years. He was an outstanding chaplain and teacher of English, literature and philosophy at St Kevin's College in Melbourne. After leaving the priesthood he married, had children, became a widely regarded professional book reviewer of almost 1000 titles, had periods of unemployment, published seven books and now works for a major international aid and development non-government organisation. I met McGirr once in mid-career at a seminar when I was also teaching religion and literature in schools. I have been to many seminars and forgotten most, but I have never forgotten meeting Michael McGirr. His extraordinary erudition and a mind overflowing



with dynamic and interesting ideas almost overpowered the whole seminar room, and left me gasping.

Ideas to Save Your Life is ostensibly a book about 23 or so philosophers: from the ancients like Aristotle, Plato, Socrates, Horace and Epicurus through the Renaissance and beyond to Avicenna, Montaigne, Spinoza and Margaret Cavendish, to the “moderns” like Kierkegaard, Thoreau, William James, Nietzsche, Wittgenstein, Simone Weil, Wallace Stevens, Alan Turing, Iris Murdoch and Michel Foucault. McGirr deals with these complex and powerful philosophers with a

light and sympathetic touch, extracting their central ideas in an entertaining way that draws the reader in – even when the going gets tough, for which McGirr always gives warning.

McGirr notes that “it is a mistake to think that philosophy has a narrow meaning. Philosophy is a dangerous sport for control freaks and people who need to know everything. It is a carnival of ideas, possibilities, suggestions, connections, history, and, above all, tricky questions.”

For these things alone the book would be worth buying and reading, but perhaps even more interesting are the parts that in some ways become McGirr's own life story: his family, experiences of teaching and learning, and adventures too numerous to mention here. Michael is, all at the same time, thoughtful, sensitive, very funny, searingly honest, challenging, and opinionated in a carefully negotiated way. He is *always* interesting in such a way that you must read on.

I don't think for a minute you will run off and read Spinoza after reading this book. I do think you will stop, ponder, consider your own life and ideas, and want to go back and pick up on all the pencil marks you made on the book on the way through. Five stars.

Webinar: What Australians really think about Jesus and the Church today

11 am, 9 June

This free National Church Life Survey webinar will offer the latest research insights into Australian spirituality plus reflection about the impact on communities of faith. Director of NCLS Research Dr Ruth Powell will share the latest results from the Australian Community Survey while guest speaker Karl Faase will reflect on the implications of these findings for ministry and mission.

Register at www.ncls.org.au.

Jubilee Service for Queen Elizabeth

11 am, 12 June, St Thomas' Bunyip

All are welcome! Refreshments after.

Reverie harps: workshop and morning tea

10 am, 14 June, St Nicholas' Lakes Entrance

Faith Brown will lead a workshop on the reverie harps at St Nicholas. We hope to use them as a comfort and healing tool in aged care and hospital or home visits.

Anniversary Eucharist

12 noon, 17 June, The Abbey Raymond Island

To mark 32 years of The Abbey Chapel on Raymond Island, to remember the original congregations of Bundalaguah and to acknowledge the generosity of the Maffra parish.

Information and bookings: info@theabbey.org.au.

Mid-Winter Liturgy Round the Fire

11 am, 3 July, St Thomas' Bunyip

Book in for lunch: Ken Parker, 5976 1634.

Abbey Feast

10 September, The Abbey Raymond Island

With Brian Norris and Kerrie Schmidt. Catering by the Tambo parish.

Information and bookings: info@theabbey.org.au, 5156 6580.

Refugee Week

Films to watch during Refugee Week

REFUGEE WEEK IS A GREAT TIME TO WATCH FILMS WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS, AND EVEN IF YOU'RE STUCK IN QUARANTINE! HERE ARE SOME FILMS FROM RECENT YEARS.

Akoni

A homeless Nigerian refugee struggles to integrate into Australian society after escaping the clutches of Boko Haram. While he is living on the streets and on the receiving end of racist taunts from a group of drunks, a young woman comes to his aid and offers him a place to stay. Struggling with her own heartbreak, she soon finds solace in her unlikely new companion as he opens her up to a world beyond her current life of modelling, parties and social media.

Quo Vadis, Aida?

Quo Vadis, Aida? is a 2020 Bosnian film written, produced and directed by Jasmila Žbanić. An international co-production of 12 production companies, the film was shown in the main competition section of the 77th Venice International Film Festival. It was nominated for Best International Feature Film at the 93rd Academy Awards and won the Award for Best Film at the 34th European Film Awards.

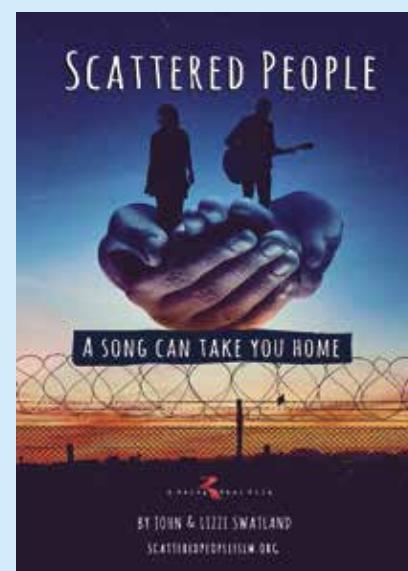
Scattered People

When Australian musicians go into a Brisbane detention centre to share music, they meet two Iranian musicians, Mas and Saha, who sing on their three albums.

Missy Higgins, John Butler, Harry James Angus (The Cat Empire), Katie Noonan, Michael Franti, Archie Roach, Dan Sultan and Robbie James talk about the power of music, its ability to break through barriers, unite people and create shared experiences.

What does the music we produce, sing and listen to tell us about ourselves, our country and life experience? Academics, psychologists and refugee specialists talk about the role artistic expression plays in building personal and national identity, and the healing power of creative expression and shared stories.

To watch or host a film screening of *Scattered People*, visit www.scatteredpeoplefilm.org.



Check out www.refugeeweek.org.au for a longer list of films from previous years.

Courtesy Refugee Council of Australia. Refugee Week runs 19–26 June.