# The A Gippsland

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## Flags and prayers rise for Reconciliation



The Rev'd Phyllis Andy reads the Prayers of the People at St Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne

## United in prayer

**Edie Ashley** 

with other long Aboriginal priests in the Province of Victoria, Aboriginal students from Trinity Grammar School, and Aboriginal students from Melbourne Indigenous Transition School, the Rev'd Phyllis Andy was invited to participate in the mid week service at St Paul's in Melbourne Cathedral to mark and acknowledge Reconciliation Week.

Mr Shane Charles, the Aboriginal Melbourne Team Leader, Melbourne City Council, offered a wonderful Welcome to Country. This was followed by the Most Rev'd Philip Freier, who greeted all who gathered for the Service of Reconciliation this year, as part of National Reconciliation Week, 27 May – 3 June 2019.

from Bishops North Queensland, Bunburry, and Melbourne led the Prayers of Lament, while the Archbishop offered the Absolution and read the collect.

Students from Trinity presented a group reading the passage from 1 Kings 21; the Rev'd Helen Dwyer, Overnewton College Chaplain, Keilor Campus, read the Gospel from Matthew 5: 21-26; and the Rev'd Gary Deverell preached, challenging those who gathered for the evening.

A hymn, Beauty for Brokenness was sung; then the Rev'd Phyllis Andy was conducted to the lectern from where she read the Prayers of the People, which included words of praise for this ancient land, prayers for our nation's leaders, and for leaders of our churches. "that we may embrace truth-telling and repentance concerning our shared history as the first steps toward the hope of a genuine reconciliation".

Towards the end of the prayers there was a pause, as the students expressed in dance and action a song of prayer, and then Phyllis invite all who gathered to say together The Lord's Prayer, each in their own language.

(Continued on page 5)

## Culture shared, flags explained

Susanna Pain

s part of the Week Prayer Reconciliation. Paul's Cathedral in Sale was honoured to host Gunaikurnai respected elder and Anglican priest, the Rev'd Kathy Dalton as our preacher.

Kathy kindly came and shared some of her family's stories of working reconciliation. She told the children about a time when she and her brother took grandfather's boomerang and decided to try it out, unbeknownst to her parents. They threw it to each other for a while and then tried to see if it would return and unfortunately it was damaged. They hid it from their parents for quite awhile before owning up!

Kathy spoke of her ancestor, a law man who had taken boys for initiation at Hall's Gap, and included some non-Aboriginal boys in the singing at the ceremony.

She told us how she uses the coolamon, which is traditionally used for carrying food and placing babies in. Kathy uses it in church for baptisms and at funerals to make people feel at home, sprinkling them with holy water. She also has a special coolamon that she uses for smoking ceremonies, to cleanse and refresh.

Kathy also explained the symbols in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags to us. I was intrigued and looked up more information:



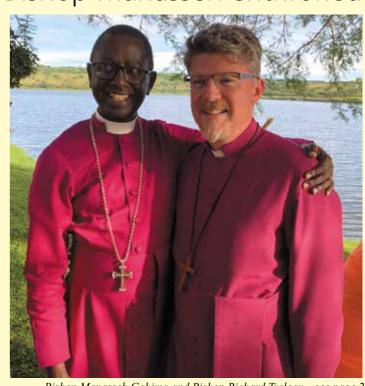
The Rev'd Kathy Dalton shows a coolamon to children at St Paul's Cathedral, Sale

The Australian Aboriginal Flag was designed by artist Harold Thomas and first flown at Victoria Square in Adelaide,

South Australia, National Aborigines Day in July 1971.

(Continued on page 5)

## Bishop Manasseh enthroned



Bishop Manasseh Gahima and Bishop Richard Treloar – see page 2

From the Bishop TGA

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## The Anglican

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## The bonds of affection

he intangible "bonds of affection" remain an essential ingredient of the unity of a communion of Churches as diverse as those gathered under the canopy of Anglicanism.

This was evident during the brief trip I made with Cameron Herbert, Principal of St Paul's Anglican Grammar School, to our sister Diocese of Gahini, Rwanda, in late May.

En route we met up with Sarah Gover (formerly Gippsland's Anglicare Community Development Officer – Parish Partnerships), and Lynne Beaty (Mirboo North), who had arrived a week prior. We were among some 6,000 who attended the enthronement, on Sunday 26 May, of the Rt Rev'd Dr Manasseh Gahima as the second Bishop of Gahini – an outdoor liturgical spectacular!

The day before Bp Manasseh's enthronement, the new Cathedral church of the Diocese was formally dedicated by the Archbishop of Rwanda, and the incumbent, the Rt Rev'd Dr Alexis Bilindabagabo, was farewelled with around 1500 packing the impressive building.

Bp Alexis has been Bishop of Gahini since the Diocese was established in 1997, and is among Rwanda's longestserving and most revered religious leaders – not least for his part in helping the country to rebuild after the genocide in 1994. The short book, *Rescued by Angels*, which recounts his experience of the Civil War, is available from the Registry Office.

With Bp Jeffrey Driver, Bp Alexis founded the partnership between our dioceses some 18 years ago. Both he and Bp Manasseh have visited Gippsland and Australia on many occasions, and it was a privilege to spend time with each of them over that busy weekend discussing the history, value, and future of our partnership, to which all of us remain wedded. We also had a chance to visit the Diocesan School, which caters for 900 boarders, and has enjoyed the support of both of Gippsland's Anglican Schools.

As a sign of these bonds of affection – expressed not least in our commitment to uphold each other's parishes in prayer – we were pleased to be invited to make a public presentation near the start of the enthronement service. In thanking and congratulating both bishops, framed maps of the Diocese of Gippsland (miniatures of that now displayed in the Chapter

House), a quilted banner for the new Cathedral, and some "Australiana" including an Akubra hat were given, and greetings extended from Gippsland and the Anglican Church of Australia.

Both services that weekend included Holy Communion, and I was honoured to concelebrate on the Sunday. Notwithstanding the fact the the liturgy was in a language other than my own, the structure of the Eucharist carried me, and I felt able to participate fully at the altar-table, from which was distributed an abundance of consecrated wafers to rival the loaves and the fishes!

Both the eucharistic hospitality, and the quality of the table-fellowship more generally over those days underscored the reality and the importance of those bonds of affection, which are at once so resilient and so fragile.

The ties which have already seen the Anglican Communion hold together through some very challenging times will be further tested in the years ahead. When what threatens to divide us seems more obvious or pressing than the forces that bind us, we need to invest in our relationships. That is one reason, among many, why Gippsland's partnership with



Bishop Richard Treloar

Gahini matters. I am grateful to have been among those weary but blessed travellers whose joyful task it was and is to deepen the bonds of affection.

Someone who has helped us to do that within the Diocese is Jan Down, our wonderful Editor. Jan has indicated – with regret – that after almost six years, it is time for her to hand over the reins of the award-winning *TGA*.

Jan and husband Michael will be moving to Sale next year, and she looks forward to contributing in other ways to our life and work as a Gippsland resident. The October edition will be Jan's last as Editor, and will allow us to reflect further on her faithful, generous, and skilful ministry. In the meantime, please join me in praying for Jan and her family, and for guidance in appointing a new Editor for *TGA*, now in its 115th year.



## Prayer Diary: around the parishes

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

MORWELL WESTERN REGION

St Mary, Morwell Rector: The Rev'd David Head

St Mary's Morwell continues to be a happy, inclusive, busy parish that seeks to meet the needs of both our membership and of our Morwell Community. We have two Sunday Services and a mid-week service, and a stong caring ministry to the local nursing homes, assisted by lay people.

Prayer points:

- 1. Pray for ongoing wisdom, vision and grace to meet the changing demands of Morwell as it transitions into new directions.

  2. Pray for our "Fossick and Find" opportunity shop and its wonderful band of volunteers as it serves our community and supports the parish.
- 3. Pray for our parish leadership and their spiritual nurture and

wisdom, and for our range of social and occasional study activities.

> NAR NAR GOON AND CARDINIA LAKES (EPISCOPAL DISTRICT) WESTERN REGION

St John, Nar Nar Goon Cornerstone, Cardinia Lakes Rector: The Rev'd Chris McAleer

The railway town of Nar Nar Goon (population about 1000) is 3 km east of Greater Melbourne's urban growth boundary. St John's (built 1894) has a child-friendly family service at 10:00 am on Sundays. Cornerstone Anglican Church meets in the rectory at Cardinia Lakes, a new estate in Pakenham East, for Bible Study and Prayer at 7:30 pm on Tuesdays. The opportunity shop has now moved into our new community/ Parish centre next door to

St. John's on Main Street and is a site to be seen. Please drop in and support if you can.

Prayer points: for more young families to discover our Family Service and Sunday School at St John's; continued growth of the Men's Breakfast every 4th Saturday; continued involvement with community groups in Cardinia Lakes and Nar Nar Goon; and boldness to joyfully keep sharing the good news as we grow together in faith.

NEERIM SOUTH WESTERN DISTRICT

Cooperating churches of: St John, Neerim South St James, Buln Buln St Andrew, Noojee Rector: The Rev'd Dr John Batt

Give thanks for:

1. The volunteers at our Op Shop who work so hard, offer hospitality and a warm greeting to all who come in.

- 2. The higher than projected Op Shop revenue and the positive impact that this has had on parish finances.
- 3. New outreach initiatives/ministries such as the weekly "Time for Friends" fellowship group, the quarterly community meals and the recent successful re-commencement of the Men's Breakfast Ministry with 18 men attending.
- 4. The youth group and the healthy number of young people attending regularly, many of whom have no connection with the church.
- 5. The continuing strong connection of the parish with many aspects of local community life.

Please pray for:

- 1. The recent parish visioning process, that as we look to implement that vision, God would bless our endeavours.
- 2. More leaders for our youth group.



Adrian Lane has the children spell-bound, telling the story of BCA at St Peter's Leongatha

# From a little yeast... celebrating 100 years of Bush Church Aid

vast country and also in vulnerable communities where churches are struggling to survive. Through BCA the message of salvation in Christ is proclaimed and people are brought the blessings of

Graham K

the cross come what may in tough situations. In every place where the Society initially operated there was significant heat, dust and deprivation. The hope of the Cross appears brightest in the harshest of conditions and for many people interaction with BCA missioners, medical and otherwise were real evidence of the love and

light of Christ"

"The work of BCA is a tangible expression of Christian love extended to people in the most remote and isolated parts of our

might not know the love of God and his wonderful plan of salvation"

Robyn A

much needed friendship, å hope. Without BCA many

Peter Finlayson Leongatha

e were very privileged to welcome Adrian Lane, Victorian Regional Secretary of the Bush Church Aid Society (BCA) who joined us here in Leongatha at St Peter's on Sunday June 16 as part of the Centenary celebrations of the Society.

We all received BCA show bags as we entered the church and this set the scene for an interesting morning of devotion and information. Adrian did not let us down with his enthusiasm and knowledge of how BCA started 100 years ago with 26 people coming together on a wet and windy night to form the society.

A story was screened showing where BCA has spread throughout Australia and where the leaders and their families are working in a variety of communities across the breath and width of this great land.

## GIPPSLAND DIOCESE VACANCIES

**SOUTHERN REGION** 

- Mirboo North
- Yarram

Adrian addressed all the children prior to Kids' Church, outlining to them the history of BCA and where it is now using the banner backdrop. The children were gobsmacked, hanging on every word Adrian uttered.

In his sermon Adrian reminded us of the parables of the mustard seed and the yeast. Both started very small, but grew. The mustard seed grew to a large tree providing shade and sustenance to people and beasts. A little yeast added to flour produced loaves of bread for basic nourishment.

Jesus said this is how the kingdom of God started – from small beginnings. God rescues people time and time again, making something out of nothing.

The kingdom of God transforms people you come in contact with through the power of the Holy Spirit. BCA staff make a difference as the kingdom of God transforms people's lives.

From its small beginning BCA has raised up servants of Jesus who have emphasised the grace of Jesus Christ and the power of the Cross, evidence of the resources of Christ being released for their mission.

Adrian encouraged our congregations to commit ourselves to Christ and to the growth of BCA through our prayers and gifts.

The following worshippers shared some of their thoughts on BCA:

"When we hear the word 'mission', we usually think of international needs and sharing the gospel overseas. All people need to hear the good news about Jesus, including Australians. That's what I love about The Bush Church Aid Society; for the past 100 years they have gone out into the bush to show and share God's love to Aussies. Well done BCA and Happy Centenary!"

Sue T

"They have been around so long and are a worthwhile Christian organisation reaching all over Australia, spreading spiritual wellbeing and hope"

Judith M

"Those who have served in BCA have made sacrificial choices to work in remote areas, facing isolation and extremely difficult conditions to be living parables of the distance to which God went in demonstrating his love in Jesus Christ. There is no attempt to share Christ from a position of ease and comfort but through the demonstration of carrying

The Anglican Diocese of Gippsland seeks an appropriately qualified part-time EDITOR

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# Be a part of supporting the Aboriginal Ministry Fund

The AMF exists to resource employment of Aboriginal people in ministry; training of Aboriginal people for ministry; development of Aboriginal ministry in the community; the planting of Aboriginal churches; education of the Diocese about Aboriginal issues.

Be a part of achieving these aims.

Contact the Diocese of Gippsland 453 Raymond Street, Sale, Victoria PO Box 928, Sale, 3853 Telephone 03 5144 2044 Fax 03 5144 7183 Email registrar@gippsanglican.org.au



Gwen Dale (Honorary Manager) and Geoff Osborne, the "van man" outside Recycle Me op shop

## "Recycle Me" closes

#### **Bev Foster, honorary** op shop Secretary Warragul

"Recycle Me", the Anglican opportunity shop in Warragul, closed its doors on Thursday 2 May, after almost 15 years of serving the community. "We're sad to say goodbye" was a sentiment expressed by customers and volunteers alike, many of whom had been with us since our opening day on 8 July 2004.

Initially an inspired thought by Liz Jowitt, and taken up by Sheryl Hastings, the two, and a small committee, worked together in a year of prayer and planning which resulted in a firm foundation for this venture.

Our first premises were in Barkly Street and we gained a reputation of having quality goods and being a place where customers could friendly attention, receive whether or not a purchase was made.

We were fortunate in being able to obtain premises at 2/49 Victoria St, and a move was made. Throughout this time we were blessed with a cross

section of volunteers with individual talents and needs. Regular garage sales were organized each year at our church to relieve us of the extra stock stored in "our shed" and enable us to reach out to a different set of customers.

We were delighted to be able to get a van, which was brightly sign-written and a real asset for pick-ups and deliveries. Our Honorary Manager, Gwen Dale and "van man" Geoff Osborne, have been a vital part of our organization.

For six consecutive years, privileged to were participate in Antique and Collectable Fairs at Warragul Regional College, to support their Chaplaincy Fund. We were warmed by a recent "Bouquet" entry in The Gazette, which included: "Sincere best wishes to the wonderful women and men that provided a truly great service to the community and was always so much more than the sale of op shop items".

We rejoice in God's guidance and are assured of His love over this time of "Recycle Me".



## A passion for repair

Ken Parker and Tim Green - Bunyip

o you worry about waste in a throw away society? Do you get frustrated that no one will repair your old appliances or broken furniture?

Ann Heard from Castlemaine is an artist. creator and gardener with a passion for not filling landfill sites. She is so passionate about the wastefulness of our consumer society that she drove all the way to Bunyip to talk to us about the Repair Café movement.

Ann is a "fixer" at the monthly gathering in the Castlemaine Town Hall where people bring items for repair - electrical goods, clothes, furnishings. As items are repaired, often the customer is taught how to do the repair.

Ann said that a typical gathering might involve 25 "fixers" and bring 60 or customers. encouraged us to consider setting up such a "café" locally. She also challenged her listeners to be careful about what they buy, because so much of what we buy cannot be repaired.

Whether it is electrical goods or clothes, Ann's message was clear - buy fewer things, buy better and things buy things can be repaired. She told us that much of what is brought to their "café" is not able to be reclaimed and has to be thrown out. Our constant dumping of



Repair work at the Castlemaine Repair Café

goods is destroying environment.

At Castlemaine, a team of women bring in their sewing machines, a group volunteer electricians bring their tools meters, and others bring in necessary equipment to repair picture frames, wooden toys and so on. There is no charge for the service but a donation is welcome. Tea, coffee and biscuits are also supplied. Anne told us that by repairing items, the centre had stopped nearly a tonne of waste going to landfill in the Castlemaine area. The Repair Café in Castlemaine is well supported

by the local shire and has been running for over two years.

Forty people gathered to hear Anne speak and judging by the questions at the end, the audience were enthusiastic. It appears from comments afterwards that there are at least three, maybe more such groups working in Gippsland. Our hope and prayer is that something might develop locally for us too.

Our September Bunyip Lecture will be by another passionate woman: Davina Veenstra from Bunyip Community House. She will talk about her Green Thumbs movement, involving local schools and aiming to provide new plants for those affected by the recent Bunyip Fire.



Ann Heard speaking at the Bunyip lecture



## Flags and prayers rise for Reconciliation

(continued from page 1)

#### United in prayer

A hymn, written by Elizabeth Smith was sung, the final blessing and the sending out of God's people, was spoken by the Archbishop, thus bringing the service to a conclusion.

Together, in this special time, we shared prayer, the reading of scripture and reflection with Aboriginal and non Aboriginal People, on Aboriginal land, with leadership from both Indigenous and non Indigenous leaders. We are proud that "our" Aunty Phyllis was invited to share in the leadership of this important mark of reconciliation in St Paul's Cathedral in Melbourne.

Archdeacon Edie Ashley is Archdeacon of the Eastern Region, Priest at The Abbey and at Paynesville.

#### Culture shared, flags explained

It became the official flag for the Aboriginal Tent Embassy in Canberra after it was first flown there in 1972.

Since then, it has become a widely recognized symbol of the unity and identity of Aboriginal people... It was proclaimed a "Flag of Australia" in 1995 under the Flags Act 1953"...

The meanings of the three colours in the flag, as stated by Harold Thomas, are:

- Black represents the Aboriginal people of Australia.
- Yellow circle represents the Sun, the giver of life and protector.

• Red – represents the red earth, the red ochre used in ceremonies and Aboriginal peoples' spiritual relation to the land.

(See naidoc.org.au/about/indigenous-australian-flags).

In July 1995 the Torres Strait Islander flag was also given official status.

People at the cathedral were given the opportunity to ask questions and there was a feeling of warmth and community. We thank Kathy for her words and presence for Reconciliation Week at the Cathedral.

The Very Reverend Susanna Pain in Dean of St Paul's Cathedral, Sale.



The Rev'd Kathy Dalton explaining the symbols in the Aboriginal flag

## Living plastic-free

Jenny MacRobb

embers of Mothers' Union and friends gathered for the annual June Join In at Newborough on 12 June to learn more of living plastic-free in response to the diocesan booklet Building a Better Relationship with our World.

In his sermon during the service before the workshop, Fr Sathi Anthony used as his text Genesis 1:26-28. He reminded us that when God said we were to "rule over" the earth he gave us a responsibility and "It's been said that the line between childhood and adulthood is crossed when we move from

saying 'It got lost' to 'I lost it.' Indeed, being accountable — and understanding and accepting the role our choices play in the things that happen — are crucial signs of emotional and moral maturity. That's why responsibility is one of the main pillars of good character."

Hannah Alquier then shared all her ways of living plasticfree as well as pointing out how much plastic is in and that everyday use we have a responsibility to protect our world for generations. She future reminded us that if we are in doubt about how to do something without using plastic, we need to think our mothers

grandmothers did it.

One participant, Maryann commented Ashton, later that the talk was very interesting and had her to many interesting websites. One was the local gippslandunwrapped.com which she found well presented, with lots of ideas.

Maryann also said have to pay for my rubbish to be collected and if I wish recycle, make trips to the tip. So instead of saying I can't do anything, I am starting small. A visit to The Source store in Traralgon Monday on and buying some vegetables with no plastic is my starting point".



Café 123 on Cunninghame Street, Sale

# Café 123 stands out in local community

Café 123, a social enterprise and fresh expression of church, has received one award while also being nominated for another.

Julie Lanham, the enterprise manager, commented: "We are so excited to be the recipients of a recent award and a nomination of the Local Tourism awards. The Sale Lions Club has awarded Rich and me with a community service award and we are nominated in the "Good Access is Good Business" category [of

the Central Gippsland Tourism Business Awards] to be announced on Mon 24 June". Rich Lanham is the Executive Officer of the successful Café 123, which recently celebrated its third birthday. The café is located on Cunninhame Street, Sale, a few minutes' walk from St Paul's Cathedral.

The Awards Night for the Central Gippsland Tourism Business Awards was due to be held at The Wedge entertainment centre in Sale on 24 June.



Participants enjoying Hannah Alquier's presentation on plastic-free living



"A serving, conserving and praying force": The Abbey Dispersed Community

# The Abbey Dispersed Community: it's official

**Sue Fordham** 

n Saturday May 11, the Abbey Dispersed Community was given official status with the rite of admission administered by Bishop Richard in the context of the Eucharist.

Twelve people requested admission to the community and pledged to follow the rule of life drafted by a working group set up for that purpose. The Rev'd Philip Muston was installed as Chaplain to the community.

It was an emotional moment for this group of people who had been meeting for the last two years to set in train a community centred at the Abbey.

The six meetings so far began with an exploration of Franciscanism with Bishop Godfrey Fryar, Provincial Minister of the Third Order of the Society of St Francis for the Asia-Pacific Province.

This was followed by a meeting addressed by Colin Valentine, Regional Minister of the Third Order for the Victoria / Tasmania Region. Colin introduced us to the central elements of Franciscan spirituality and the concept of a rule of life.

Since then, gatherings of those interested have focused on aspects of Franciscan theology and ways in which a dispersed Abbey community could function as a serving, conserving and praying force at the Abbey.

The Rev'd Nikolai Blaskow is producing a set of prayer resources with a distinctly Franciscan tone for use by the community.

At the May 11 meeting, Robert Fordham presented a brief history of our two formative years and sought input to our present status as a dispersed community, asking how each of us saw the future. Responses indicted relief that the community had now been established and everyone was enthusiastic to get on with a Franciscan way of life centred at the Abbey.

## Clean up to celebrate:

91 years for St John's Cann River, 100 for BCA

#### Jude Benton Croajingolong

t's amazing how much work 12 people aged from 12 to 80+, armed with chainsaws, rakes and gardening equipment can get done on a fine but chilly Saturday morning. This was proven on Saturday 8 June when the Cooperating Parish congregations of St Peter's Mallacoota and St John's Cann River came together for a working bee in the St John's garden.

The working bee wasn't just to tidy things up; it was also part of our preparations for the upcoming celebration of 91 years of worship at St John's and the centenary of Bush Church Aid who helped establish and then supported the church in Cann River over many decades.

The garden around the 91 year old church is often visited by tourists – being directly opposite the well used public toilets in Cann River, it gives

an excuse for a leg stretch and a spot of photography of the cute little church amongst the trees. But it was time for the garden to get some attention – and attention it got, with dead trees removed, branches lopped, leaves raked, and bushes pruned and shaped. The volunteers all worked like troopers, and by 1:00 pm were pleased to stop for a BBQ lunch in the park opposite.

We'd like to encourage all who have a connection with St John's Cann River to mark Sunday July 28 in their diary. There will be a celebratory service at St John's at 10:00 am, followed by a bring-a-plate lunch in the public hall. If you have photos and/or brief memories of events in the history of St John's that could be compiled into the history then please email them to Jude at: revjudebenton@outlook.com

We hope to see you there.

The Rev'd Jude Benton is Priest-in-Charge of Croajingolong.



Workers relax after the clean up at St John's, Cann River

## Jane Foulcher to lead Diocesan Retreat

The 2019 Diocesan Retreat, open to both laity and clergy, will be held at The Abbey in August and Anglicans across the Diocese are encouraged to join in this opportunity for spiritual renewal.

The Retreat will be conducted by Dr Jane Foulcher, Senior Lecturer in Theology at St Mark's National Theological Centre Canberra. It will commence on Friday 30 August at 5:00 pm and



conclude at 3:30 pm on Saturday afternoon.

The cost of the Retreat has been contained with a fee of \$135 including shared accommodation and all meals from dinner Friday through to the Retreat conclusion. A single accommodation supplement is also available.

Whether a regular retreat attender or someone considering coming for the first time, all are welcome as we take time together for a quiet period of reflection and prayer.

For further information and bookings please contact Anna at The Abbey, 5156 6580 or info@theabbey.org.au.



St John's Cann River

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TGA Around the Diocese

# Emergency Workers Appreciation Dinner

**John Batt** 

n the Tuesday evening of Holy Week, Neerim South Parish hosted an appreciation dinner for the local emergency services workers at our new Ministry Centre to show our thanks, especially in the light of the recent Bunyip fires, and to recognize the work that these unsung heroes do for the community week in and week out.

25 CFA Neerim South members and two of our local police attended with apologies from the local volunteer Ambulance Officers. A two course meal was served of assorted roast meat and vegies and desserts.

Our local Federal MP, Russell Broadbent, thanked the members for all that they had done over the last few months, particularly in



Smoke from the Bunyip fire in March

relation to the Bunyip State fire. Mrs Beth Delzoppo spoke of the long association which John and Beth had had with CFA members throughout the years and especially when John was the local Member of State Parliament.

I also thanked them for all that they do to protect our community and remarked that it was an appropriate week to have the dinner in that this week Christians celebrate all that Christ had done for the world through his death that first Good Friday. We rejoice that Christ lovingly gave up his life for the benefit of others just as the emergency workers give of their time and efforts to serve the greater good of the community.

A wonderful time of fellowship was enjoyed by all and there was a request

that this be repeated in near future, perhaps even making it an annual event. In typical Neerim District fashion, the food was bountiful to overflowing. Shop generously op paid for the costs of all bought food from the local IGA store the Jindi Pig and butcher contributed meat at cost prices. It became a truly communal activity.

Thank you to the op shop for funding the night, Deb Mackay for organizing the food and logistics, Russel Broadbent for coming to our dinner, and volunteers John and Beth Delzoppo, Rob and Caz Evans, Chris and Sue Carson, Marilyn Pelman and Penny Gibson for doing the hard work.

The Rev'd Dr John Batt is Priest-in-Charge of Neerim South.



CFA Volunteer Ian Mackay, local Police Sergeant Murray Brown and Marilyn Pelman.

The voluntary work we all do is for the improvement and support of our organizations and communities. It's not about personal accolades, so I see my award being for all those with whom I have worked over many years.

My Christian faith and belief in the wonder of God's work has supported my journey and empowered me to achieve many goals throughout my life. Love, trust and respect are the greatest gifts we can share, but we also need to have joy, to be able to instil a sense of fun and encourage others to become involved.

Thank you to everyone I have worked with for your support, warmth, trust and shared passion, enabling us to make things happen and have a positive influence on those around us.

The community recently drinks nibbles and on a Friday night at the Boisdale Hall to celebrate the award. Helen said it was "a wonderful evening with many people different organizations attending. made ladies all wear tiaras and the men medals, as we all deserve awards".

## Helen Montague awarded OAM

Jan Down

Helen Montague, a Maffra parishioner who attends St George's, Boisdale, was surprised and honoured to be awarded an Order of Australia Medal in the Queen's birthday Honours, for her contribution to the community.

Helen, a retired nurse, is active on many local committees and the Church Council. One of the major projects she has worked on for the past ten years is the development of the historic Boisdale Stables originally built for the Cheese and Butter factory opposite.

The Rev'd Janet Wallis, Rector of Maffra, said "The project is amazing and provides the town with a unique meeting place". She added that as well as her community work, "Helen is also a very caring person, and can be counted on to call on people when they are sick or grieving".

Amongst other things, Helen is Chair of the Stretton Park Aged Care Board of Management; edits the local paper, *The Bridge*; is past president of the Boisdale-Briagolong Red Cross Branch, Boisdale and District Progress Association Secretary, and is on the committees of the Boisdale Public and Valencia Creek Halls. She is also the current chair of the Wellington Shire Heritage Network



Ken Roberts (a nominator) and Helen Montague at the Boisdale Hall

(WSHN) and has written two books on local history.

Since being told of the award, Helen has had considerable local media attention (see "Our Helen, OAM", in The Gippsland Times 10/6/19). She commented:

I feel humbled and very proud to have received an Order of Australia Medal in the Queen's Birthday Honours. While initially surprised that members of the community had nominated me, I really appreciate all their efforts and have been overwhelmed by messages of congratulations and best wishes from a great many people since the announcement.

## Bishop Manasseh's enthronement



Bishop Mansseh with clergy and deacons outside the new Cathedral in Gahini, Rwanda

July 2019 The Gippsland Anglican Page 7

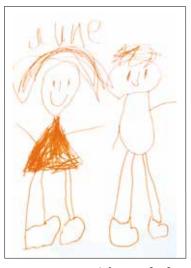
## mainly music means so much

June Holloway Bairnsdale

music **1** ainly started over 25 years ago in New Zealand and we have been blessed to be able to offer it here in Bairnsdale for nine years. The families are very comfortable coming into our midst and it's an amazingly educational and fun program.

We have a wonderful team and volunteers who make homemade slices and scones – for the adults to be pampered. The children have a healthy snack, and an abundance of toys are brought out for them to share and enjoy, while being watched by team members.

We celebrate and give gifts for new babies, children's birthdays, Mothers' Day, Fathers' Day, and of course Easter and Christmas. We often hear that a child who has gone on to school still wishes they could come



A drawing for June

back, as the orange picture shows, so proudly presented to me recently by young boy.

The adults relish "adult time" as it is quite often the only adult time|they have in the week. Recently, we farewelled a mum and family who had been attending for eight years, and were moving away. The mum was a bit teary and said we were like family and they miss us, and to call in when passing (with some slice of course).

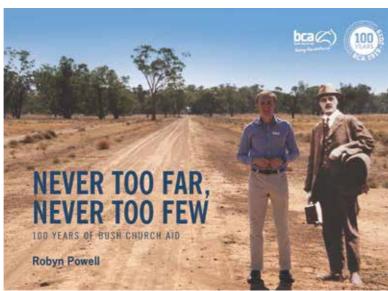


Bairnsdale mainly music

We presented them with family Bible and a booklet of photo time at mainly music and a prezzie for the little one. God has a plan for these families I truly believe. To God be the glory!

## "Never too far, Never too few"

BCA's Centenary Book launched



The Bush Church Aid Society's Centenary Book, Never too far,

Never too few, was launched in Sydney on 26 May, following a special Centenary Service at St Andrew's Cathedral in Sydney, where BCA was founded 100 years ago.

The author, Robyn Powell, said the brief for the book had been inspiration, not just information. She hoped that the stories would introduce a new generation to the work of BCA and what God has done through 100 years of faithful ministry in the bush.

"This book is designed to encourage those who are already supporting BCA and I pray that people who don't yet support BCA will pick up the book and say 'this is a ministry worth supporting'."

Other services celebrating the centenary continue to be held around the country.



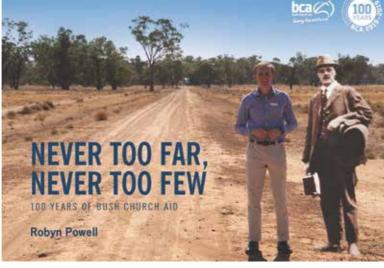
Gifts at special times

Christ Church Anglican Church Drouin seeks an

### Intergenerational Ministry Worker

to work with children, youth and families. The position is a two and a half days a week, stipendiary position. A position description is available on the Parish's website: http://anglicanparishdrouin.org.au/. Applications close at 5:00 pm on 26 July 2019. Enquiries to Rev'd Dr Dean Spalding, Rector, Christ Church dean@anglicanparishdrouin.org.au

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The Director of Professional Standards, Cheryl Russell, is available, and will maintain confidentiality, on telephone 03 5633 1573, on mobile 0407 563313, or email cherylrussell1@bigpond.com

## What matters to me

Nikolai Blaskow

"Whether they are conscious or not, people live by a core idea, or set of ideas."

John Armstrong

s part of the RAVE Department to "Visible Learning" undertaken by the school in all disciplines, the Year 10 cohort have undertaken as the endpoint of first semester's work in Philosophy and Ethics, to articulate their world view or "Weltanschauung" which in the German, adopted into the English simply means, "the way I look at the world".

Each student in each of the five classes (along with their teachers) will write their views in less than 25 words on a long

calico sheet. Mine will be: I believe and shall practise to the best of my ability: faith, hope and love in all I think, say and do (1 Corinthians 13).

In his chapter "God, Metaphor, and the Language of the Hemispheres", Iain McGilchrist, Fellow of the Royal College of Psychiatrists and Research Fellow in neuroimaging (among many other roles), makes the point that not all knowledge is propositional in nature, and that in fact all knowledge derives from experience embodied experience. He also makes the point that what we attend to, what we think is important, what we think matters determines the way we see the world.

He observes: *Attention changes* what

kind of a thing comes into being for us: in that way it changes the world. (Religion, Language, and the Human Mind, edited by Paul Chilton and Monika Kopytowska, Oxford, 2018, 138).

neurological From a standpoint, attention actually changes who we are, we who are doing the attending. McGilchrist, drawing on the latest findings based on mirror neurons, goes even further with this astonishing claim that our attending to someone else performing an action, and even by thinking about them doing so, we become objectively, measurably like them, in how we behave, think and feel. Attention, in effect, brings into being a whole world of its own, and with it, depending on what it is, a set of values.

That's why it matters. And that is why the project will

Photo: Nikolai Blaskow

Year 10 students, Tia Koch and Skye Holden

be an on-going project. The calico sheet is long enough to contain the names and views of several generations of students and teachers, so will provide a record of how our world view might change over time.

The Rev'd Nikolai Blaskow is Head of RAVE (Religion and Values Education) at Gippsland Grammar School, honorary priest at St Paul's Cathedral, Sale and Honorary Chaplain to Police in the Wollington Shing.

world view might change over time.

Cathedral, Sale a
Chaplain to Po
Wellington Shire.

Still see the world through of truly de

## **Anglicare Fare**

## Yarning circles for Reconciliation

**Cathrine Muston, Anglicare Development Officer** 

As a part of National Reconciliation Week, Anglicare Victoria held a series of "yarning circles" to explore how we can better understand what reconciling action looks like for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people.

Josh Hart, a Kalkadoon (Kalkadunga), Mitakoodi and Wunkulmudula man

working in the Koorie Youth Justice program Anglicare, told his experience up just growing outside Cloncurry in far north Queensland. spoke of the endemic racism he and experienced, of the time when, a child, he took scrubbing brush his skin in an effort to "rub the blackness out".

Josh also spoke of the way in which he had seen different people engage with Aboriginal Australia, likening them to either a submarine, a scuba diver or snorkeler.

Aboriginal people

have long had interactions where European Australians have entered their "world", their communities, but from the safety of a "submarine". They have observed Aboriginal people and have provided services, but have not got out of their sealed environments in order to fully engage with the culture.

Then there have been those who have dived into Aboriginal culture a bit more, like a scuba diver. They have engaged themselves in the Aboriginal community, but have maintained a safe distance in order not to "get wet".

However, a snorkeler will jump into the water and splash around. They may

still see the world through the goggles with which they have entered, but they will find plenty of points of contact and immersion as they explore the community. Josh encouraged us all to find ways to be snorkelers.

Jade Walsh, Team Leader of Anglicare's HiPPY program also spoke of growing up Aboriginal and of not feeling "black enough". As а Taungurung and Gunai/ Kurnai woman, Jade spoke movingly of how important it was for Aboriginal people have constitutional recognition а

of truly demonstrating reconciliation.

At the conclusion of the yarning circle, staff spoke of how moved they were to hear of personal accounts of growing up Aboriginal and were encouraged to find new ways to engage with Aboriginal people and culture.

For parishes interested in furthering the reconciliation process, a good start is with Australians Together, a Christian organisation with videos, stories and Biblical devotions on reconciliation.

See https:// australianstogether.org.au/



Jade Walsh, Team Leader of Anglicare's HiPPY program





## My truth or God's truth?

#### **Colin Oakley**

list of passions for ministers will always include a desire for people to draw closer to Jesus. We wax lyrical, we illustrate, we postulate, about what the Lord is saying or has done. All with the hope and prayer that others will in some way either move closer or find what the Lord is saying and/or doing in their lives.

Often we are given a lesson in hearing others sharing what their experiences have been. Exploring how God speaks can be both exciting and challenging. Discernment goes hand in hand with hope and joy as we hear how God works in the lives of others using different images, language or experiential interpretations.

Either way, it forms what we know and understand as truth.

Truth in the biblical sense is more about absolute truth rather than relative truth; what God reveals about himself versus what I would like to believe about him for myself.

My early life was romantically searching for God, the God I would like to have. There were interesting authors to fire up the imagination which eventually led me to referring

to myself as a re-incarnational Christian. My wife did cringe, but graciously accepted the fact that I was searching and prayed harder in her study group.

Relative truth is mercurial and though often reflecting something of an absolute truth, is always off target from real truth. To believe in Jesus as the way, the truth and the life, but have a safety net of re-incarnation for ourselves or another, is not belief found in the bible.

Many in the New Age Movement (which I was a part of) would or do relate to Buddhism, but still only in the picking and choosing of fragments from it. That's only convenience, not faith. A true Buddhist might also find that odd or distasteful. So, at a moment in my past, enter the Holy Spirit. Every time I heard the gospel and thought, "Yes but..." the Holy Spirit did an amazing thing called conviction. "How did you get to that conclusion lad"?

This would end in me poring over books to find that my ideas were based in one person's experience, and not supported by anything other than that one colourful book. This then led me to exploring the Bible and other sources to find that, that was what was truth and it was soon apparent,



the other needed to be dropped. It took a few years of conviction, but it did the trick.

When I romanticised or clung to spiritual things that weren't rooted in God's Word, Jesus, then I was allowing myself essentially to drift into lies or idolatry. Nowadays when I hear, "It's my opinion", I'm left wondering, do they mean, "I believe, after searching God's Word, the Bible

says this", or "I would like this to be the truth"? With one of these answers the Lord has patience; with the other, well pray for mercy. Truth or relative truth – which do we choose? How we express truth varies and changes, but God's truth doesn't.

The Rev'd Colin Oakley is Priest-in-Charge of Westernport.

#### EDITORIAL

### Paying attention for Reconciliation

Paying attention changes the world, as the Rev'd Nikolai Blaskow reminds us (see page 9).

This truth is also captured in one of the twelve Permaculture principles: "Observe and interact" (not to mention in the general gardening wisdom of the ages). A slow stroll around the garden, looking at everything with real attention can lead to small but important interactions.

We might notice a pest that wasn't there the day before and be able to deal with it before it multiplies. We might see a plant looking droopy and give it a drink. We notice the good things too, like the first chocolate lily shoot appearing.

When it comes to Reconciliation with Australia's First Peoples, if we pay attention, if we give it the time to really look, not turning our heads away, we will notice things, we will see what needs to happen. It will change us, and it will change our country.

We need to find out about the history of rapid European settlement, especially in our own areas. Who were (are) the people? Were there massacres? What part – good and bad – did the Church play? What is the legacy of these early times? As many readers will know, there is a wealth of information at gunaikurnai.com.au and at ramahyuck.org/.

As Christian people, we have more reason to be willing to look, and more reason to lead the rest of the community, because we do not need to be afraid; we know there is hope of forgiveness, of healing and true reconciliation, because God has paid attention to us. God has seen, God has acted in Jesus, and God continues to pay close attention to us.

It has been an immense privilege to pay close attention to this paper for nearly six years, as it will be by the time I write a final editorial for October. I am so thankful for the opportunity to serve such a strong and vibrant diocese. I will very much miss working to produce *TGA*, but look forward to moving to Sale next year and being involved in different ways.

I will say more in October, but for now, thank you! Jan Down



Scott & Sharon Anderson

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# Age or merit?

### Part 1: Like attracts like

The Rev'd Jude Benton, Priest-in-Charge of Croajingolong, reflects on the age v merit debate at Synod in May. Next month: Graham Knott.

minister,"

predictable

response –

"But you're

so young,"

The second question of introduction is almost always "And what do you do?"

To which my reply of "I'm a church minister," invariably results in raised eyebrows and the now predictable response – "But you're so young," varied occasionally by those who use "but you're a woman" instead.

For the sake of argument let's make "young" 18-40, as was the age grouping targeted in the final motion of Synod in May. Each year *The Melbourne* Anglican publishes a photo of the ordinands, and amongst them there are many "young" looking candidates - but a cursory glance over at least three Victorian rural dioceses tells a different story.

"I'm a church In Gippsland I believe there are just two priests aged under 40; I don't invariably results of Anglicans who know about Wangaratta in...the now and Ballarat. I do know that when I was working in the Bendigo diocese Bishop Andrew had made it one of his targets to lower the average clergy age; the result

– just in our deanery of seven parishes - three of us were under 40.

Why does it matter? The buzz word at Synod was "merit" - that people should

only be judged on their merit, not on gender, age, etc. Yet we passed legislation to ensure gender equality on boards, meaning that there is a feeling that to enable the merit of women (or perhaps men) to be seen, the playing field needs to be levelled. Why not also with age, when we are a diocese predominately at the older end of the age spectrum, both amongst clergy and in our parish demographics?

Surely, we need attention given to levelling expectation of what "priest" is (not young) so that the merit of the under 40s can be seen with equality.

The reality is that "like attracts like". In the last *Melbourne Anglican* the article

"The Pentecostals are coming" pointed out that the number are young adults is one in ten, while for Pentecostals it's three in ten. It goes on to say "The Anglican denomination's age profile instructs us that

congregations will continue to contract. In some Australian dioceses the average age of worshippers is over 70!" What it fails to say is that the average profile of a Pentecostal minister is someone young – or at least

intentionally surrounded by a team of young leaders.

Like attracts like when people choose a church - do I feel comfortable here? Are there people who look like / speak like / understand me? Would an average 35 year-old find someone of similarity in your parish?

Like attracts like when clergy choose which diocese to work in - I know, I've done it twice in five years – and the age and gender profiles reflected in the dioceses' magazines made me gravitate to some and decline offers in others.

Like attracts like on clergy appointment boards, when they will say "We don't want another minister sliding to retirement, we need something different", but then choose the safe option that reflects their own demographics.

last motion of The "To support and Synod, encourage ministry TO AND FROM people aged 18-40" will hopefully provide a evervone challenge to across the Diocese: in our parishes, but also on our clergy appointment boards, in our recommendations towards training ordination, and in our emphasis on ministry.

If we want the church to be here in 10, 20, 50 years then we can't keep doing what we've always done. Of course we need to judge primarily on merit, but only when our expectation of what a priest "should be" is clear enough to see beyond gender, age, ethnicity or anything else that detracts from merit.



The Rev'd Jude Benton at Mallacoota

## Trafalgar 140th invitation

You are invited to celebrate 140 years of Anglican worship on Sunday 21 July in Trafalgar. Perhaps you have fond memories of dances, community plays, Sunday School, school RE services or KANGA club. Maybe your parents were married in the church!

We would like to gather people from the "old days" to celebrate the many roles the Trafalgar parish has had in the community and the life of the Diocese. Possibly you have some memorabilia or old photos that you could lend us for a display.

Items from St Mark's Yarragon and St Mark's Thorpdale as well as St Mary's would be appreciated.

Bishop Richard Treloar will preach and celebrate at a 9:30 am service to mark the occasion. This date is the closest Sunday to the feast of Mary Magdalene, after whom the Trafalgar church is named.

A brunch will be held at 11:00 am following the service. You are welcome to come to either or both. Please call the Rev'd Sue Jacka on 0409 757 170 for more information.





#### A LASTING GIFT: A bequest to the Anglican Diocese of Gippsland or your parish

The Church, over the years, has been blessed with the generosity of Anglicans and others in support of its mission. One way you can support this ideal in a relatively easy way, is to make a gift through your will. In the first instance, of course, you will consider carefully the needs of your immediate family and friends before proceeding with a bequest to the church.

We offer a way of helping you to carry out your wishes. Your gift, through your bequest, will be very much appreciated. You may wish to support the Diocese of Gippsland as a whole, or your own parish, or for a particular purpose.

Making your bequest in your Will is a simple procedure, although in preparing or amending your Will you should always consult a solicitor. The Registrar of the Diocese of Gippsland has information to assist you in making a bequest, including the form of words you and your solicitor might want to use.

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# Manufacturing ministries making a difference

Dean Spalding reflects on two Drouin parishioners' sewing ministries to cancer patients.

n Mother's Day this year the lectionary reading was about Dorcas in the Book of Acts. As a way of celebrating contemporary women who used their sewing skills as ministry, two women at Drouin spoke about their ministry "beyond the walls of the church".

The first woman to speak was Alison Smethurst. Alison has four daughters and a son, and one of her daughters, Shirley, is an oncology nurse.

Shirley became aware of the need for turbans by women who were undergoing chemotherapy and suffering hair loss. Shirley and another nurse were really keen to demonstrate some holistic care of their patients, so they obtained some sewing patterns for the turbans from the Peter MacCallum Cancer However, Centre. examining the patterns and trying to interpret them, they decided they would give the patterns and the fabric to Shirley's mum, Alison: "Let's take it home to Mum."

These are no ordinary turbans – think of the screen goddesses of the 1940s and you'll get a picture of how elegant and graceful Alison's often broadly-pleated turbans can look.

The turbans not only look elegant and fashionable; they also serve the very practical purpose of reducing the trouble and embarrassment of hair loss.

Peter Mac provide an allowance for the purchase of fabrics, but Alison has also procured off-cuts from op shops. Some patients bring their own favourite fabric and ask if it could be made into a turban.

Alison has also conscripted a couple of other friends into the turban manufacturing endeavour – one from Drouin and one from Neerim South. Alison's friends also have the advantage of overlocking machines which allow them to take on some different designs.

The turban manufacture and provision provides a lovely example of not knowing



Alison Smethurst and daughter, Shirley

the potential for goodwill, help and ministry that a community contains, until you ask the question.

These turbans would be quite expensive to buy and there would be the trouble of patients going to shop for them when they are already ill and stressed. By providing them free at the point of treatment, Shirley, Alison and company are providing a compassionate ministry to these women.

Patients receiving treatment for cancer are frequently already under a lot of emotional and financial stress and it is a real ministry to be giving them one less thing to worry about. Some of the women have written to Alison expressing their gratitude.

#### **Yvonne Tindal**

Yvonne initiated a CWA State Project called the "June Laurel chemo bags". A bag for carrying a chemo-bottle was a necessity for at-home chemo treatment – but the "hospital issue" bags were not very elegant. So, as part of the "Look good feel good" philosophy, the "June Laurel bag" was born. According to Yvonne, this was a two-headed thing. The ladies took it through the auspices of Victoria CWA as a "state project"; Victoria CWA in turn gave it back to Drouin Branch to manufacture.

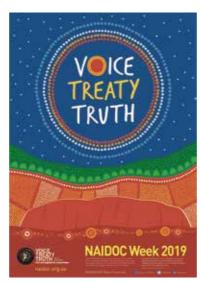
Then there was the "Miracle of the Zips". After identifying the cost of zips as possibly a prohibitively expensive component in the bags'

manufacture, by providence, hundreds of bags were made available free of charge.

The bags are tested for colour-fastness and shrinkage so that they are stress and trouble free. All fabric has just "arrived", often surplus to requirement. One woman in WA who received a diagnosis of cancer was going to start her own manufacturing circle, but the progress of her illness was such that she packaged up the fabrics and donated them to the Drouin CWA – a tremendously humbling and poignant gift to receive.

Yvonne describes her team as just ordinary people serving ordinary people. But this is an extraordinary ministry to people who are often vulnerable and stressed. It is surrounded by providence, grace and a good measure of miracle.

The Rev'd Dr Dean Spalding is Rector of Drouin



2019 National NAIDOC Week poster

## Diocesan calendar

#### July

- 6–13 9:00 am–4:00 pm Giant Book Sale at Delbridge Hall next to St Paul's Anglican Cathedral, Sale. 1000s of books for all ages and interests. Contact Christine 0438 595 056
- 7 12 noon Eucharist and lunch for St Thomas' Day celebration at Bunyip
- 7 2:30 pm NAIDOC Service, St John's Church, Rules Road, Lake Tyers Aboriginal Trust. Details: Phyllis Andy 0420 377 539 or Edie Ashley 0423 400 359
- 8 12 5:30 pm Monday 3:30 pm Friday Winter Retreat at The Abbey: "Into the Cave".

  Retreat Leader: Dean Susanna Pain.
- 14 2:00 pm Pleasant Sunday Afternoon at Christ Church Drouin, with Warragul Municipal Youth Band. Entry by gold coin donation; afternoon tea in the hall
- 19 2:00 pm Safe Church Awareness Workshop (Refresher) at Warragul Anglican Church

#### 19 – 30 August

7:30 pm Date Nights: at St Peter's Leongatha, share seven weeks of candle-lit dates with your partner to view the excellent Marriage Course DVD over delicious desserts. Bookings essential, call Sue 0409 625 232

- 9:30 am Safe Church Awareness Workshop (Full) at Warragul Anglican Church
- 9:30 am 140th commemoration service at Trafalgar, Bishop Richard Treloar to preach
- 21 12 noon Friends of the Cathedral AGM at St Paul's Sale. Light lunch available.
  Contact Dean Susanna Pain: 0418 637 469
- 21 2:00 pm Yallourn Madrigal Singers present A Pleasant Sunday Afternoon at St Paul's Cathedral, Sale. \$10 at the door, afternoon tea following
- 27 12 noon The Abbey Winter Feast. Inquiries: info@theabbey.com.au or ring: 5156 6580.
- 28 10:00 am Join the Cooperating Parish of Croajingolong to celebrate 91 years of worship at St John's Cann River, and the centenary of BCA

#### August

- 3 12 noon 3:00 pm The Abbey Dispersed Community Gathering
- Ordination to the priesthood of the Rev'd Brian Norris, St Paul's Cathedral, Sale.
  Details at: www.gippsanglican.org.au/calendar

#### 29 – 1 September

10:00 am to 4:00 pm Leongatha Daffodil Festival. Free entry, refreshments available

30–31 5:00 pm Friday to 3:00 pm Saturday: Diocesan Retreat at The Abbey with the Rev'd Dr Jane Foulcher, Senior Lecturer in theology at St Mark's National Theological Centre. For further information and bookings call 03 5156 6580 or info@theabbey.org.au

#### September

- 13 2:00 pm Safe Church Awareness Workshop (Refresher) St Paul's Cathedral, Sale
- 9:30 am Safe Church Awareness Workshop (Full) St Paul's Cathedral, Sale