

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA

DIOCESE OF GIPPSLAND



40th SYNOD

THIRD SESSION

24 – 26 May 2024

SALE

The Synod Book

SECTION 3

Diocesan Organisations – Reports

Issued by the Registrar
PO Box 928, Sale Vic 3853
Phone - (03) 5144 2044 Email- registrar@gippslandanglicans.org.au
Website - <http://www.gippslandanglicans.org.au>
10 May 2024

SECTION THREE
ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF GIPPSLAND
THIRD SESSION OF FORTIETH SYNOD
2024

SALE, VIC

DIOCESAN ORGANISATIONs

REPORTS TO SYNOD

Report	Page
Aboriginal Ministry (verbal report)	3
ACTinG	5
Anglicare	7
Anglican Mother's Union – Gippsland	10
Gippsland Grammar	11
Ministry Development Program	17
St Paul's Anglican Grammar School	18
The Abbey	20

Aboriginal Ministry Report for Synod 2024

There are two important aspects of this ministry.

Firstly, there is the obvious ministry with First Nations people which is carried out by the Revd. Canon Aunty Phyllis and the Revd. Kathy, with their own people as they understand the particular issues and cultural traditions which impact their own. Some of this ministry occurs at Lake Tyers, but much of it takes place across the diocese and at times, further afield.

Secondly there is the educative aspect – the different ways of raising awareness of indigenous peoples and their concerns and need for justice within the wider community. So, for instance, celebrations of Reconciliation and NAIDOC weeks happen in the parishes rather than just within the Gunaikurnai community. This is an invitational ministry, where Gippsland Anglicans are given opportunities to learn, to examine our own presuppositions and to appreciate the value and contribution of our First Peoples to our common life. It has been pleasing to see more churches providing such opportunities for the people of their parishes. There have been many articles in the TGA about parishes conducting worship services or other events which focus on Aboriginal issues and these have encouraged others to consider such events.

Pastoral care accounts for a significant portion of ministry time. Both Revd. Canon Aunty Phyllis and Revd. Kathy have been again involved with caring for indigenous families with sorry business. This involves caring for the family and liaising with community as they arrange funerals. Preparing the service is a relatively small part of the work as there may well be transport and financial needs, Justice Department contacts and complicated family issues to be attended to. Kathy has also started a small prayer group of women who work in one of the local indigenous agencies as well as a sewing group for women.

Other initiatives include the Wellbeing Holidays at The Abbey – one was held over the Easter break and another is to occur during the winter school holidays. This venture has secured Leith Foundation funding so they provide a good break for families without additional expense.

Activities in which Synod members can encourage their parishes to participate:

Rededication of St John's church, Lake Tyers Archbishop Philip Freier has incorporated this milestone event in his Gippsland tour. It will be in the afternoon/evening of Tuesday 28th May at Lake Tyers. The church was first consecrated in 1870 and had become dilapidated. The Lake Tyers Aboriginal Trust Board was granted \$200,000 from Heritage Victoria which has enabled the restoration of the church, including structural work such as floorings, weather boards and replacement of external doors as well as some drainage works and exterior painting.

Reconciliation Week- this year the diocese will celebrate this on Sunday June 2nd. There will be services at Lake Tyers (afternoon) and St Mary's Morwell at 8am and 10am. If you would like to run your own in your parish, there are helpful resources at Tearfund:

<https://www.tearfund.org.au/what-we-do/first-peoples/reconciliation-week-2024>

and Common Grace

https://www.commongrace.org.au/national_reconciliation_week_2024

A 'Doco and cuppa'-Warrigal Creek Massacre webinar, discussion and refreshments.

Sunday June 23rd June. We plan to have a number of hosting parishes who can access the 50-minute documentary online in webinar format and then have time to debrief and discuss over a cuppa or lunch.

NAIDOC Week 7th July. Services will be held at 8am and 10am at St Mary's Morwell and 3pm at St John's Lake Tyers. You are again invited to create a liturgy for your own parish, again drawing on the resources in A Prayer Book for Australia as well as the links above.

The Aboriginal Ministry Reference group is investigating possibilities for permanent acknowledgement of our First Nations people in the form of a plaque for each church (or at least the main centre in a multi-centre parish) with wording and a design which is consistent across the diocese.

We acknowledge the generous grant for our 'Deadly Spirit' ministry project which is funded by Spark Ministries via City to City and is currently halfway through its three-year term. This has enabled us to develop the scope of Aboriginal Ministry in the diocese as well as fund particular items.

Our fundraising goal across the diocese is \$100,000 each year. We ask every Parish to consider the ways that it can support our shared Aboriginal Ministry through educational and awareness-raising events in your community, financial gifts to support the ministry, and creating culturally safe and welcoming places. Please take some brochures back to your parish to share with your people. These are available to download at any time from the Gippsland Anglicans website.

Brochure link: [GA - A4 Aboriginal Ministry Tri-fold Brochure \(gippslandanglicans.org.au\)](https://www.gippslandanglicans.org.au/ga-a4-aboriginal-ministry-tri-fold-brochure)

Ven Sue Jacka

On behalf of the Aboriginal Ministry Reference group



ACTinG Report to Synod

2024

In response to the climate crisis and our God-given responsibility as Christians to do what we can about it, ACTinG has offered many more opportunities over the past twelve months for Gippsland Anglicans to learn, pray and act in parishes, schools, agencies and households.

In July last year Richard Connelly and Ann Miller presented a webinar showcasing some of the practical action they have taken in their own homes and gardens.

Richard Connelly, in his role as Registrar, inquired about the cost of an energy audit for a typical medium sized Gippsland parish (including an op shop), as a possible template for similar parishes. The outcome from this was to add weight to the need to include ACTinG in the Diocesan Budget, which has now been done. Further work on finding funding is on-going. Tax deductible donations can be made via Anglican Earthcare Gippsland: AEG BSB 633000 Account No. 152047650 Ref: ACTinG

During the Season of Creation (1st September to 4th October) ACTinG offered a weekly Accessible Book Club via Zoom, with each session discussing a chapter of Jonathan Cornford's excellent book, *Coming Home – Discipleship, Ecology and Everyday Economics*. This book covered topics of everyday life, such as money, work, leisure and rest, looking at each from a biblical perspective and coming to some challenging conclusions about how differently Christians might choose to live in our consumer society, facing climate and ecological crises.

The weekly book club generated some stimulating conversations and has helped some of us to make constructive changes.

Other action during the year:

- An ACTinG brochure was created by Libby Willems and is available either to download from the diocesan website (gippslandanglicans.org.au/acting/acting-group) or can be ordered and collected from the Registry
- 'News for the Pews' snippets were sent out to parishes (for their pew notes) to promote webinars etc

- Articles in TGA have kept climate change in view and provided practical steps people can take.
- In August 2023, ACTinG sent a letter to the Prime Minister, with copies sent to several other MPs, asking how the government planned to achieve its emissions reduction target of 43% by 2030 while it is still approving new fossil fuel developments. A reply was received on 27th February, from Andrew Hutchinson on behalf of the Minister for Climate Change and Energy 2024, apologizing for the delay in response and outlining some policy reforms which the government believes will make its target achievable.
- Occasional updates to resources on the website (see gippslandanglicans.org.au/acting/climate-action-links-and-articles)
- Continuing connections with The Abbey as we farewelled the Rev'd Edie Ashley and welcomed Dr. Cath Connelly to the ACTinG group. We are now working together on the exciting Prayer Tree Project as part of the world-wide Anglican Communion Forest.
- A significant move to reduce emissions on the part of the Diocese has been the recent purchase of two electric vehicles for the Bishop and Registrar, who both drive considerable distances.
- A monthly ACTinG bulletin has begun this year, with a link sent out by email and bulletins kept available on the website. The bulletin provides information, resources and links to upcoming events. (If you would like to receive these bulletins, please add your name to the sign-up list circulating at Synod.)
- Parish action (that ACTinG is aware of) included a Locavore Lunch at St Paul's Cathedral in November, where some of the harvest from parishioners' gardens was used to cook a feast of mostly local produce. A quiz between courses introduced the concept of 'food miles' and the ecological benefits of choosing to eat locally produced food when possible.

Other action by parishes, though not recorded, may well have occurred. If so, ACTinG would be much encouraged to hear about it, whether that action be relevant studies, prayer or activities to reduce emissions.

ANGLICARE VICTORIA REPORT TO THE SYNOD OF THE DIOCESE OF GIPPSLAND 2024 FROM VICKI LEVEY, REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Introduction

At Anglicare Victoria we assist children, young people, adults and families to make positive changes in their lives and much of our work is made possible with the support of our community. Whether it be through donations, people who volunteer their time, or those who open their homes to children through Foster Care - we thank you for your support. This report provides an overview of some of the work that has been occurring over the last year.

Protecting Children's Awards 2023

On Tuesday 5th September 2023 at the Protecting Children's Awards, Anglicare Victoria Gippsland's Multi Systemic Therapy (MST) team was the winner of the prestigious Robin Clarke Making a Difference Award. The Robin Clark Award embodies the legacy of a well-connected community and service system contributing to better outcomes for children, young people and their families or carers. This award recognises the exceptional contribution of a team or group of people who have worked to directly improve the lives of children, young people and their families or carers in Victoria. This can be in partnership or collaboration with government and non-government agencies. The winners of this award strive to achieve excellence and their work shows insight, practicality and respect for the needs of children, young people and their families or carers, including supporting Aboriginal self-determination to achieve the best outcomes for Aboriginal children, young people and their families or carers. MST practitioner Kansas and MST Supervisor Andy were there to accept the prestigious award. Fantastic outcome for the team and Anglicare Victoria.

All Staff Forum 2023

The "All Staff Forum" was held on the 5th September at Federation Uni. The focus of the forum was "why we do what we do", aiming to reinvigorate the motivation and passion that drives the staffing group to do what work that they do. Over 190 staff attended the day, and the feedback overall has been really positive. Staff heard from members of the Victims Survivors Advisory Council (VSAC) and there was a presentation from the Lived Experience Team. VSAC Young People representatives address the Forum to talk 'in conversation' about their journey to remind staff of the importance of the work we do and the importance of identifying and addressing family violence from those with lived experience. The day also included an address by the CEO, Group and Wellbeing activities plus more.

New Bairnsdale site at 104 Macleod Street

The new Bairnsdale site at 104 Macleod Street opened on Tuesday 16th January 2024 staff were excited to move in. The layout and facilities are impressive, and feedback from staff was they were especially pleased with the staff kitchen area giving them the space to have lunch and interact with colleagues from other programs.

Anglicare Gippsland Assistant Director

I am very excited to introduce our new Assistant Director Stacey Stapleton who commenced in the role in March 2024. Stacey is based in our new Bairnsdale office. Stacey has lived in East Gippsland for almost 19 years and spent the last 6.5 years as a Senior leader in DFFH, Outer Gippsland.

Disaster Preparedness and Recovery

The Team completed filming for a community legal education video called Stay or Go funded by the East Gippsland Community Foundation. The video introduces community members to the key aspects of evacuation orders that they need to consider as part of their planning for fire emergencies in East Gippsland but has applicability across Victoria. The video was released in late January and is available on the Anglicare Victoria YouTube channel and the GCLS website <https://www.gcls.org.au/stay-or-go-evacuation-orders-in-fire-emergencies-in-victoria/>

Anglicare supporting the Mirboo North community post the storm event in February 2024:

Through the Family Services Alliance Family Services Team Leaders and Uniting Care Program Manager met with key leadership and wellbeing staff at Mirboo North Primary and Secondary schools and the Department of Education Manager of Complex Support & Strategic Practice, to discuss the support needs of the school and community following the storms that caused significant damage to the area. As a result, a Family Services Practitioner is based at the Primary School on a Wednesday each week to provide consultation to teachers and parents and Uniting Care have committed a staff member to be based at the Secondary School on a Monday. It is believed that the support needs of the community will increase as time progresses and they have moved past the initial crisis following the storm.

The Gippsland Community Legal Service (GCLS) was approached by community groups from Mirboo North who requested an outreach service in the community to assist with recovery from the February 2024 storms. The outreach will be delivered in partnership with Victoria Legal Aid (VLA). The outreach will be provided Friday weekly with GCLS alternating weeks with VLA.

16 Days of Activism

Anglicare's TRAK Forward Art Therapist Karen developed an Art Therapy group that aligned with the 16 Days of Activism theme Unite. She did an amazing job developing an art project that clients participated in with the knowledge that the piece they create was displayed during the 16 Days of Activism. The clients who participated made a mould of their hand and painted/decorated over 4 weeks. The hands were interconnected and come around a world globe which was displayed at the Latrobe Regional Gallery (LRG). LRG were very supportive of the project providing a space for the clients to come and make the art and allowing the work to be exhibited for the duration of the 16 Days of Activism.

Christmas Hampers

The Gippsland Region provided Christmas Hampers in December 2023 for 539 families and over 917 toys for children. A big effort by all Administration and Program Staff. Anglicare again was able to provide Christmas Hampers to the Community to 40 families and toys for 80 children these

hampers are filled from community donations. A big thank you to the Parishes and the Community for their generous donations.

Parish Partnerships Community Development Officer – Rich Lanham

Over the 2023 / 2024 year the CDO continued to support Catherine Muston with the Get Out for Good program. The CDO routinely visited the program participants. Often for a coffee or a meal, or sometimes to deliver food or other essentials to their homes.

The CDO continued visited the Op shops, food banks and neighbourhood houses around the diocese. The CDO receives positive feedback regarding these visits and believes they are encouraging to the staff and volunteers.

The CDO visited parishes and met with the clergy and teams. There are several new priests in the diocese for 2024. The CDO has enjoyed reaching out to the new parish leaders and believes there is a fresh energy to be innovative in their local communities.

The CDO was invited to a community meeting run by the Wellington Shire regarding the implementation of the “Live for Life” program. Live4Life is an evidence-based community impact model for improving youth mental health and reducing suicide across rural and regional communities. Live4Life builds young people’s capacity to recognise and seek help, and offer help, for mental health concerns and builds the capacity of the whole community to look after and support their young people. It engages young people, teachers, parents, carers and the broader community in evidence based mental health education. The CDO had the opportunity to connect with the senior staff of most of the secondary schools in the Wellington Shire.

The CDO was invited to attend Warrigunya. This a new initiative under construction in Darriman about halfway between Sale and Yarram. This facility is designed to accommodate up to 8 indigenous men post release from Fulham correctional centre. The facility is almost complete and needs a partner who can support the tenancy element of the process. The Committee have been in negotiations with local indigenous organisations and the Department of Justice for some time and it is hoped that the facility will open officially in the second half of 2024.

The CDO was invited by the Chaplain at Federation Uni Churchill to support the running of the Welcome day for residential students at the campus. The CDO was delighted to run the activities and games designed to build connection and connect the new residents. The welfare team and chaplain were very pleased with the student engagement and selection of activities. The CDO had a terrific time being involved in the event.

The CDO is pleased with the new connections and opportunities that are emerging as well as the fresh energy in the parishes with new leadership. The CDO is grateful for the opportunity to have been in this role and believes that it has great value for the parishes. The CDO wishes to thank the Parish Partnership Steering Committee for their support, encouragement, prayers and commitment.

Gippsland Mothers Union Report to Synod 2024

Gippsland Diocesan Mother's Union, I imagine, is no different to many other Dioceses -riding a roller coaster of endless possibilities and seemingly endless challenges.

Like many other Dioceses when faced with challenges, the executive and members of Gippsland MU have dug deep, drawing on our faith, prayer, and the promises we made when we were admitted to MU, to rise to the challenges and to support each other.

We continue to hold our traditional celebration days, and on Lady Day this year, our proxy to AMUA Australian Council, Lindy Driver, spoke to us using the three key words from our President Robin Ray's January letter, *Visibility, Articulation and Relevance*. She illustrated how the Mission of MU fitted into the picture, using accounts of her own experiences, that bought to life other MU members and their conditions in various countries. Stories that made us both laugh and cry as well as uplifted and challenged.

At this service we also sadly farewelled and thanked Maryann Ashton for her legacy as she stepped down as our Diocesan President. Maryann was enthusiastic in wanting to build a bridge between new ordinands and MU and so over the past few years we have given the newly ordained a Prayer Book with from MU, along with other MU information, a gesture which the ordinands have appreciated.

We hold a day for the community to attend in June, our June Join In! In 2023 we focussed on Falls Prevention with a talk from a local physiotherapist, with the message that "Leaves are meant to fall – people aren't!". This year on June 12th, we hope to build on the "16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence", held each November, as we have an experienced worker in Domestic Violence who will speak about how we can reach out to those affected by this issue, with a little touch of kindness.

On 9th August we mark Mary Sumner Day in honour of our founder. A time of fellowship and reflection when we can join as a Diocesan group, otherwise branches and members celebrate individually. This year's program is still in the planning stage, so please watch TGA for further news.

Our other main event for the year is our Family Retreat, held in the September School holidays. Up to 3 families, depending on their size, come to the The Abbey on Raymond Island for 4 days of R&R – a host family on site to assist and support as required, all meals prepared, loads of ideas for activities as needed, equipment, wildlife, quietness if required and freedom to travel if they wish to see the local sights, all provided by our MU members fundraising and some parishes generosity, along with The Abbey staff. All usually runs smoothly, however in 2023 a week before the holiday, one family had to pull out, leaving us with a family of 5, not enough for the usual caterer. Then the message came that our host adult had experienced a nasty fall and was in hospital, long term. However, within a few hours we had a new 'host family' (3 ex members who ensured someone was always on site), catering was organised, and meals were prepared by local church people, and a beautiful family, with special needs, had the best few days away! The day they arrived the children said it was their dad's birthday and were thrilled when a very special dessert with candles was provided! Parishes and individuals are welcome to donate to this worthy cause.

We try to communicate well with our members and keep them up to date, however age and inability to travel are becoming problematic, so as an executive we are looking at different ways of being MU. Our Australian MU 23-24 theme of "Transformation Now" is currently very meaningful, for we are in the transformation stage, and I believe while it is very exciting, it is not without its challenges. We are looking at Zoom meetings as one area of reaching out and other ideas are being put forward to consider!

We now have five Branches, along with a significant number of Lone members, a male member and we have had new members enrolled in the past year, so we move forward with hope and faith and a renewed vision. *Visibility, Articulation and Relevance* are the new buzz words!

Prayerfully

Jan Misiurka
Secretary/Treasurer
Gippsland Diocese AMUA



2024 SYNOD *Report*

As we reflect on the past year, it's evident that it has been a testament to the power of unity, resilience, and a shared passion for learning. As I reflect on my first full year as Principal, I am filled with excitement for the transformative journey we have embarked upon at Gippsland Grammar – a path characterized by positive change and evolution.

The resurgence of our social and co-curricular activities, including international tours, competitive sports, and academic events, has infused our school with new energy and vitality and allowed us to connect with families and community again. Throughout the year, we have celebrated numerous highlights, from the Anzac Tour to the Year 11 Ball, from cultural and performing arts events to sports carnivals and academic accomplishments.

We have entered our Centenary with a flurry of activity. As we do each year, we have welcomed new staff and students who will undoubtedly enrich our community further. Our Leadership Team is now complete with the addition of Bo Power as Deputy Principal, Belle Deacon as Director of People and Culture and Lori Field as Director of Learning. Kate Ray's title and position description also had an update with her role now being the Director of Safeguarding and School Operations.

The culmination of our early Centenary events – Gala, Book Launch, Chapel Service, and Old Boys' BBQ – was a testament to the enduring legacy of St. Anne's and Gippsland Grammar. It was a time of reflection, gratitude, reunion and celebration.

We also had movement within our School Board and middle leader groups. This provided us with the opportunity to dream big and move forward. In July, with the assistance and guidance of Gwen Pinnington Consulting we began the process of formulating our new strategic plan that will serve us and give us focus through 2024-2029. They are also assisting us with the upskilling of all staff leaders in our School. As Walt Disney aptly said, "We keep moving forward, opening new doors and doing new things because we're curious and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths." With this spirit of curiosity and determination and after consultation with staff and students, and the development of the strategic intent document, we hope to launch this plan very soon.

ELC

Despite the challenges presented by ongoing changes in the early childhood sector due to free kindergarten being rolled out for government kindergartens and long daycare, we have maintained near full enrolment. Our reputation for beautiful, well-resourced, quality learning environments and a very professional and passionate teaching team ensured that our families in Bairnsdale and Sale continued to recognise the value of investing in their child's early education.

Last year, we received a state government grant of \$10,000 for teaching resources to support children's play and development. The children enjoyed the benefit of a new cubbyhouse, sports equipment, gym mats, puzzles, games and much more. We also received an allocation of funding through the School Readiness Funding Program. We have designed and are implementing a literacy boost program we call 'Need to Read'. This provided our early learners with a targeted book borrowing program and an intensive phonological awareness boost in term three for our four-year-olds.

In 2023, the St Anne's Early Learning Centre completed its three-yearly Quality Assessment and Rating Visit and was awarded the 'Exceeding' National Quality rating for the third time. This visit saw all team members participating in a detailed examination of programs, pedagogy, resources, child safety, centre culture, connection to family and community, policy, procedures, and observations of teaching practice. The assessor commended the centre in every area, commenting:

'All educators consistently engaged in high-quality practice and demonstrated skill in recognising opportunities to facilitate and extend the learning of children, in meaningful and considered ways.'

It was a great recognition of the positive and vibrant communities our Early Learning Centres provide.

As always, a significant highlight in early 2024 was the Easter hat parade. The enthusiasm of our young students and the support provided by their older peers was a delight accompanied by the endearing rendition of 'Little Peter Rabbit' at the St Anne's campus.

Bairnsdale

Our events and celebrations throughout 2023 have been well attended with enthusiasm and a wonderful school spirit. Our highlight for the year was the incredible production of "Peter Pan". Directed by Mrs Cara Schaefer, and with the support of Lucy Leeming, Sarah Guinness, Liz McConchie and Fiona Carr, our students presented a performance that was outstanding. It was an effort that embraced our theme for last year, "same team" and was a fine example of working together.

This year's theme is to 'Create Connections'. To date, highlights have been a delightful family picnic, strengthening bonds and fostering a sense of belonging within our extended school family; a Year 6 visit to the Garnsey Campus to tour the school and meet some staff; the House Swimming Cross Country; Grandparents and Special Friends Day; music soiree and gallery visit to the Annemieke Mein Exhibition.

A major revegetation of the Mitchell River/Clifton Creek area near the school has been a commendable undertaking of the campus with guidance from the Year 6 cohort and their teacher Todd Cook.

The After School Care program moved successfully to an external provider, 'In2Learning'. Both parents and students have been happy with the transition.

St Anne's

The highlights at St Anne's began with a Colour Run and Welcome Picnic for families drawing the biggest crowd ever to this annual event. We have hosted the House Swimming Carnival, House Cross Country, House Writing Competition, Soiree, Grandparents and Special Friends Day and the Easter celebrations.

In Term 1, the St. Anne's students enjoyed a musical treat, with performances from The Percy Code Band and our own talented senior students. They provided a lovely showcase for our Years 2 to 6 students, offering a peek into the world of music that was both enjoyable and inspiring, especially for those in our Year 4 training band.

Across both of our junior school campuses, our 'Whole School Positive Behaviour Framework' continues to be a priority. This utilises the embedded CLERR values (Compassion, Leadership, Excellence, Respect and Responsibility) as a base.

An exciting time ahead for all of our students as they prepare for Moana Jnr the Musical to be showcased at The Wedge in June.

Garnsey

The event attendance so far this year has demonstrated how strong our school community is. Following another successful transition program, it was heartening to see the overwhelming turnout at the Year 7 Parent Information Evening and Welcome Drinks, where families received valuable insights into the beginning of their child's educational journey at Garnsey.

Significant other events have included the inaugural Grandparents and Special Friends Day, a moving ANZAC day service, Year 9 Parent Information Evening, House Swimming Carnival, House Debating and the House Athletics Carnival.

Reflecting the passion and eagerness of our students, Garnsey Campus kicked off Term 2 with our senior production of 'Catch Me If You Can' – to be hailed as a highlight of 2024.

Our students have immersed themselves in transformative experiences during various camps, including Year 7s, Year 11 & 12 Outdoor Ed camps, and the Year 9 Tali Kargn hike. These adventures foster resilience, teamwork, and personal growth, equipping our students with invaluable life skills. Similarly, Year 10 students embarked on elective camps, creating memories that will last a lifetime.

The dedication and teamwork of our rowing teams continue throughout the Rowing Regattas, exemplifying the spirit of resilience and excellence that defines Gippsland Grammar and highlights the dedication of our coaches and families who unwaveringly support our students.

We have also continued to witness outstanding student achievements in sport, shooting, chess and other activities. Our diversity of offerings allows our students to thrive.

Finally, Gippsland Grammar has partnered with other local schools and the Wellington Shire Council to be part of Live4Life. This important community initiative is bringing together rural and regional communities to improve youth mental health and wellbeing. Live4Life communities deliver Teen and accredited Youth Mental Health First Aid

training in schools and the wider community, create local partnerships to lead conversations about mental health that reduce stigma, and promote young leaders as mental health ambassadors.

Open Days

Our Campus Open Days and Tour and Teas, offering prospective families the opportunity to experience the warmth and vibrancy of Gippsland Grammar firsthand, have continued to be successful. The staff and students involved showcased Gippsland Grammar with pride and dedication.

Boarding

2023 was the 15th year of Boarding at site on Blackwood House, having first opened its doors on 4th September 2008. We are proud that once again we were able to provide great care and support for our full time, day and casual boarding students. Significant events include National Boarding Week and the Boarding Roadshow promoting our boarding and connecting with families as well as our efforts to attract international students.

Weekly events have continued such as student led quizzes before dinner each night, Yoga on a Wednesday night, tutors in the evenings to assist with studies or treat take-aways on Saturday nights for those who are in over the weekends. We have termly events like themed dinners, Christmas in July and Footy Colours Day. We also have a termly "Boarders Voice" meeting where a small number of boarding students volunteer to represent the other boarders and discuss all things boarding with Head of Boarding, Mr Llewellyn.

Outings to the MCG, productions, cinema, sporting events and more help to build the experience and connection between the boarding students. Our tradition of honouring the birthdays of each student has continued with Sam Barry, Head Chef, creating a beautiful unique cake throughout the year.

Student Leadership

In early February, we had the honour of inducting our new Prefects and School Leaders. These young leaders embody our CLERR and we have full confidence in their ability to inspire positive outcomes within our school community throughout 2024. Our Year 12 Leaders further honed their leadership skills during the SEISA Leadership Weekend, which offered reflection, networking and laying the groundwork for a year of impactful initiatives and meaningful contributions.

Our School leaders list is below:

Garnsey Captains & Prefects

Captains:	Sienna Hill and Andrew Crawford
Vice Captains:	Ivy Johnson and Rhys Bennett
Prefects:	Abby Crozier – Community & Culture
	Henry Storer - Community & Culture
	Alex Hamilton – Wellbeing & Care
	Zahrarose Beaty – Wellbeing & Care
	Georgia Steel – Curriculum & Learning
	Stella Mekken – Curriculum & Learning

Zara Tacey – Creativity & Expression
Zara Clydesdale – Creativity & Expression
Pippa Young – Sport & Experience
Zahra Hanratty – Sport & Experience

St Anne's Campus Captains: Charlotte Greenwell and Charlie Strachan

Bairnsdale Campus Captains: Ayla Buckley and Blake Maxwell

Academic results - 2023

Gippsland Grammar's 2023 NAPLAN results continue to exceed State and National mean scale scores for Reading, Writing, Grammar and Punctuation, and Numeracy. This is the same with Spelling for Years 3, 7 and 9. It is pleasing to note our teacher's capabilities in identifying students who require interventions in this space. Consequently, it appears our phonics interventions have played a significant role in improving students' encoding knowledge to meet both State and National means by Year 7. It is also worth noting that our Reading results are noticeably higher than both State and National mean scale scores, demonstrating our shift to structured literacy has had a large impact on student outcomes.

VCE Results at Gippsland Grammar remain commendable. 67 Students completed Year 12 in 2023. 63 of these students undertook a VCE scored program, with 4 students completing a non-scored VCE program or VCAL. Gippsland Grammar is proud of its 100 % completion rate and is extremely proud of the students that have, along the journey, pursued employment through Apprenticeship and Traineeships from this cohort.

Of those completing VCE, 13% achieved an ATAR above 90 placing them in the top 10 percent of the Statewide cohort. 40 percent achieved a score above 80. The median ATAR for Gippsland Grammar in 2023 was 73.8 which sits above the state median of 69.41.

The Dux of the Class of 2023 is Georgia Shell. Georgia achieved 5 study scores above 40 and an ATAR of 97.60. She took English Language, French, PE, Psychology, Business Management and General Math. Georgia is great example of a student following her passions and choosing subjects that she enjoys.

In addition to Georgia, other students achieving above an ATAR above 90 were Nathaniel Shelton, Samithri Kaluarachchi, Leah Brutovic, Lailah Moore, Monty Richardson, Edward Courtier, and Sophie Alexander. These students undertook a broad range of subjects with some focussed-on Math / Science and others on Humanities and English. Positively, several students began their career in 2022, joining the workforce as a full-time apprentice.

There were 29 study scores of 40+ across a range of subjects. Ellen Roberts achieved a study score of 50 in Biology and Zara Clydesdale achieved a score of 50 in Media. Both these students undertook their subjects as Year 11 students.

There was a notable increase in 2023 of students that had engaged with the Early Offer Programs offered by several Tertiary Institutions. These programs allow students to apply for, and be granted a conditional offer, based off their Year 11 results considered alongside school and community involvement. This trend is likely to continue in future years as the relevance of ATAR continues to be questioned in Higher Education Academic circles.

Interestingly, RMIT particularly has grown in attraction for our students with an increase

of 19% attraction since 2021. This has come directly from the attraction of Monash and Deakin who in 2021 attracted 50% of our students combined, whereas in 2023 have only attracted 35%.

Engineering is a strong course preference for our students this year with not only some of our top scorers applying to this field, but also an interest from other students who have explored pathways into the field through associate degrees and diploma pathways. The other area increasing in popularity this year is Global / International Studies.

Chaplaincy

The Chapel life of the School has continued to grow. Staff days include a service to set the tone for the year ahead. At the Garnsey Campus, a half period weekly chapel service was held on a Tuesday for all students as well as significant feast days being celebrated with assemblies. Our Valedictory celebration and leadership recognition events were also accompanied by prayers and blessings.

At St Anne's and Bairnsdale Campuses, Fellowships were enriched by the preaching and teaching of our Chaplain Reverend Dr Tim Gaden, the Revd Paul Woodcock, the Rector of Bairnsdale, the Revd Edie Ashley, the priest at Raymond Abbey, the Very Revd Keren Terpstra, Dean of Sale, the Revds Brian Norris and Heather Toms and Bishop Richard. Several of these very willing and generous helpers also filled in at Garnsey Campus assemblies. The School and its students are much in debt to them and to other volunteers for their ministry.

Easter saw a reconnection of the St Anne's campus with the Cathedral. Wonderful services ensued with clear and raised voices in the singing of 'Lord of the Dance'.

The presence of student voice and the diversity of inputs continue as an indication of promising signs for the future development of the School's worship life. Hymn convos were held in order to lift the voices of all students on new or existing hymns led by our Director of Performing arts, Dr Kevin Cameron. Student musicians and other instrumentalists gave generously of their time and energy and we are very grateful for their contribution.

We are continuously looking to grow the service learning element of our school and will continue to have this as a feature of our chaplaincy work.

To our disappointment, our Chaplain, Reverend Tim Gaden has resigned. We thank him immensely for the dedication and initiatives he has brought to our school. Ever the skilled orator, he will be missed by staff and students alike.

"Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it."
– Proverbs 22:6.

We continue to strive to produce lifelong learners who thrive as adaptable, well-rounded and values-driven young people with a passion to contribute to a better world.

Michele Wakeham

PRINCIPAL

Ministry Development Program (MDP)

Report to Synod 2024

In May 2022, six participants from Leongatha and Mirboo North set out on their MDP journey. This first cohort would pave the way for a fresh understanding of the preparation of aspirants for ordained ministry and the equipping of those who feel called to lay ministry within the church. The Ministry Development Program also creatively provides affordable training, replicating a curacy as far as possible, at a minimum of the cost. The majority of our parishes are unable to fund or provide training for curates. In addition to training the intention is to develop ordained ministers within the context of team, developing strong relationships which will continue in the future. The MDP does not replace formal education, rather it provides practical skills for ministry within a church setting with the support of facilitators, mentors and fellow participants. It could be described as an apprenticeship for ministry.

In February we celebrated the ordination of two MDP participants to the Diaconate, Denise Martin who will remain a permanent deacon in Mirboo North and Damien King who will serve as a deacon before going on to be ordained to the priesthood. This was a very joyous occasion for both Leongatha and Mirboo North Parishes, as well as the wider diocese and a great celebration of the fruits of the Ministry Development Program. In addition to this participant Zoe Hopwood has now reached her goal of applying to become a Lay Reader, Joanne Stuchbery and Stacey Williamson continue in their journey of discernment toward ordination whilst also participating in formal theological studies and Brigid Kennedy has moved interstate to continue her discernment journey there. The first cohort will conclude the program in May 2024 and this will be celebrated with a special service and acknowledgement of the cohort's achievements.

We want to take this opportunity to especially thank those who have generously donated to the Ministry Development Program over the last two years. These contributions have made the program possible and ensured support for not only the first cohort but also for future emerging leaders. This is wonderful on a parish level but also wonderful regarding future staffing and ministry within the Diocese of Gippsland. Currently, the Ministry Development Program is essentially crowd-funded, receiving support from individuals and parishes. Neither facilitator is currently paid independently to deliver the program, time is generously donated from the Parishes of Leongatha and Mirboo North.

In March 2024 the second cohort of MDP began, this time with participants from neighbouring parishes. Our new cohort is made up of Elizabeth Barber (Warragul), Kevin Broughton (Avon), Julie Bruce (Moe-Newborough), Sarah Gover (Traralgon), Jodie Fishwick (Leongatha), Neil McCarthy (Mirboo North), Heather Littlejohn (Mirboo North). We are really encouraged by the enthusiasm of this group and how well they have bonded so far. This second cohort will refine and consolidate the curriculum of the program and we are very excited to see what God has in store for the future.

Please continue to pray for each participant as they bravely step forward and respond to God's call. Please also consider financially supporting the Ministry Development Program to ensure its longevity and momentum forward.

Written by the Venerable Graham Knott and the Revd. Belinda Seabrook

REPORT TO SYNOD

2023 was a highly successful year for St Paul's Anglican Grammar School. The recent strong enrolment growth continued, with a current student population of approximately 1,850 students enrolled from Early Learning to Year 12 at our campuses in Traralgon and Warragul. St Paul's Anglican Grammar School is a major employer in Gippsland, with over 300 permanent and contracted staff.

2023 VCE Results

The 2023 Dux of St Paul's Anglican Grammar School was Hamna Mohamed Fahmi of Warragul who received an ATAR of 99.75. Hamna also achieved a perfect score of 50 for Psychology. Close behind were: Shivi Maheshwari of Warragul on 98.5, Harrison Miller of Pakenham on 96.5, Devmini Rankethkumbura of Traralgon on 96.2, Quinn Carmichael of Warragul on 95.55 and Lachlan Speairs of Traralgon on 95.5.

Other very high achievers included: Samuel Williamson of Warragul on 94.8, Charlie Jacques of Warragul on 94.65, Elsie Steenholdt of Warragul on 92.95, Lucy Shen of Morwell on 92.65, Maddison Ashley of Warragul on 91.85, Ocea Urbach of Warragul on 91.55, Alannah Rogalsky of Traralgon on 91.4, David Baker of Warragul on 91.35.

In all, 14% of students achieved an ATAR over 90 and 69% of students achieved an ATAR over 70. The percentage of students who achieved an ATAR of over 80 was 46%, placing them in the top 20% of the state. 98% 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.

Governance

There has been no change to the Executive of the St Paul's School Board for the past five years. Darren Jennings continues as Board Chair, Richard Connelly as Deputy Chair and Leanne Williams as Treasurer. Their contribution to, and support of, the school's recent achievements and exciting future expansion plans are sincerely appreciated. The Board welcomed three new Directors during 2023: Janet Pakan and Emily Brown as Elected Directors, and Clive Patrickson as the Bishop's Representative.

Spiritual Life of the School

The year 2023 commenced with both poignant challenges and joyous moments within the spiritual fabric of our school community. As we reflect upon the year's journey, it is evident that the profound impact of loss and the uplifting spirit of unity have woven a tapestry of resilience, compassion, and growth in the spiritual life of our school.

Acknowledging Loss and Embracing Support: Regrettably, the year commenced on a sombre note with the untimely passing of a Year 11 student at our Warragul campus. This loss resonated deeply across our community, prompting a collective response from our whole wellbeing team, including chaplains and senior leadership. Together, we worked to provide compassionate care and support to those affected by this tragic event, ensuring the pastoral needs of both students and staff were met throughout the year.

Partnerships and Supportive Environments: We continue to partner with local churches, and we express our gratitude to the Salvation Army and the Church of Christ for graciously offering their spaces for chapels and events at Traralgon and Warragul campuses respectively. The venues are invaluable for allowing us to gather for chapel services regularly throughout the year and the arrangement is mutually beneficial as we have made our gymnasium space available on occasion for church youth events.

Parental Engagement and Encouragement: The dedication of the Warragul and Traralgon campus parents' prayer groups has been a wonderful support throughout the year. Their commitment to providing support and encouragement has been instrumental in fostering a nurturing spiritual atmosphere within our school. We are especially grateful to Warragul parent, Sherryn Cutler, who has faithfully led the Warragul parent prayer group for several years now.

Enriching Spiritual Experiences: The year was enriched by a myriad of engaging chapel events and insightful guest speakers. From representatives of Gideons Bibles to the inspiring words of young beach mission member Liam Ting and Reverend Doctor Chris Mulherin's compelling discourse on Science and Faith, these experiences have broadened the perspectives of our students and enriched their understanding of faith.

Collaborative Endeavour: A small number of students had the privilege of being invited to participate in two Combined Anglican Schools Youth Forums, relishing the opportunity to engage with peers from other Schools, discussing matters of faith and inclusion. Additionally, our commitment to the Anglicare Christmas Hampers has continued, with our student body demonstrating generosity by donating toys and essential goods. The student-led lunchtime Christian group, known as Mustard, also met regularly throughout the year and undertook a range of projects to encourage their fellow students as well as engaging in their own Bible studies and reflections.

Creative Expressions and Celebrations: The chaplaincy team's creative ingenuity shone brightly in crafting engaging and thought-provoking special services for Easter, Christmas, and our School Anniversary. The collaborative efforts culminated in a memorable Christmas Service across multiple campuses, fostering a sense of unity and celebration among our diverse school community. This year also marked the last year that we were able to gather as a whole School for our Anniversary service. The growth of the School means we are in the enviable position of having to host separate campus celebrations in order to fit everyone in.

School Leadership

The School Executive team remained the same as in 2022: Cameron Herbert (Principal), Donna Sweeney (Deputy Principal), Laura Butterworth (Head of Secondary School, Warragul Campus), Leonie Clark (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), Daniel Lowe (Senior Chaplain) and Ashley Kershaw (Head of Development).

Cameron Herbert
PRINCIPAL



The Abbey: Report to Synod May 2024

We acknowledge the Gunaikurnai people as the original custodians of the land on which The Abbey now stands and pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

The Abbey continues to hold the vision of being a space for the people and parishes of Gippsland and beyond to recharge, refresh and go deeper into their spiritual journey. It remains a place where the intrinsic beauty of this sanctuary heals and restores body, mind, and soul.

The work of The Abbey is shaped around the three core foundations of spirituality, hospitality, and the environment.

Spirituality:

- The Abbey offers an extensive list of programs providing retreats and quiet days. These events are intentionally offered both on weekends and weekdays to cater for different needs. They also cover a comprehensive range of topics to engage a wide audience. We continue to attract presenters of exceptional calibre to these programs.
- The Abbey is supported through the prayer of so many. As part of this, thank you to our Abbey Chaplain Jeff Berger for his continuing role in celebrating our weekly Eucharist (Wednesdays 11.00am) and supporting The Abbey through prayer and action.
- The establishment of our Prayer Tree enables the wider community to know that their prayers and intentions are held in this sacred place. Having the Chapel door open throughout the week offers similar hospitality to locals and visitors.
- The annual Ecumenical Conversation hosted by Bishop Richard and Bishop Greg provides space for important dialogue to continue. The Abbey is honoured to host this event.

Hospitality:

- Everyone is welcome at The Abbey. The vision of The Abbey informs the wider community that The Abbey dwells in their midst and that they are invited to be part of all that is offered here. As part of this,

The Abbey hosts a monthly traditional music session, with between 20 and 30 musicians and onlookers delighting in the camaraderie of playing great music together.

- March this year saw The Abbey host the Variety Club car show and rally. 100 cars and hundreds of visitors participated. The potential for future bookings from this event is enormous as people recognise The Abbey as a venue for weddings and family celebrations.
- Last October The Abbey was honoured to be selected to host the Victorian leg of the Australian pilgrimage of the Iona / Wellspring community. 35 people spent a week engaging in dialogue around both First Nation and Celtic spirituality.
- Social events such as the annual Abbey Feast and the 'Stitch n Time' day drew over 150 people to The Abbey.
- The Abbey loop of the Raymond Island Koala Trail passes right through our grounds. It is wonderful that The Abbey can offer hospitality to the thousands of visitors from both Australia and overseas who walk across our grounds each year.
- The Abbey continues to work with Anglicare and other organisations to offer respite for families.

Environment:

- Good stewardship of this most beautiful and unique environment remains at the core of the vision of The Abbey. We continue to work with Landcare to ensure that the environment is maintained.
- The Abbey has entered into partnership with Gippsland Grammar Bairnsdale campus to establish a sustainable compost system. This is the initial stage of establishing a productive vegetable garden offering the dual focus of providing vegetables to our community and showcasing actions towards sustainability.

Other matters

Accommodation:

- Several organisational changes at The Abbey have seen accommodation income from October 2022-March 2023 to October 2023-March 2024 increase by 70%. The Abbey program and other promotional activities predict that this trend will continue.
- The accommodation facilities are continually being enhanced, with particular attention being paid to upgrading the bunk rooms into budget-style accommodation. These rooms are now available as two or three single-bed spaces offering a budget-conscious option for our visitors.

Volunteers:

- The Abbey deeply values the contribution of each of our volunteers. We are so grateful for all that you offer. In particular I name Tony, Karen, JeH, Helen, Alan, Cherry, Robert, Sue, David, Deb, June and each of the members of The Abbey Chapter for your ongoing support. Always on the lookout for more volunteers

Wine fundraiser:

- The Abbey has several pressing maintenance needs. The profits from each purchase made through our wine fundraiser goes directly to upgrading our facilities. We are immensely grateful for all support received.

Grants and Donations

- The Leith Trust has provided funding for respite for First Nation families at The Abbey.
- A most generous donation has been received that enabled the A-Frame building to be fitted with split-system air-conditioners.

The Abbey Chapter

The Abbey Chapter has met on a regular basis to review the work of The Abbey and to consider future needs and direction.

Membership of The Abbey Chapter currently consists of:

Bishop Richard Treloar
Dean Keren Terpstra
The Registrar, Richard
Connelly
Ian Maxwell
June Treadwell

Robert Fordham
Rich Lanham
Sue Jacka
JeH Berger
Abbey Director, Cath
Connelly

The Abbey remains a vital ministry within the Anglican Diocese of Gippsland. Come and have a conversation with me about the role that The Abbey can play in the life of your parish.

This is your place; come find a home here.

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.

Cath Connelly, Abbey Director