

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA

DIOCESE OF GIPPSLAND



39TH SYNOD

THIRD SESSION

14-16 MAY 2021

SALE VIC

SECTION 3

Diocesan Organisations – Reports

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SECTION THREE
ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF GIPPSLAND
THIRD SESSION OF TH THIRTY-NINTH SYNOD
2021

SALE, VIC

DIOCEDSAN ORGANISATION

REPORTS TO SYNOD

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Anam Cara Community Gippsland, Report to Synod 2021.



Following several months of prayer and discernment, in January 2021 the Servant Leaders made the decision that it was time for the ministry of the Anam Cara Community to come to a close.

As I write this report I would like to express my thanks to Bishop Richard and Dean Susanna who have assisted the Servant Leaders through this process. When you gather for Synod we will have liturgically marked the ending of the Anam Cara Community with a Final Quiet Day and Thanksgiving Service on 1st May. Whilst this day has yet to occur, I am thankful for the pastoral care and prayerful preparation offered by Bishop Richard and Dean Susanna as they have assisted us to formally lay up this ministry.

The Community originally grew out of the ministry of the The Rev'd Anne Turner and was formally inaugurated as a ministry of the Anglican Church in the Diocese of Gippsland at a service led by Bishop John McIntyre and The Rev'd Brian Turner in December 2007.

The Community grew and changed over the years primarily providing encouragement and resources in the areas of prayer and contemplation. As I look back, there have been highlights, with retreats and a pilgrimage at The Abbey and a year dedicated to monthly teaching on spiritual practices such as meditation, centering prayer and lectio divina in our School for Prayer during 2013.

One of the constants through the 13 years of ministry has been the facilitation of Quiet Days throughout the Diocese. These days have provided space for people to intentionally come aside from the busyness of their everyday lives and just 'be' with God. These were opportunities to listen to the divine within and around us, in nature, in one another, in the words shared and the silences.

In recent years the Community has been thankful for the encouragement of Dean Susanna who has shared with us in leading Quiet Days and offering many opportunities to continue the contemplative journey through her ministry at St Paul's Cathedral. It is a comfort to the Servant Leaders as we conclude our ministry to know that there are many ongoing opportunities for exploring the contemplative journey in the Diocese. These include the ministries of Dean Susanna, The Rev'd Edie Ashley at the Abbey and The Rev'd Ken Parker at Bunyip.

The Servant Leaders and other friends of the Community have shared memories in recent months. We have been thankful for the wisdom and teaching offered by many. In particular founding Soul Carer, The Rev'd Anne Turner, The Rev'd Brian Turner who remained Chair of the Servant Leaders until his death in 2016, Dr Colin Thornby, Soul Carer from June 2012 until his death in 2013 and Bishop John McIntyre who encouraged the Community from those early conversations prior to its inauguration until his death in 2014.

During his ministry with the Community Colin Thornby set up the website and began the e-newsletter, Waterholes. This has remained a source of nourishment to many and a valuable tool of communication.

The Community has been led by a faithful group of Servant Leaders who have offered ministry through leading Quiet Days, Meditation groups and Contemplative Prayer services as well as the ministries of prayer and hospitality. My thanks to those who have served from the formation of the Community until now, Kate Campbell, Heather Toms and Carolyn Raymond and those who joined us on the way, Sue Hopkins, Val Lawrence and David Head. Also to those who have served on the leadership at some time in the past thirteen years including, Jo Inglis, John White, Marion White, Joy Campbell, Marilyn Obersby, Allan Huggins, Nick Nagy, Chris Venning, Colin Thornby and Brian Turner. Whilst the Community comes to a close I know that each person, each Servant Leader and each friend of the Community will continue to offer the ministry of presence in all that they do. Others will offer ongoing ministry in their parishes. It was a delight for all Servant Leaders to attend the ordination service of Kate Campbell to the Distinctive Diaconate in February. Kate continues to lead the monthly contemplative prayer service at St Paul's Cathedral.

As the Community closes there are a number of administrative matters to be attended to.

1. The website – Thank you to The Rev'd David Perryman who has been assisting with the website in recent years. David will assist with the closure of the website.
2. Finances – Kate Campbell will present a final statement of the Community's finances following the Final Quiet Day and Thanksgiving Service. There will be a small amount of money remaining. We will consult with Bishop Richard in the disbursement of these funds. A small grant that has been suggested is offering a book voucher for each new Ordinand.
3. Community Library – All books from the Community's extensive library have been offered to any connected to the Community as well as Diocesan Ordinands, the Abbey and Clergy. Any remaining books will be distributed. Investigations are being made for theological libraries overseas. Any remaining books will be donated to the St Paul's Cathedral book fair.

Finally, I am thankful for the opportunity to have been part of the journey of the Anam Cara Community from its inception until its closure. The spiritual journey is an ever changing and ever deepening one. I am thankful for the friends and spiritual mentors who I have been privileged to minister alongside and learn from in the past 13 years. My eyes and my heart were opened to new things, to new ways of encountering God, some of which were ancient spiritual practices that were new to me. It has been a joy and a privilege to begin the journey of contemplation, and to begin and begin again.

For, and on behalf of the Servant Leaders,

Jane Griffiths

ANGLICARE VICTORIA REPORT TO THE SYNOD OF THE DIOCESE OF GIPPSLAND 2021 FROM TIM PEDLOW REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Introduction

Since our last report to Synod, approximately 7 months ago, Anglicare Victoria's clients and staff continue to adapt and respond to the many challenges they are faced with. Whilst we hope the worst of COVID is behind us we are often reminded that until vaccines are rolled out across the country and the World that the threat is still very real. Despite these challenges I am very proud of how our staff have continued to respond and provide services to those most in need across Gippsland. I am also thankful for the many partnerships and relationships that have strengthened over recent times, including our relationship with the Diocese of Gippsland and the many parishes under Bishop Richard's leadership. All of us here at Anglicare thank you for your support as we look to the future with renewed hope and inspiration.

COVID-19

In the ever changing world of COVID and through the many challenges Anglicare Victoria have continued to provide essential services to those most in need across Gippsland in creative and innovative ways. Throughout 2020 and the early part of 2021 our offices remained open however by appointment only so as to ensure COVID Safe Work Practices. During February 2021 staff commenced their transition back into offices in greater numbers following a Red/Blue Roster system which saw staff working a 5 day fortnight from the office and 5 days at home. Due to the easing of restrictions Morwell reopened its doors on the 8th February, 2021 followed by Bairnsdale, Leongatha and Warragul on the 22nd February, then Wonthaggi in March due to a change in Administration. Further easing of restrictions during March 2021 we are now able to transition more staff into the office. It's been very pleasing seeing staff return to the work place and who are embracing the opportunity to reconnect with their team members and to find a sense of normality.

Christmas Hampers

Although COVID-19 presented many challenges, it was especially challenging when it came to packing Christmas Food and Toy Hampers for Gippsland Clients for 2020.

Due to restrictions a lot of planning was required by the Christmas Hamper Project team who came up with innovative ways to receive donations, pack the hampers and deliver them to clients. The project saw 359 food hampers given to families in need, and toys were provided for approximately 689 children.

Structural Changes

The services that Anglicare Victoria offer the Gippsland community have continued to grow considerably over recent years and we reviewed our local structure accordingly. In September we were able to implement a fifth Program Stream across Gippsland which is known as the "Family Safety and Children" stream. Peta Speight was appointed as the new Program Manager for this stream and will oversee our family violence program area which includes our Orange Door service, Caring Dads and TRAK Forward programs.

Working for Victoria Initiative

Anglicare Victoria were successful in their application for the “Working for Victoria” initiative last year which ran for 6 months. This initiative helped Victorians, including people who lost their jobs as a result of COVID-19 to find paid work to support our community. The Working for Victoria Fund (WVF) was designed to connect workers with new opportunities that contributed to Victoria’s ability to respond to the pandemic. Across Anglicare Victoria we provided employment for 88 staff who started with us in October 2020. In Gippsland we employed 10 staff in total which included 6 Financial Wellness staff, who sat under the Financial Counselling team to assist counselling and supporting Victorians struggling with the financial impacts of COVID-19. We also employed 4 Community Support Services (CSS) staff under the Community Justice team offering phone and outreach-based support to vulnerable and isolated individuals and families in Victoria dealing with the impact of COVID-19 and associated challenges. This has been a great experience for the workers themselves but also for the Gippsland community who received support through this initiative. Of particular note is that we now have had 3 of these staff gain longer term employment with Anglicare, and many others gain employment elsewhere. A great outcome all-round!

Bushfire Recovery

Following the devastating summer Bushfires of 2019/20 Anglicare has been very active in all things Bushfire Recovery in East Gippsland. Amongst projects we have supported include increased services through our Financial Counselling Program, the Gippsland Community Legal Service, our TEACHaR program, as well as supporting other initiatives such as the Mallacoota Youth Sanctuary. One great story from the Mallacoota Youth Sanctuary was the support offered to group of young Mallacoota women to travel to Bega NSW and attend a ‘Woodwork for Women’ class. Not only did this activity give women the practical skills of woodwork, it also focused on empowering young women and encouraged socialising. One young woman who attended the class was left homeless after the 2019/20 bushfires and has not had a stable home since. It was on these regular bus trips that a peer group was formed and another woman was in a position to offer her a place to stay long term.

Anglicare Gippsland proudly donated just over \$40,000 to the Mission Rainwater initiative which is providing free supply and installation of water tanks to these bushfire impacted clients.

Parish Partnership Community Development – Cathrine Muston

Parish Partnership Grants

During COVID there was limited opportunity for parishes to connect with their local community in an organised way. However, it was encouraging that so many were thinking ahead to a time when they would be able to play a part in reconnecting locals in positive and community building ways. In particular, the Poowong congregation received grant money to establish a community garden and were able to hold a COVID safe ‘turning of the first sod’ with their local MP and the broader community. This project is one that was initiated from a local young person and has connected locals from across the age spectrum in building something that will be both a gathering point for the community and an excellent use of space in the centre of town as well as a source of beauty and (eventually) food!

The parish of Nar Nar Goon has also started a youth group with the support of a partnership grant, and Leongatha parish has been able to equip two young women in pastoral skills with a grant that provides the payment of fees for a course for Pastoral workers through St Marks. Mallacoota parish were supported with a grant to build an outdoor reflection area and The Abbey have used a partnership grant to offer weekend retreats for Anglicare client families who need a break.

Bridges Out Of Poverty

Bridges Out of Poverty is a framework for understanding the hidden rules of economic class and a way to wake communities up to how poverty can be addressed. Cathrine Muston is now able to facilitate workshops on this program having completed a three day training program. It is expected that this training is relevant both to Anglicare staff, and members of parishes in the Diocese of Gippsland. It provides a way to both understand the barriers that we may experience in working alongside those experiencing poverty, and strategies for helping people to move out of poverty. It will also form a basis for training volunteers in client facing roles.

Get out For Good

With the COVID lockdown, supporting people leaving prison face to face became impossible. However, we were able to provide phone support to a number of participants as well as some open-air COVID safe catch ups.

With the relaxing of restrictions we have resumed face to face meetings in open areas such as cafes and parks with 3 current participants. We support participants by providing a space to talk through how they are travelling post-release and in advocating for them with relevant agencies. Recently we were able to support a participant to access a detox program. Building the trust of participants is difficult but essential and forms the basis of the program.

Being a Dad

Recently we have been given permission to resume the Being a Dad course in Fulham Correctional Centre after more than 12 months. Currently the planning and induction process is underway.

Tim Pedlow

Anglicare – Regional Manager, Gippsland



Mothers Union Report to
Synod 2021

Gradually, it seems, 2021 is beginning to gather momentum. After an "on again off again" process our Summer Camp was finally cancelled because of the uncertainty of COVID. However due to a monetary gift from Anglican Mothers Union Australia another camp for bush fire affected families was held, this time under the leadership of Rev Judith Lake and Rev. Edie Ashley with helpers from the church in Heyfield. This was a successful venture and there is enough money to hopefully hold another camp later in the year!

In November a new tradition was begun as, in attending the Ordination of Rev Belinda Seabrook, I was able to present an Australian Prayer Book to her on behalf of Mothers Union.

Although not going forward into the Priesthood, the Rev. Kate Campbell was Ordained into the Diaconate. At the Bishops suggestion she was also presented with a Prayer Book. The intention of Mothers Union is to continue to foster and encourage our relationship with our clergy.

In March, on Lady Day I was commissioned as Mothers Union President. It was a joyous occasion and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Bishop Richard, Rev Kate Campbell, Rev.

Thelma Langshaw and Jenny MacRobb for all that they did to prepare and facilitate the occasion. As the year continues our branches are beginning to meet together to work within the theme of Recovering Hope and Confidence. Several members have passed away in the last year and branches are finding their membership dwindling. We pray that the Lord will encourage us with new members and a gradual growth in the months ahead.

In June we hold a day which we call June Join in. A chance for us to get together, worship, chat over lunch and listen to a speaker. This year we are delighted to announce that our speaker will be Gerald Mansour the Commissioner for the Elderly. Information will be going out soon to branches but we would like to encourage anyone who would like to come and join us to do so. We meet at St. Aidans, Newborough at 10.30.

Our next event as a Diocese will be on Mary Sumner Day and this will be at Leongatha on August 9th. The day is still in the planning stages and details will be released a little later in the year.

Many of us have become used to using Zoom over the last year. Indeed, what did we do without it! I was able to join with other Diocesan Presidents for Anglican Mothers Union Australia Annual General Meeting.

As part of the Worldwide Mothers Union, Mary Sumner House (MSH) Regional Development Coordinator Jeanette Lawrence facilitated a Zoom Meeting for Zone C, comprising of Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia, Australia, Melanesia, Papua New Guinea Diocesan Representatives, where experiences of the past year were shared, coping strategies discussed and new ways of reaching out to members and beyond were promoted. It is hoped that further Zoom meetings will continue as a way for dioceses to be connected, encouraged and supported.

Throughout the Covid lockdown Midday prayers from MSH have been available on Facebook for members to view and have been a wonderful resource for members worldwide and will continue.

Maryann Ashton
Diocesan President

Report for Synod May 2021 on Bushfire Response and Recovery in East Gippsland

Rev Cathy Turnbull, Missional Deacon for the East (Bushfire Response)

The church's response to those impacted by the 2019/2020 summer bushfires across East Gippsland continues into 2021. It is important that we continue to be a presence among communities across East Gippsland and in doing so continue to walk alongside those who are still feeling the impact of those fires and their destruction.

As Missional Deacon for the East Region my main focus is the church's response to bushfire recovery amongst the more remote communities across East Gippsland as well as journeying pastorally and practically alongside individuals within these communities. Whilst some individuals and families are progressing with their rebuilding of lost homes and farm infrastructure, many are still struggling to rebuild with red tape and a lack of available building materials due to COVID. More complicated individual situations and circumstances mean some are slipping through the gaps entirely, unable to get their lives back to anything like before. Some people who were doing well in 2020 are not doing so well now with the second year following a disaster, for some, being more challenging than the first. Exhaustion is setting in and the long time frame of recovery can begin to weigh heavily upon survivors of such an event as we saw during the 2019/20 summer. The initial momentum has slowed to a steady and at time weary plod.

The easing of COVID restrictions as we move further into the year is making a huge difference with communities now able to gather together and heal each other through story sharing and spending time with others who have a shared experience and understanding. I have spent time this year with communities working out ways in which the church can best support them and as a result have begun a women's support group in Buchan and a monthly morning tea for the Wairewa community. It is hoped that further gatherings can be organised for other communities across the region. These gatherings not only provide a place for healing, but they also help me to reach out to more individuals, listening to their stories and enabling me to be pastorally present to them.

One community I have been working closely with is the Wairewa community. This small farming area was totally devastated by the fires which came through just before midnight destroying about 2/3rds of the homes as well as farm infrastructure including sheds and fencing. Beloved animals were also lost in the fires. The time I have spent with this community has revealed a desire to create a safe space for story-telling and I have been able to facilitate that with the offering of a monthly morning tea where no-one in the community has to do anything to make it happen. I have been able to link in with Catholic Care and they are bringing their coffee cart to provide something a bit more upmarket than the instant coffee usually found in the hall. It has been encouraging to receive such a warm welcome into this community and to spend time listening to their needs as individuals and as a community that desires to pull together. They have an amazing group of volunteers who run the Community Recovery Committee who spend hours working on grant applications, sifting through all the offers of assistance (of which there has been an increase due to COVID restrictions lifting) and in organising events to bring their community together. It was important to offer an opportunity for those community leaders to participate in an event which they have not had to do anything to make happen – hence the monthly morning teas.

It has been a joy to work with fire recovery workers from other churches across the region, including the Baptist, Uniting and Catholic Church, to find ways to better assist those still in need and to collectively and ecumenically represent the love of Christ in all that we do. Individuals notice that the

'churches' are journeying with them and there is a real sense of appreciation that we are working together. The Anglican clergy across the region continue to work with their own communities and Laurie and Heather Baker are also continuing their work in and around Buchan, supporting individuals and the work that I am doing there which is greatly appreciated by myself and others. Edie Ashley continues to provide support through Mother's Unions holidays at The Abbey and is also a huge support to me personally.

Someone recently asked me what is the significance of spiritual care when working with people impacted by disaster? My reply was that when you bring spiritual care into the mix, you are focussing on the whole person, not just their physical and mental wellbeing. You are finding out where that person gets their strength from, what brings them healing and hope for the future. You are seeing the person before you as a broken but beloved human being, precious in the sight of God. You are bringing into the situation a sense and place of belonging: a belonging as a beloved child of God - even when they cannot see that belonging themselves. Spiritual care brings a sense that there is more than simply what someone is currently experiencing. It is care that is felt as the Holy Spirit brings healing and peace. It is humbling when I see the results of such care in the responses I get from people and communities I spend time with, the warmth of the welcome and the trust that is built. The Spirit's presence is in every place and every situation.

Another component of bushfire response and recovery is the writing of a Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan for the Diocese. Part of this plan involves clergy care, as well as the care of lay people who have responsibilities within their parish, following a disaster. This plan covers immediate, medium and long term care and a number of clergy whose parishes were impacted by the bushfires, as well as they themselves being personally impacted, have provided input. I hope this Synod is willing to adopt this part of the plan for future use across the Diocese. The remainder of the plan is still a work in progress and it is hoped will be completed before the next summer season.

I place this report before Synod on the work of Bushfire Response and Recovery across the East Region.

Rev Cathy Turnbull

Anglican Diocese of Gippsland

Gippsland Anglican Retirement Villages

COMMUNITY MANAGER'S REPORT FOR SYNOD – April 2021



The Vision

To provide affordable retirement living in the Gippsland region to the Elderly, including pensioners, veterans, and war widows.

To promote the benevolent relief of the Elderly in need, including those suffering from poverty, financial hardship or marginalisation or whose needs are otherwise significant enough to arouse community compassion.

Background

The Anglican Trusts Corporation of the Diocese of Gippsland manage two Diocesan Retirement Villages, Clifton Waters Village, Wy Yung and Botterill Court, Morwell.

The Management of these villages transferred back to the Diocese from under the management of Gippsland Anglican Retirement Living Limited, effective 1st July 2020.

Sue Paterson was appointed to the role of part time Community Manager, to run the operations of both villages, commencing 1st July 2020.

Staff

Mrs Sue Paterson – *Community Manager*

Mrs Rochelle Rodwell – *Administration and Wellbeing Officer*

Mr Luigi Bordon – *Caretaker*

My Jean-Yves Loulier – *Casual P/T Maintenance Officer*

Mission Outcomes

In line with our vision for affordable living in retirement, we have been pursuing a number of cost saving opportunities on behalf of residents.

We accepted an approach in October by AUSPRO Group to complete a program of upgrading old inefficient electric Hot Water Services to new Heat Pump Technology

The program under the Victorian Government Energy Saving Schemes was provided at no cost through Government subsidies. (Small Scale Technology Certificates and Victorian Energy Efficiency Target Discount). An audit of all the HWS units in Clifton Waters Village determined:

- 88 properties
 - 18 Units have Solar HWS – not eligible
 - 6 Units have had replacement HWS inside 3 Years – not eligible
 - 64 Units eligible for replacement. The average age of these HWS is 11 years. `

We conducted our own research into both the program and these Hot Water Units and, satisfied that the program was suitable for the village and would offer real savings to residents and Management on electricity bills, the project was completed in January. Estimates are 30% reduction on the cost of water heating.

The Heat Pump Units were initially offered with a 2 year Warranty. A 5 year Parts and Labour Warranty was negotiated. The units are valued at approx. \$4000 each. There was no cost to either residents or the Village.

Together with the Hot Water Service upgrades, AUSPRO installed

- *Door Seals (draft stoppers)*
- *Fan Seals (to prevent summer heat entering ILU from ceiling cavity through exhaust fan vents)*
- *Shower Roses (water saving shower heads)*

The same program is being provided for the residents of Botterill Court in Morwell.

We have also provided information and support to residents to claim their \$250 Power Saving Bonus offered through Victorian Energy Compare (DELWP).

We hope that every resident will gain some benefit from these Victorian Government initiatives.

Given the well-publicised shortage of affordable accommodation, we have been reviewing the suitability of a number of units for renovation. One unit has recently been renovated at a total cost of \$6681, after being vacant for approximately 6 years. It is now rented at \$200/week. This equates to a 34 week payback period. 82 of our 88 units are now either occupied or soon to be, with one currently under assessment for renovation.

Guest Suite occupancy has exceeded expectations through March. It is fabulous to have a high usage of guest suites reflecting visitation to residents by family and friends after Covid restrictions.

In December 2020 we were advised by the Mens' Shed Organisation of a grants program for support of Mens' Sheds during Covid. An application was submitted for \$2300 through the Department of Health and Human Services. Our application was approved and those funds are being used to provide a functioning sink with drainage in the "tea room" corner of the CWV Mens' Shed.

Hazard Free Village

The following activities have been done to ensure a safe environment around the Villages

- *Ongoing sewer repairs. CWV has predominantly old terracotta sewer pipes that require a high level of maintenance and progressive replacement/sleeving with PVC pipes.*
- *Concrete curb and channel repair November 2020 after major sewer works.*
- *New concrete path from Village pedestrian gate to bitumen, over the gutter, to provide a safe path for people wanting to walk out of the village. Beyond the gate was uneven grass and an awkward step over the gutter. Many pedestrians walked through the driveway entry. Completed Nov 2020. (photos attached)*
- *Large willow trees overhanging driveway near the workshop have been reduced by professional arborist. We have an ongoing program to reduce the size of large trees that have potential to damage gutters, impede vehicle access and disturb underground services.*

Resident Statistics

OCCUPANCY STATISTICS @ 15 April 2021

After a relatively quiet time during Covid, interest in the Village has picked up dramatically over the last two months.

CWV – Currently 88.6% occupancy. This will increase to 92% when 3 current applications are finalised.

Botterill Court – 86% occupancy. Stockdale & Leggo have an applicant in progress for the vacant unit which will return 100% occupancy.

		Management		Avg. Value Est. Rent	Grading							Occupancy				
		Common Property			Band 1		Band 2			Band 3		NB - Lag when Vacating				
		Guest Suite			120,000.00	156,000.00	160,000.00	170,000.00	195,000.00	207,000.00	240,000.00					
		Demolition			150.00	175.00	205.00	230.00	255.00	280.00	310.00					
		Vacant Land														
		Total	1 Bed	2 Bed	E		E+	B	B+	S	S+	G	Single	Couples		
CWW Occ: 88.6%	Display	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
	Vacant Possession	1	1	0	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
	Renovation	6	5	1	-	-	4	1	1	-	-	-	-	-		
	Application	3	2	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	3	-		
	Rent	27	22	5	5	-	11	5	6	-	-	-	24	3		
	Lease	51	30	21	-	4	22	7	7	5	6	39	12			
BC Occ: 85.7%	Display	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
	Vacant Possession	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
	Renovation	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
	Application	1	1	0	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-		
	Rent	2	2	0	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-		
	Lease	4	4	0	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	4	-			
88.4%					95	67	28	6	5	45	13	14	6	6	73	15

- *CWV Residents Monthly Forum*
- *Croquet on Heritage Green on Sundays*
- *Library is open weekdays with Covid Safe book return*
- *Men's Shed*
- *Casual Sing-a-long in the Hall – 1st Monday of the month*
- *Tai Chi weekly*
- *Bingo*
- *Regular outings*

9th January 2020 - Wedding



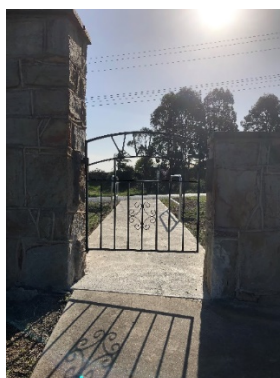
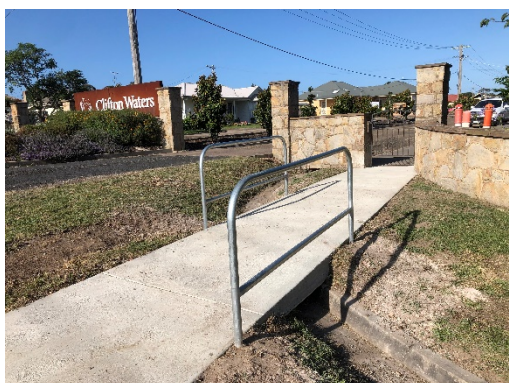
The New Lounge Deck



Front Entry at Clifton Waters Village



Photos of new front Pedestrian Path at Clifton Waters Village





Gippsland Grammar

A PASSION FOR EXCELLENCE

SINCE 1924

2021 SYNOD Report

The turning over of the calendar to see 2021 was something that many people had waited for and 2021 commenced strongly for Gippsland Grammar. While we live in a re-organised world, it has been refreshing to re-connect and confirm what matters to us all – our community.

The new year heralded the results of our Class of 2020 which were outstanding, and our students were among some of Victoria's highest achieving Year 12 students in their VCE studies. An amazing 23 per cent of the School's Year 12 students achieved an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) above 90, which places them in the top 10 per cent of students in the State. And 55 per cent of students achieved an ATAR above 80, placing them in the top 20 per cent. Gippsland Grammar's Dux for 2020 is Hannah Husudo with an ATAR of 99.65.

Students joining Hannah as the School's highest VCE achievers are Rebecca Strauss (Sale) with an ATAR of 98.35; Lauren Richards (Rosedale) with an ATAR of 97.6; Lemoni Japhary (Sale) with an ATAR of 96.55; Jasmine Spencer (Forge Creek) with an ATAR of 96.40; Min Min Bao (Bairnsdale) with an ATAR of 96.35 Alice Beyer (Lakes Entrance) with an ATAR of 96.3; Emma Murphy (Sale) with an ATAR of 96.25; Basma Qadeer (Sale) with an ATAR of 95.75 and Faith O'Connor (Sale) with an ATAR of 95.25.

Rebecca Strauss also achieved a perfect study score of 50 in Legal Studies.

The entire School Community was thrilled to celebrate the success of all Year 12 students from those who have had success with apprenticeships, employment and now VCE results.

"Despite so much change and uncertainty, the results that were achieved reflect the care, support, dedication, teamwork of our whole community," Mrs Harper said. "I have shared that although we have been apart, we have come together, and these results are testimony to the hard work of our students and staff. There are many compelling stories of success from a Dux who achieved a well-deserved 99.65 to 23 per cent of our students scoring above 90.

The results of our students reflect the work of our wonderful teachers who work tirelessly with our students across all year levels. A Gippsland Grammar education is so much more

than an ATAR with the true reflection of success being demonstrated by the character of all of our students.

There were 13 students who secured apprenticeships and traineeships this year through the School's VCAL program. The School's VCAL program allows our students to develop direction for their chosen vocation and we are incredibly proud that the VCAL program helped so many of our students find their way into their chosen profession this year.

While the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority's (VCAA) Consideration of Educational Disadvantage was available to Unit 3/4 students in 2020, all students were supported by Gippsland Grammar's Learn@Home program which was implemented during the COVID-19 remote learning periods.

Teachers were able to work with students online every day and manage key assessment tasks to prepare the students for their external exams. We are especially pleased that despite these challenges, many students received early offers of university placements throughout Australia.

It is important to reflect on the capacity of Gippsland Grammar to offer such a high-quality remote learning program that saw the highest VCE results that the School had achieved.

Learn@Home

Like all school across Australia, Gippsland Grammar was forced to quickly implement a remote learning program in March 2020 as a result of the fast-developing COVID-19 pandemic. With the Gippsland community still reeling from the summer's devastating bushfires, the School Community was forced to draw on its resilience as it moved to a remote learning program at the same time as welcoming its new Principal. Mrs Leisa Harper had a mere 24 hours between arriving in her new state and at her new home and walking through the front gates of Gippsland Grammar as the new Principal. It also happened to be the same day Gippsland Grammar launched 'Learn@Home'.

Mrs Harper immediately took the reins of the School's COVID-19 Response Team, which comprised of the School's Leadership and Marketing teams and was then meeting multiple times a day. While Gippsland Grammar already had the systems and capabilities to launch Learn@Home there were still a number of hurdles to overcome.

Due to the rapidly evolving nature of the situation, opportunity for community consultation was limited but deciding to pre-emptively launch Learn@Home a few days before the program became compulsory across Victoria allowed the School valuable time to tweak the program and iron out any issues before remote learning became mandatory. So, while many other Schools were grappling with this new way of teaching and learning, Gippsland Grammar staff and students found themselves ahead of the curve.

Throughout Learn@Home, Gippsland Grammar remained steadfast in its twin goals of ensuring a streamlined educational offering for its students and to ensure the safety of the School Community. With this in mind, it's clear Learn@Home has been an unprecedented success: feedback from families has been overwhelmingly positive and Mrs Harper has been contacted by many contemporaries interested to learn from the finer details of the program. Perhaps the best measure is that during this time Gippsland Grammar increased enrolments, which meant it was the first time Gippsland Grammar had students enrol yet not physically be seen in person until months after their 'first day'!

While it is hoped the days of remote learning are behind us all, we are cognisant that we need to keep evolving as the challenges of COVID are ever-present in our world. Mrs Harper has shared that COVID-19 has changed the future of education permanently, in some cases for the better. Learning remotely actually worked better for some students who were able to concentrate better without the usual distractions of a classroom as well as our vast network of students hailing from the Latrobe Valley to the Victoria/NSW border, found it more convenient to be able to attend events such as parent/teacher interviews via Zoom, rather than in person.

It has been important to reflect on how this period of extreme change presented many challenges. However, with hindsight it's clear that Gippsland Grammar didn't just survive its year of remote learning, it thrived.

Staff Commencement of 2021

In recognition of the challenges of 2020, Mrs Leisa Harper had organised for all staff to attend The Abbey on Raymond Island on 27 January 2021 for a Staff Welcome and Wellbeing Day. The day commenced with staff from all three campuses travelling to Raymond Island on buses and there was much excitement in the air. Who said, the children have all the fun?

Mr Nicky Moffatt, a local Gunaikurai man held a smoking ceremony for the staff and everyone walked through the smoke to welcome the Gippsland Grammar staff to Raymond Island as well as to signify new beginnings. The welcome continued with Rev Edie Ashley welcoming everyone to The Abbey and explaining the history of The Abbey as well as the environmental significance. Bishop Richard Treloar added his welcome and blessing on the staff for a productive and fulfilling 2021. He recounted the long association of the church with Gippsland Grammar and in particular The Abbey and the School. Bishop Treloar gave a recount of Miss Lorna Sparrow, the Principal of St Anne's and her interest in using The Abbey as part of the School's educational program. He told the staff how Miss Sparrow had caught the train to Bairnsdale and then ridden her bike to Paynesville, where she caught a punt across to the island in the early 1920's. The significance of the day was not lost on the staff as it had been the first opportunity for Mrs Leisa Harper, Gippsland Grammar's Principal to meet the entire staff in person. Mrs Harper made comment to Bishop Treloar that not unlike Miss Sparrow, that she shared the desire for the School and The Abbey to collaborate. Although she did concede to feeling guilty that she hadn't made the same trip Miss Sparrow had, but rather had driven to Raymond Island in her car. The day had great spiritual significance for the staff as they enjoyed a tour of the Island by Rev Edie where history, geography, spiritual and indigenous knowledge was shared. The staff also participated in a yoga session which connected them to the space and one another which was followed by a period of time for their own self-discovery or meditation. The event has been talked about most positively since the beginning of the year.

Student Empowerment

The collaboration and connection for The Abbey and the Gippsland Grammar School goes beyond just visiting. The School has made the commitment to mow The Abbey and provide labour for ongoing projects as well as capital improvements. The 2021 Year 12 students have organised a Family Fun Day on 30 May. The families of Gippsland Grammar have been invited to a working bee at The Abbey where the creation of a garden and planting of hundreds of trees will take place as well as enjoying the fellowship of each other's company with a sausage sizzle lunch. The Seniors feel a strong connection with the environment and

the Gunaikurnai people and want to reinforce the importance of these connections with Gippsland Grammar. The Chaplaincy Committee is leading the writing of the Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) and have commenced plans for recognition of the indigenous Australians on Reconciliation Day on 31 May 2021 across all three campuses.

The Senior students have also reinvigorated the recycling and environmental awareness at the Garnsey campus through guest speakers and positive proactive work with the remainder of the School community. The ability for our students to lead and improve their community grows with their own capacity to share their skills with younger students. It has been delightful to watch the Prefects and School Captains spend time with the younger students through buddy programs as well as leadership presentations.

Rowing Success

Our Rowing students have had a wonderful season which culminated at the Australian Rowing Championships in Tasmania in March. Year 11 students Lindsay Hamilton and Billy Osborne narrowly beat Redlands and Ballarat Grammar to finish in first place in the under-19 double scull final. Lindsay and Billy were two of 13 Gippsland Grammar Rowers who competed in the Championships at Lake Barrington. The final medal tally for the Australian Championships was 1 Gold and 2 Silver medals with Lindsay and Billy being named in the Australian Team.

Gippsland Grammar came second overall at the Victorian Rowing Championships with 7 Gold, 8 Silver and 2 Bronze at Lake Nagambie. The School is enormously proud of the dedication and efforts of our rowing community and recognition must go to our Head of Rowing, Mr Nick Bartlett.

Highlights

A significant milestone for 2020 was the commencement of the Visual Arts and Technology building at the Garnsey Campus. It is an innovative design that will see our students at the forefront of both technical and practical workspaces for art, woodwork, visual design, media and graphics. It is a contemporary learning space that our students will thrive in.

Another highlight of 2021 was the official opening of the Ashton Court at the Garnsey campus. This refurbishment has been made possible by a generous donation from the Ashton family. Old Scholar Stephen Ashton was DUX of Gippsland Grammar in 1971 and went on to have a successful architectural career. Unfortunately, Stephen worked on many sites with asbestos and went on to develop mesothelioma and passed away as a result of this disease in 2016. Stephen's mother Jean and his widow Rosemary, along with Stephen and Rosemary's two daughters, have made a \$100,000 donation to Gippsland Grammar which has been put towards the redevelopment of an outdoor area where Year 7 and 8 students gather and often play down-ball. This redevelopment of this space will see the area renamed Ashton Court and it will feature a memorial tree with a plaque remembering Stephen's time at the school.

Gippsland Grammar are proud and grateful for our connection with our community through the Gunaikurnai, our Anglican faith, our School and our broader Gippsland community. We seek to grow in connectedness to one another for the benefit and growth of God's kingdom:

But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Matthew 6: 33.

Leisa Harper | Principal

SAFE MINISTRY AUTHORITY REPORT

Despite COVID we have made excellent progress towards a fully Safe Ministry Compliant Diocese. Most of this has happened because of the ongoing and wonderful support of Parish Safe Ministry Officers (SMO's) who know and make contact with their own parishioners. We are greatly indebted to our SMO's and are most grateful for their ongoing ministry.

The Safe Ministry Authority (SMA) has now been meeting monthly for over two years – tasked with the job of establishing Diocesan screening, compliance and training procedures. Last year we welcomed a new member – Alice Weatherall from the Parish of Moe / Newborough. Alice brings enthusiasm and a keen eye for detail. She is also a SMO herself and can feedback very practical issues. Welcome Alice.

Workshops

We offer three 'types' of training courses:

1. *Face-to-face workshops (NCCA)*
While we were unable to run these workshops during the COVID lockdown, courses have now re-commenced. See website for dates and venues – and booking.
2. *Online courses (SMR)*
These can be accessed through the website.
3. *On site workshops can be organised for small groups in Parishes. Contact a member of the SMA to organise.*

Website

The Diocesan Website (resources – Safe Ministry) has information about everything you need to know and do re compliance. Many thanks to the Rev David Perryman who maintains this site and ensures that the most up to date information can be found here re safe ministry.

Role Descriptions & Risk Management

There are now generic role descriptions (for volunteer positions in Parishes) on the diocesan website (under Safe Ministry). These are to assist Parishes and can be altered to suit local situations. Please feel free to adapt these to your needs. Having role descriptions for key positions in a Parish is essential for transparency and good governance. There are also risk management documents available on the website.

Parish Safe Ministry Officers

We have held zoom support meetings for PSO's in each Deanery – and one face-to-face workshop in the Southern Deanery. We are very much aware that the SMO can be difficult. Cheryl Russell has organized luncheon meetings for SMOs in each Deanery – partly to thank SMO's but also to discuss issues. Unfortunately, the planned meetings in the Southern and Eastern Deaneries had to be cancelled due to COVID. These will be rescheduled later this year.

Audit

All Dioceses who adopted the 'Children's Canon' are to be audited on a three-year cycle. The Gippsland Diocese was selected for the first round of audits. Hence we started working eighteen months ago with a legal firm – Prolegis – in Sydney. The audit had two parts. Firstly, it looked at all our policies and procedures around safe ministry. This was a very helpful process for us because it became clear that while we have really good procedures they are not always written down. We now have a

Safe Ministry Policy (on the website) and the Diocesan Corporation has been working to document and amend policies and procedures.

The second part of the Audit concerned 'material compliance'. That is, a check of our Safe Ministry Online (SMO) files between given dates.

Just when we thought we had arrived at the final Audit draft for General Synod we were informed that there were to be changes made to the scope of the Audit and the whole process was 'put on hold'. We are yet to hear what happens next.

Volunteer Church Worker

This is a new category of people who may or may not be associated with a Parish but who volunteer to assist – not manage – a Diocesan or Parish initiative. For example – Op Shop volunteers, people who assist with community meals etc. To be Safe Church compliant these people need:

1. A Working With Children Check
2. A Police Check
3. A 'sign off' on a special Volunteer 'Code Of Conduct' which is shorter than the check used for 'Church Workers'. This document can be found on the Diocesan website.

Volunteer information is to be uploaded into Safety Management Online (SMO)

Parish Council

Applications for Parish Council now require Safe Ministry compliance. The application form changed at the end of last year. Non compliant people cannot be members of a Parish Council.

Parish Councils are reminded to have an ongoing 'Safe Ministry' item on the agenda of all their meetings. This is to ensure that 'safe ministry' continues to inform Parish Council decisions.

Postscript

When we set out on this safe ministry journey we knew that we needed to change our church culture and practice to ensure the safety and wellbeing of vulnerable people in our Parishes. We have made great headway where people understand why our culture needs to change and what is at stake. To date well over 1,000 people – clergy and laity – are listed on our online safety management system (SMOnline) – and hundreds of people are fully compliant. There are legal and insurance reasons for us achieving full compliance – let alone our duty as Christians. Hence, our work continues and with everyone's assistance we can achieve a fully compliant Diocese.

Val Jones – on behalf of members of the Diocesan Safe Ministry Authority: The Revd Jenny Wicking (Deputy Chair), Mrs Cheryl Russell, Mrs Alice Weatherall Revd David Perryman, Richard Connelly, Archdeacon Brenda Burney



St Paul's Anglican Cathedral Sale



St Paul's Cathedral continues to thrive, with vibrant worship of varied styles including traditional communion services on Sunday, and contemplative and healing services, and small groups meeting for prayer, study, worship, or planning.

We are exploring setting up a Music foundation to support and nurture our music ministry.

We continue to offer nourishing prayer and meditation online each day, and workshops and quiet times of prayer online and face to face. We have offered quiet afternoons of prayer monthly online and in person as well as a Collect Writing Workshop with Julie Perrin.

Maintenance: We have had some major issues with the cathedral plant, including a large crack, and the need for repointing the bricks. Thankfully, the repair of the crack will be covered by insurance. Thank you to all who have contributed to the repairs.

We have hosted Mothers' Union Lady Day Service, and the Ordinations of Belinda Seabrook and Kate Campbell. We have celebrated The Chrism Eucharist with renewal of vows and blessing of oils, and provided hospitality to many of these events as well as funerals, and a monthly Sunday Lunch.

We have experienced a wonderful book fair which was a real community building experience for the cathedral with the wider community.

We have collaborated with other churches in: Good Friday Walk of the Cross, a Service of Shadows, laying wreaths for Anzac Day, special services for bushfire recovery, rain, and for major world events.

Our primary outreach to the community currently is through food and hospitality, and participation in council food security, and living well during covid committees; volunteering at Wellington Food Bank; work with Gippsland Grammar School; and through providing worship and a space for prayer. Many members of the cathedral community are very active in service clubs in Sale.

We are part of a planning committee exploring the establishment of a '123 hub', to keep the spirit of Cafe 123 alive. It will be a community hub centred around a cafe. We are meeting with Monday Tucker, Toy Library, CWA, Freemasons, Lions Club, Neighbourhood Houses, and Wellington Shire Council, and have put together a prospectus to share with potential benefactors.

We are planning to run an EfM group, as well as more ongoing bible studies, workshops and creative activities this year.

The Cathedral Chapter at its planning day, chose these words as our overarching goals for this year: **care, connect, nourish**. These guide our work this year.

As we move beyond Covid19, our priorities are:

1. *Excellent Liturgy and diversity of Worship Services including enhancing our ministry of music*
2. *Building up Small Groups and Pastoral Care*
3. *Outreach*

It is a privilege to serve the Diocese through special services, and online talks and workshops.

Dean Susanna

REPORT TO SYNOD OF THE 2020 SCHOOL YEAR

Despite the unusual difficulties of 2020, it was a highly successful year for St Paul's. The School has experienced significant growth in enrolments recently, increasing by over 8% since the 2019 census. St Paul's has 1,515 students enrolled from Early Learning to Year 12, with 442 at the Traralgon campus and 1,073 at the Warragul campus. The School is a major employer in Gippsland, with over 250 permanent and contracted staff.

2020 VCE Results

The award for 2020 Dux of St Paul's Anglican Grammar School was shared by twins Connor Ibbotson and Luke Ibbotson, both receiving an ATAR of 99.6. Close behind were Sage Hyde of Warragul on 99.55, Tatum Cotterrell of Traralgon on 99.25, Jesse Buhagiar of Traralgon on 98.9 and Kieran Lewis of Arawata on 98.9.

The School is incredibly proud of the way our class of 2020 managed the complexities of a COVID year. Their focused approach to their studies never wavered and they managed online learning, internet reliability issues and personal circumstances with maturity, good humour and a distinct care for one another throughout the entire year.

The median ATAR was 87, the highest result St Paul's has achieved. In all, 23% of students achieved an ATAR over 95 and 41% of students achieved an ATAR over 90. The percentage of students who achieved an ATAR of over 80 was an outstanding 67%, placing them in the top 20% of the state. 97% of students achieved an ATAR over 50. The fact that St Paul's does not stream students out of Year 12, or offer a VCAL stream, means that these results are truly indicative of the quality environment of learning and teaching that St Paul's offers.

The average study score was 34.4 and two students received a study score of 50; Luke Ibbotson achieved this in Chemistry and Jessica Lo in Further Mathematics.

Governance

The Board of St Paul's continues to ensure its Directors are trained and provided with continuing educational opportunities to meet their obligations as Directors as independent school governance continues to increase in complexity.

Directors review their own performance annually, as well as our governance processes, through continual reflection and assessment. During the year, the Board reviewed its former Governance Guidelines and adopted a new Board Charter reflecting our current Governance requirements and practices.

Spiritual Life of the School

Spiritual life of the School reflects our Anglican heritage and is embedded and expressed in our everyday life. The values and principles which drive our decision-making and the practices which make up much of our everyday practice in the context of teaching all find their foundation in a Christian model. Across all campuses there are opportunities for staff and students to take part in weekly prayer

and devotions including prayer at staff briefings and weekly devotionals alongside regular assemblies and chapel services. Although in 2020, with the constraints of COVID restrictions and periods of remote learning these practices, had to be significantly reinvented.

Our chapels for much of the year became pre-recorded videos which students viewed at home. This required some rapid upskilling of our chaplains' media skills but came with the unexpected benefit of allowing whole families to view our chapel services. As successful as these videos were, it was a great relief to return to face-to-face chapels towards the end of the year. We were most grateful to have retained the services of Lynton Allan, initially as a long-service-leave replacement in Semester 1 then in a part-time pastoral capacity for Semester 2. Lynton's ability to use art and storytelling to encourage and challenge people was readily adapted to the online format when required.

The Secondary School Chapel Captains launched a lunchtime Christian discussion group at the start of the year with support from the Mustard Schools organisation. While it did not continue formally during remote learning, the group was a great success as a student-led initiative. The Chapel Captains were also actively involved in some of the online chapels.

Senior Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel Lowe, took long service leave in Semester 1 and was ably replaced by Mr Lynton Allan. Mr Glen Treble continued in his chaplaincy role in Traralgon but also took on the leadership of the chaplaincy team during this time. Ms Deana Board continued her faithful service as Chaplain at Warragul Junior School. We continue to build connections with the Diocese through engagement with local ministers – particularly the Reverend Tracy Lauersen at Warragul Anglican Church and Cannon Jeff Richardson at Traralgon Anglican Church. The Bishop was also able to visit a number of times in person and via Zoom and continues to be a strong support to the School.

School Leadership

The School Executive team remained unchanged during 2020: Cameron Herbert (Principal), Donna Sweeney (Deputy Principal), Laura Butterworth (Head of Secondary School, Warragul Campus), Brad McCabe (Head of Secondary School, Traralgon Campus), Tracey King (Head of Junior School, Traralgon Campus), Rowan van Raay (Head of Junior School, Warragul Campus), Leah Young (Business Manager), Annie Wilson (Human Resources Manager), Caroline Jewell (Marketing Manager), Daniel Lowe (Senior Chaplain), David Cope (Director of Information Services) and Ashley Kershaw (Head of Development). They were particularly strong in their leadership during 2020, allowing St Paul's Anglican Grammar School to flourish in what was a potentially challenging and highly unpredictable year.

Cameron Herbert

PRINCIPAL

Wisdom | Integrity | Compassion | Respect



Report to Synod May 2021

For the period October 2020 – March 2021

Vision

The Abbey is a Christian Centre for Spirituality and the Environment and a place of hospitality, pilgrimage, reflection, healing, learning and recreation.

Mission

To encourage people to live into the fullness of human life by providing space with sign posts and pathways towards the voice of the Spirit and the wonder of creation.

Introductory Comments

The Abbey was closed for most of 2020, as reported in the previous Abbey Report to Synod in November 2020.

From late October 2020 things were a touch more relaxed and we were able to host small 'outside gatherings' within COVID restrictions and inside meetings and gatherings with masks and specified social distancing.

Commencing 18th October the 'bathroom renovation team' – Ian Maxfield, Russell Smith and Mark Biggs were at work, and over the next months the bathroom in West Cottage was completely transformed! Thanks Ian, Russell and Mark.

The Regular Abbey Feast was held by Zoom on October 31, 2020. Thanks to Ann Miller who planned and organised this event, Bishop Richard who hosted the gathering and those who 'came along' to enjoy the occasion! The Dispersed Community gathered on Zoom, Abbey Chapter Meetings were held on Zoom... and as with so many others, we joined the 'World of Zoom'.

Opening Up

By mid-November 2020 we were able to open the Motel Style Units for personal family bookings and individual retreats only. With interstate and overseas travel out of bounds Paynesville and Raymond Island has experienced an increase in visitors and overnight guests – and The Abbey has shared the benefits of this trend.

Unfortunately, due to COVID restrictions, we were still not able to provide hospitality to larger, 'non-family unit' gatherings. The large Melbourne-based church groups who have traditionally come to The Abbey over the Christmas /New Year period were unable to make their annual pilgrimage. Unfortunately, a number of smaller groups also had to cancel due to the unpredictability of the time or specific COVID travel restriction on the date they were due to arrive.

Following the 2019 2020 Bushfires The Abbey was pleased to receive a grant from Anglican Mothers Union Australia (AMUA) to provide holidays for fire-impacted families. The first 'Families Week' at The Abbey was held in late January 2021, with David and Deb Chambers catering and Judith Lake as Chaplain. It was the first 'Abbey Program Activity' that we had been able to schedule for over 12 months. (This AMUA grant provides for another 2 *Families Weeks*, the second one being in progress as I write this report, and the third scheduled for 18-20 June 2021.)

The Abbey Dispersed Community

The Abbey Dispersed Community has been 'in touch' via Zoom over the last months. The first face to face meeting is scheduled for 24 April - next week as I write this report. There is nothing further to report at this stage.

New Initiatives

Regular Eucharist – 12 noon in The Abbey Chapel. All welcome! Come for one week or every week.

'Family Discounts' for The Gippsland Diocesan Family and the Gippsland Grammar Family

The Abbey is pleased to be able to offer a 10% discount to 'family members' when accommodation bookings are made directly with The Abbey Administration Officer, Anna Esdaile, admin@theabbey.org.au or by phone 03 5156 6580. Office Hours: 8.30am-3.00pm Monday to Friday. Please note The Abbey 2-night minimum booking policy applies.

The Abbey Chapter is also exploring some exciting collaborative possibilities:

with Gippsland Grammar:

Over the last twelve months we have been working with Grammar to explore how Grammar and The Abbey might work together in partnership to the mutual benefit of both The Abbey and The School.

During first term 2021 the Grammar staff gathers at The Abbey for their welcome back to term day, and various school grades and years have used The Abbey for their different activities.

Grammar has also made their contribution to The Abbey through on-site grounds maintenance and the promise of a planting working bee to help establish the new bird garden just outside the reception Centre.

with families: through Mothers Union and Anglicare

In 2012 with support from the Gippsland Diocese Mothers Union the MU Family Respite was 'born'. As guests of MU, families were invited to The Abbey for a few days holiday during the September School Holidays. Every year since 2012 (excluding last year) Thelma with Lauren and Kaycie have welcomed, encouraged and cared for many Gippsland families who have come to The Abbey to enjoy the MU Family Respite. Thank you to Gippsland Diocesan Mothers Union and thank you to Thelma, Lauren and Kaycie.

Building on the insights we have gained from working with the MU Family Respite over the years, The Abbey has been offered a small grant under the Parish Partnerships Program to explore how we might extend and reframe the MU Respite concept to meet the needs of families engaged with Anglicare. Its early days yet!

with the Living Well Centre for Christian Spirituality Inc.

This is a very new possibility. The Abbey Chapter and the Directors of the Living Well Centre have just agreed to commence a conversation to explore a partnership between The Abbey and the Living Well Centre.

Creation Care and Conservation

Care for the plantings continues as an ongoing responsibility, but I am pleased to say 'the children' are doing well!

In late December we were notified that Anglican Earthcare Gippsland had been successful in gaining a grant through East Gippsland Water to complete the revegetation along the First Parade side of the property. This will be another significant project commencing at the end of May, with support from Gippsland Grammar volunteer working bee.

The Abbey is an active member of the local Raymond Island Landcare Group, and is represented on a newly formed association – Koala Island Foundation Inc. (KIFI) -

KIFI was formed (during 2020) to respond to the growing number of tourists visiting Raymond Island. It is a small group with representatives from the Paynesville Business and Tourism Association, Koalas of Raymond Island, Raymond Island Landcare, and The Abbey.

KIFI is working with concerned conservation groups from Melbourne and further afield. The Abbey is pleased to be called upon to offer accommodation to environmental volunteers when they visit Raymond Island to assist with plantings or hold koala information gatherings.

The Abbey is also represented on the Management Committee of the East Gippsland Conservation Management Network.

Anglican Earthcare Gippsland Inc

Anglican Earthcare Gippsland Inc was established as a Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) Organisation to work in partnership with The Abbey, a Centre for Spirituality and the Environment, and to 'partner and network with other groups and individuals seeking to care for and live in harmony with the natural environment'.

Anglican Earthcare Gippsland Inc is listed on the Government Register of Environmental Organisations. Donations over made through AEG Inc Public Gift Fund, can be claimed as a tax deduction

The Abbey is most appreciative of the contribution of made by Anglican Earthcare Gippsland, and those who give generously to the work of The Abbey. For more information on Anglican Earthcare Gippsland Inc please contact Edie Ashley, Secretary AEG Inc, email edieashley@bigpond.com.

Site development

The Abbey Chapter is currently reviewing the proposed development plan and is in conversation with the Local Planners. Over the past year The Chapter has given significant attention to managing Fire risk on the site. We are well advanced with the first stage upgrade.

Plans are well advanced to paint the Chapel (and hopefully Illawarra, the building next to The Chapel.)

Governance

The Abbey Chapter has met on a regular basis to review the work of The Abbey and to consider future needs and direction. I register my thanks to The Abbey Chapter for their support and diligence over the past year.

Eddie Ashley I Abbey Priest
Prepared on behalf of The Abbey Chapter. April 2021

The Abbey Program 2021

JULY	Winter Space	Monday 12- Friday 16 July	The time is yours! Rug up, withdraw a bit and take some space, make time to rest, and draw near to God .. share Morning prayer in the Chapel, Eucharist later afternoon. 2 day option or 5 day option .. Raymond island walks, beach, garden spots in which to potter, koalas, kangaroos and echidnas.. as usual! ...
	The Abbey FEAST	12 noon Saturday 24 July	Under Kath Grandy's capable hand the Parish of Lakes Entrance /Metung will be our Chefs this year. Come with friends to enjoy.
AUGUST	Diocesan Retreat	27-28 August	Come on retreat in the beauty of The Abbey, in the company of friends. Bishop Richard will be our Retreat Leader this year.
SEPTEMBER			
	Youth Weekend	Friday 10 September - Sunday 12	A special time for youth and young adults at The Abbey – a time of fun and relaxation, Time to talk, sing and make music, walk, and enjoy the beauty of Raymond island, time to pray and explore spiritual things together
	Island Pilgrimage	Monday 13 September – Friday 17	Stay in The Abbey's comfortable accommodation. Allow each day to take you along the pilgrimage route... to the places that speak of the Island's Aboriginal past and present, to the remnants of early white settlement, to the island's diverse flora and fauna zones. Pray in the heritage Abbey Chapel of St Barnabas. Come on the Raymond Island Pilgrimage.
	MU Family Respite	Monday 28 Sep – Thursday 1 October	A holiday at The Abbey guests of Mothers Union. For families in need of respite.. Interested? Or do you know of a family who would appreciate for time out. Phone Thelma Langshaw 0428 458 367
OCTOBER	Marking the Season.	Sat/Sun 2 -3 October	Bringing to conclusion the season of creation. Details to come!
NOVEMBER	Celebrating 'Saints of The Abbey'	12 noon Monday 1 st November	For the last 92 years school children, families, young people, clergy and lay leaders have been holidaying, camping, and worshipping at The Abbey (A'Beckett Park), and for 1000s of years before that the Gunaikurnai people of the Tatungalung tribe walked this land. On All Saints Day, 1 November 2021, in a Eucharist celebrated by Bishop Richard, we will acknowledge the Gunaikurnai people, the original custodians of this land and remember and name the many 'People of The Abbey (A'Beckett Park)' for whom The Abbey has been part of their life journey. Some will be named, all will be remembered. You are welcome!
	June's Weekend	Fri 19 /Sat 20 November	Byzantium, Constantinople, Istanbul: Exploring history and faith.
	Ecumenical Advent Conversation	Friday 25 November	Co-hosted by the Anglican and Catholic Bishops of Gippsland, the Advent Conversation will present a study of Luke's Gospel led by visiting theologians from both the Anglican and Catholic traditions.



ANGLICAN DIOCESE of GIPPSLAND

Youth and Young Adults Movement

REPORT TO SYNOD MAY 2021

Report in summary, prepared by Alisha

Moyle.(Current as of 16th April 2021)

SYNOD MOTION 2019

Emerging from the 2018 Young Adults Retreat at The Abbey, Raymond Island was an important newministry for the ‘next generation’ of Anglicans in our Diocese. At the heart of the gathering was the awareness of the need to continue the vision and journey outwards until meeting again for another retreat at The Abbey.

(Attachment 1: Vision)

Hence, the motion moved at our Annual Synod in 2019 to enact and enable such a ministry under Diocesan accountability by way of Bishop-in-Council.

EX OFFICIO REPRESENTATION TO BISHOP IN COUNCIL

In order to establish a Youth/Young Adults Representative to Bishop in Council, a letter of request and letter in support (Rev. Tracy Lauersen) was submitted and subsequently approved. The purpose of this was to (in summary):

1. *Keep youth/young adults informed of decisions that may affect them in the Diocese, essentially a two-way communication and action channel.*

2. *Enable an opportunity through the representative for youth/young adults to contribute perspectives for future BiC decisions between Synod sittings.*
3. *Enable a youth/young adults representative on Bishop in Council to set a precedent and gain experience for future generations' representation.*
4. *Enable and strategically progress the work of the youth/young adults development (as per the 2019 motion) through this representative role.*

2021 would see the implementation through the Youth (families) and Young Adults network of building such relationships to bring voices and input from our 'younger Anglicans' to Bishop in Council, future Synod meetings as well as all outgoing and ongoing works enacted by the above motion and other spaces as required.

YOUTH (AND FAMILIES)

Opportunity presented for our Diocese family and the care of our youth within the Diocese and their families. I approached Bishop Richard in July 2020 in relation to our care and concern for our younger Anglicans and leaders during the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdowns, proposing a Zoom meeting for our youth, families and youth leaders.

With Bishop's approval and kind support, we held a Zoom session on Sunday 23rd August 2020 on the theme of 'Deep Sea Discovery' (stepping out in faith with Jesus into the unknown) based on scripture from Matthew 14:22-33.

To the invitation responded a small gathering of youth and their families, Bishop Richard, Rev Dave Perryman and youth leader Prue from the Trafalgar Parish.

True to the purpose of this gathering, we were able to establish new connections, to chat and reflect on the above scripture. Specifically, leaders were able to have a united presence in support of our youth and families.

We were extremely grateful and encouraged to have Bishop Richard joining us in the presence of this space. We introduced Bishop to youth and their respective families. In return, Bishop explained his role which led to a chat and Q&A from our youth.

Amongst this discussion, Bishop asked the youth “what they would like to see from him”. Emerging from this were voices from youth in needing to:

1. *Grow in faith*
2. *Have fun together*

The two above points fitting for the vision of being God’s family together and the next step to plan a ‘party’.

This provided a new platform for an ongoing outreach ministry and youth network, which will continue to be developed throughout 2021.

The youth, associated leaders and Parishes will all have the invited opportunity to contribute and plan.

YOUNG ADULTS

Preparations for lead up to second retreat at The Abbey due September
2021 Network and structure establishment, strategic planning
‘Prayer hub’ (ongoing, emerged out of COVID-19 pandemic)

OTHER

ARNA

By way of invitation, we have responded to the newly established Anglican Renewal Network of Australia, who are keen to link in mutually with regards to our Youth and Young Adults ongoing development within the Diocese, likewise our contribution towards the development of the ARNA.

CMS YOUNG ADULTS

Pre-pandemic saw the connection between CMS Young Adults coordinator and possible cooperating relationship with local mission initiatives and opportunities through CMS and our Diocese.

Given the uncertainty of 2020, 2021 would see a re-establishment of this connection.

PROPOSED PROJECTS (at time of report)

- Gathering of youth and families in Sale (proposed second half of 2021)
 - Second Young Adults Retreat, The Abbey September 2021
 - Network and structure development
- Strategic development of ‘next generations’ contributions and voices

“You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit--fruit that will last...” John 15:16

We are exceptionally grateful to Bishop Richard for his ongoing valued support, coordinating communication to Parishes, to Bishop in Council for their positive and ongoing support, to leaders who share their hearts not only in their own Parishes but also for this important outreach ministry in building up unity in the Diocese. To all who pray and support. Most of all, thanks to God for His love for all of us and opening doors in what is unique to us as a Diocesan family.

Yours in Christ,



Alisha Moyle

Synod Youth Representative

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