



P4
A new
Priest-in-Charge
for Yarram



P9
Creative
Worship



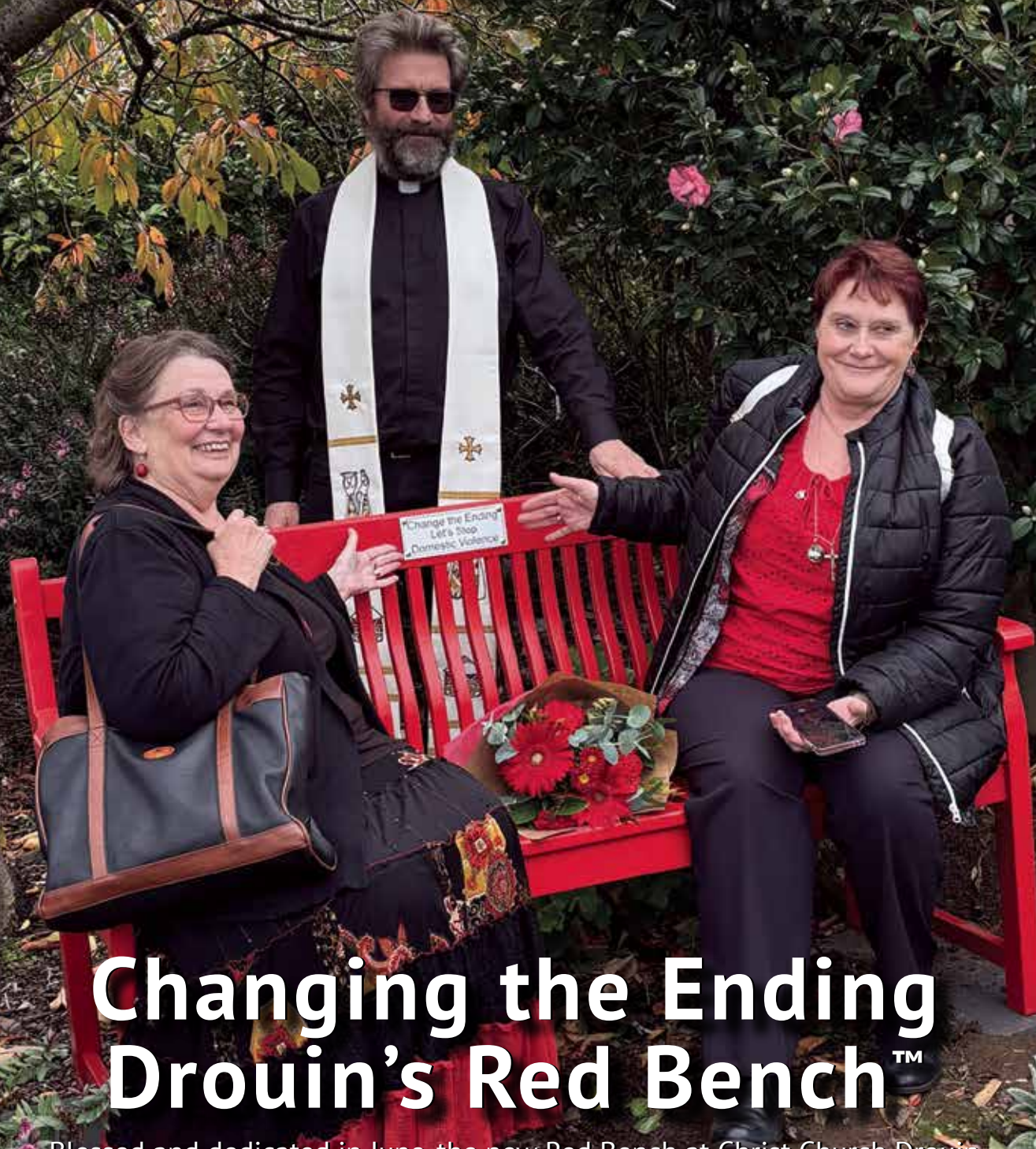
P11
From the top
of the world
to the bottom

RRP \$7.95

The Gippsland Anglican

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Joy Marshall



Changing the Ending Drouin's Red Bench™

Blessed and dedicated in June, the new Red Bench at Christ Church Drouin is a sign of the Church's commitment to stand alongside those affected by family violence and to keep this issue visible within our communities.

(Read more on page 10)



Recovering Sabbath as more than rest



A *Hush* day at The Abbey on St Barnabas Day (11 June) focussed on Creation Care and the Hebrew Bible. In the Chapel of St Barnabas there we reflected on Bruce Hutton's gorgeous stained-glass windows, which artistically render the first creation story in Genesis (Gen 1:1 – 2:3).

As we listened to that great piece of prose again – trying to hear it on its own terms through the commentary of Australian biblical scholar Norman Habel – we felt the jarring note struck by the appearance of humankind on the sixth day.

We grappled with humanity's role of 'subduing' earth – a verb that elsewhere in the Old Testament is associated with enslavement (Jer 34:11, Neh 5:5), the conquest and subjugation of enemies (2 Sam 8:11, Num 32:22, Josh 18:1, 1 Chron 22:18), and even assault (Esth 7:8).

We wondered why the good creation needed to be so harshly – even violently – controlled? Perhaps the text serves as both mirror and lamp, as the Scriptures so often do.

And as we gazed through the clear glass east window behind the altar-table out to Lake Victoria, we pondered the goal of creation in this story as God's 'sabbath rest' on the seventh day. This rest is not for God to enjoy in 'splendid isolation'. It is that peace – that great 'shalom' – into which all creatures are invited to share equally.

So too, the sabbath is so much more than simply one 'day off' in seven for busy human beings. Far from being a momentary collapse and recovery after a busy week – made in the image of 'divine exhaustion' from the work of creation, as it were – sabbath is the crowning of days: the time in which God exists in the fulness of relationship with all created things. It expresses God's will for the flourishing of all, which governs all time.

Sabbath is about giving rest – to labourers, animals, the earth itself – as much as taking rest. It is the great leveller, which guards against exploitation and the accumulation of wealth.

Sabbath has more to do with justice than with leisure. It is a weekly foretaste of the liberating and reconciling principle of 'Jubilee' (see Lev 25:8-24), when once in every 50 years (seven 'weeks' of years) all debts are cancelled – not repaid, but released – and ancestral lands are restored to original owners, reminding us that God is the only landlord (Lev 25:23).

What might this regular reset and redistribution have to teach us about mitigating inter-generational poverty and structural disadvantage?

The prevention of an extractive approach to labour extends to the land, to earth itself. In addition to weekly sabbath and Jubilee, every seventh year is to be a 'sabbath year' (Lev 25:1-7), in which sowing and pruning are prohibited, but gathering is permitted. Here is an ancient wisdom that the resting land will provide enough for people and animals alike.

The Israelites are instructed in this wisdom at very start of their life as a free people. When the principle of scarcity was operative in the wilderness (Exod 16:3), God provides daily bread. They are to gather just enough for each day (Exod 16:4, 17-18), but not on the seventh day, which is subsequently revealed as the sabbath (Exod 16:22-23). As such, the discipline of sabbath assumes the work required that all may rest.

Recovering a more holistic theology of sabbath has profound ecological and economic implications, as well as some ecclesial ones! It's no coincidence that so much of the conflict between Jesus, as lord of the sabbath, and the religious authorities of his day was gathered around his understanding of the sabbath

as a sign and instrument of the reign of God.

As G P Wagenfuhr and Amy J Erickson (who teaches at St Mark's National Theological Centre in Canberra) put it in their recently published book *Sabbath Gospel*:

Insofar as Sabbath is God's enthronement, we could say that Sabbath is the shape of God's sovereignty. It is a sovereignty that does not dominate by force but by [making room]. God's Sabbath rest is also the ground for humanity's freedom to rest from its own aspirations and plans – and in this to respect the freedom of others [Exod 20:8-11]. Human freedom and rest is established by God's freedom to rest. And as with God's rest, this is not a freedom *from* others but a freedom *for* and *with* others.

(61, original emphases)

A week after the *Hush* day, ACTinG (Acting for Creation Together in Gippsland) hosted a workshop for Bishop-in-Council members and other interested clergy and laity on local resilience mapping in response to the impacts of climate change. The workshop was run by four young people from Friends of the Earth.

Among the many offerings churches have to share in this space are theological resources. The reading – and misreading – of Genesis 1 has no doubt contributed historically to an excavative relationship to earth. Yet as a mirroring tale – more cautionary than salutary in our own reading context – it is part of what we bring to the task of adaptive response.

What a precious and enduring gift the Judeo-Christian tradition stewards in the far-reaching wisdom of sabbath: an invitation to all creatures, and to the earth itself, to participate now in creation's divinely ordered purpose and goal.

+RM



We are Gippsland Anglicans – Committed in Christ, Connecting in Service, Creative in Spirit. We are committed to providing a safe environment for all, especially children and vulnerable people. We acknowledge the First Nations people of this region as the traditional custodians of the land on which the Diocese of Gippsland serves, and pay our respects to past, present and emerging Elders of the GunaiKurnai, Boonwurrung, Bidawal and Ngarigo/Monero peoples.

The Rev'd Canon Graeme MacRobb

1938–2026

The Diocese of Gippsland mourns the death of The Rev'd Canon Graeme MacRobb, who died in hospital following a short illness on June 15, aged 87.

Graeme was a devoted husband to Jenny, and a loving father and grandfather. His family gives thanks that his final days were peaceful and that his suffering was not prolonged.

A man of deep conviction and energy in ministry, Graeme was widely known for his heart for evangelism. He was a gifted teacher, storyteller, and catechist whose lifelong passion was to see people come to faith in Christ and grow in discipleship. Those who knew him often spoke of his ability to communicate the gospel with clarity, warmth, and assurance.

Graeme's ministry began in Gippsland as a youth worker at St Paul's Warragul. He later served for seven years with the Church Army as a lay evangelist before being ordained deacon and priest in the Diocese of Gippsland in 1968.

He undertook his curacy at the Cathedral and would later return there in senior leadership, serving as Dean and Rector from 1995. He held the title of Canon Emeritus for more than two decades.

Over the course of his ministry in Gippsland, Graeme served in five parishes: Croajingolong, Mirboo North (where he also served as chaplain to Morwell River Prison), Drouin, Rosedale, and Avon (while Dean of Sale). He also represented the Diocese as a clerical member of General Synod.

In 1976, Graeme moved to Sydney to serve as Principal of the Church Army College of Evangelism. In this position he restructured training programs and, over 13 years, trained more than 60 Church Army evangelists across Australia and New Zealand. He also developed a wide-reaching non-denominational education program that equipped several hundred lay people across Sydney and beyond.

During this period, he played a significant part in introducing the Bethel biblical literacy program to



Australia, beginning a long association with the Adult Christian Education Foundation that continued into his retirement.

Graeme and Jenny returned to Gippsland in 1989, though he remained connected with Church Army as an Associate Evangelist alongside parish ministry.

He later served in the Diocese of Bendigo as Rural Dean of the North East Region and was made a Canon of Bendigo Cathedral in 2000, taking up a role as Bishop's Consultant on Adult Christian Education, before returning again to Gippsland in a similar capacity, including as Ministry Development Officer.

A lifelong learner, Graeme studied at several Australian and international theological colleges and universities before and after ordination. He was awarded a number of diplomas in addition to his Licentiate in Theology (ThL).

Graeme maintained his Permission to Officiate in the Diocese of Gippsland from 2008 onwards and also held Permission to Officiate in the Diocese of Melbourne until 2020. In retirement, he maintained an active ministry through locum work and local discipling networks.

As Graeme and Jenny's family is spread across the globe, a Thanksgiving Service to celebrate Graeme's life will be held on 11 September, with further details to be advised nearer the time.

The Diocese gives thanks for Graeme's faithful service to the Church and his influential baptismal ministry – both lay and ordained – spanning more than 65 years.

'Rest eternal grant unto him, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon him.'

Krista Mountford, TGA Editor, based on Bishop Richard's *Ad Clerum*

For me, Graeme MacRobb was a good friend, a loveable and loving professor type, not exactly absent minded but always flat out trying to undertake many and varied projects at once. He had a broad and deep knowledge of biblical Christian life and faith, which he was always eager to share pastorally and educationally with others.

Graeme had the instinctive passion of a teacher, endlessly enthusiastic about connecting people with those he regarded as the greatest and most effective biblical teachers of our time, e.g. the Welsh writer Selwyn Hughes, whose 'Every Day with Jesus' Graeme would encourage people to sign up for whenever possible; or David Pawson, whose video series and sermons he would love to screen for small groups. Graeme himself wrote and published many bible study courses and series.

Graeme's passions included the Anglican Church Army, which he reckoned produced the best prepared evangelists in the country, and the most adventurous and creative clergy. Locally, he supported the ecumenical Crossing Drop-in Centre in Drouin, where many got to know him.

Graeme could not have achieved all that he did without the support and help of his wife Jenny, whose calm and unflappable temperament and great love made her the ideal life companion for such an activist as Graeme. The thoughts and prayers of many around Australia will be for Jenny and their family in their loss.

Archdeacon Emeritus Philip Muston,
Rector of Warragul 2002–2018

A new Priest-in-Charge for Yarram

■ Bishop Richard

On the unanimous recommendation of the Clergy Appointments Advisory Board I am delighted to announce that The Rev'd Damien King has been appointed Priest-in-Charge of the Parish of Yarram.

Damien was shaped in his ministry as a Lay Reader, Deacon, and Priest by the Ministry Development Program (MDP) and a curacy shared between the Parishes of Leongatha and Mirboo North. In each of these spaces the pastoral leadership and formative influence of The Ven Graham Knott and The Rev'd Belinda Seabrook have been profoundly important in Damien's journey over recent years.

He is also the (part time) senior Anglican Chaplain at Fulham Correctional Centre, and will continue in that role while serving as (part-time) Priest-in-Charge at Yarram.

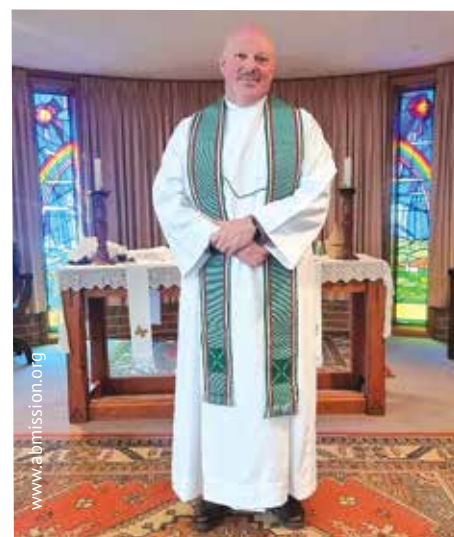
Damien is close to completing a Bachelor's degree in Theology, studying online through St Mark's National Theological Centre in Canberra. Prior to exploring a vocation to ministry, Damien worked in the building industry as a joiner, where he had the opportunity to work in many locations, on many projects, and with a wide and diverse range of people,

both as co-workers and clients. His years in that industry exposed him to many of the issues that everyday people are facing in an ever-changing world.

Damien lives in Mirboo North with his wife Rebecca, and two younger sons, Rory and Tom. Their eldest son, Aiden, lives independently. He will spend several nights each week at Yarram, where he will be joined regularly at weekends by Bec and other family members.

It is a source of great encouragement to Gippsland Anglicans when those who come to faith in our parishes and ministry centres go on to test a call to lay or ordained ministry, and are equipped for leadership roles by our diocesan structures as well as through external studies. Damien's example is a reminder of the importance of investing in the work of discernment and ministry formation, and in the clergy and lay people who support it.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank the Lay Readers – Elaine Wright and David Miller – and other lay leaders of Yarram who have worked tirelessly alongside locum clergy – Brenda Burney, David Head, and Philip Muston – together with other authorised diocesan



Lay Ministers – Geoff Kennedy and Joanne Stuchbery – to provide continuity of ministry and pastoral care since the retirement of Jenny and Tony Wicking in April last year.

Damien will be Inducted on a date to be determined in late August or early September. Please join me in praying for him and his family, for the Parishes of Mirboo North and Leongatha, and for the centres of Holy Trinity Yarram, St John's Port Albert, and Christ Church Tarraville during this time of transition and preparation.

Grace and peace,

+RM

OUR COMMUNITIES

Thinking outside the Shoppe

■ Brian Norris

At Ye Olde Op Shoppe in Bruthen, we are constantly humbled by the generosity of our donors. The support of our local community means beautiful, high-quality clothing and goods arrive through our doors in such abundance that our little shop simply cannot store and sell it all.

Rather than letting that goodwill go to waste, the Parish of Tambo has been 'thinking outside the shoppe', finding new ways to make these donations available to the people and places that can most benefit from them.

Since January 2025, pop-up op shops have become a regular feature of parish life. They have already appeared in Buchan and Swan Reach, and now, at the invitation of local Neighbourhood Houses, we are getting ready to head to Gelantipy and Benambra.

These pop-ups are a practical and caring way to support smaller and more remote communities, offering good-quality clothing at prices that make

a real difference. Typically, children's clothes are just 50 cents, while adult clothing ranges from \$2 to \$5. It may not sound like much, but for many people it can mean a great deal.

Alongside these travelling pop-up op shops, the parish also runs clearance sales at our hall in Bruthen, where goods are offered at heavily discounted prices. Both the pop-ups and the clearance sales are part of the same simple idea: to honour the goodwill of our generous donors, to respect our clientele, and to ensure that quality items continue to be used and appreciated rather than overlooked because of limited space.

Beyond our own parish pop-up shops, Tambo parish is also very active in supporting remote community Op Shops, helping to fill carefully considered lists of requested and much-needed items for Indigenous communities in Central Australia and the far west. This work is another important part of the parish's

outreach, making sure donated goods are not only passed on, but passed on thoughtfully and with purpose.

In every sense, these pop-up op shops have been a wonderful way to repurpose quality clothing and other goods, reduce our footprint, and strengthen connections across communities both near and far. What began as a practical response to an overflow of donations has grown into something much richer: a chance to share abundance, extend kindness, and make sure that generosity keeps moving.

The Rev'd Brian Norris is the Priest-in-Charge at Tambo.



Ye Olde Op Shoppe in Bruthen

After SCAMPS? After JAFFAS?

Looking back to Hahn and Darling for inspiration

■ Dean Spalding

This is the third of a three-part series about a growing commitment in the Parish of Trafalgar to integrated discipleship 'From Birth to 25'. Whereas the earlier two articles were about two growing ministries—to preschoolers ('SCAMPS is back!' in the May edition of TGA) and primary-school years ('In the JAFFAS veggie garden' in the June edition) — this article is about an aspiration: a hope for a ministry to those from 12–25 years of age.

With discipleship to this age group, our community, as a smaller regional parish, has struggled. In that struggle, I don't think we are in a minority throughout the parishes of the Anglican Diocese of Gippsland. During some seasons we have had a 'critical mass' to run a youth group. In other seasons, we have lacked the numbers, often due to the attraction of youth ministries in larger townships to our east and west. Our parish is therefore seeking something that can authentically serve as a vehicle for the discipleship of this secondary and post-secondary age group, but in a way that is not so dependent on numbers.

Trafalgar is exploring the principles of two historic Christian educators: Kurt Hahn and Sir James Darling. The biographies of these two educationalists deserve articles in themselves. James Darling was Headmaster of Geelong Grammar School from 1930 to 1962. To gain a quick understanding of their philosophy, Google '*Hahn's 6 Declines of Modern Youth*', '*Hahn's 4 Solutions to the Declines*', and '*Hahn's 7 Laws of Salem*'.

Briefly, Kurt Hahn was responsible for a school in Scotland called Gordonstoun. A young Prince Charles, who was forced to attend, dubbed it 'Colditz in Kilts'.

Gordonstoun was a severe application of otherwise sound principles about helping adolescents flourish and learn in a century that seemed to be introducing a new range of harmful influences. This century appears to be doing the same in an even more intense manner, which perhaps explains why Hahn and Darling's ideas remain relevant. Apart from schools in Scotland, Wales and Germany, Hahn was also responsible for the creation of the Duke of Edinburgh Award (now 'Duke of Ed'), Outward Bound and the International Baccalaureate.

The influences on James Darling and his educational transformation of Australia were many. Two were William Temple and Geoffrey Fisher, who taught Darling at Repton before both becoming Archbishops of Canterbury. Hahn also had a great influence on Darling, helping inspire Geelong Grammar's decision to take Form Three boys (later Year Nines and eventually including girls) to a venture called Timbertop. Prince Charles reportedly enjoyed Timbertop, perhaps because it combined Hahn's philosophy with more visible compassion. Timbertop has become one of the most imitated educational ventures in Victoria. Melbourne Grammar, Wesley, MLC and Scotch College all have Timbertop-inspired remote campuses, often for Year Nine students, and the number of such campuses continues to grow.

Not all of Hahn's and Darling's educational ideas have survived the constraints of modern schooling. One under-applied principle was their conviction that educational communities emphasising self-initiative, creativity and immersion in the natural world should be accessible to all. Both believed that about a third of the community should

consist of children from modest socio-economic backgrounds. They saw this as beneficial for everyone, including those from more privileged backgrounds. While schools may struggle to apply many of Hahn's and Darling's principles today, a church discipleship ministry for adolescents and young adults may be better placed to do so.

Trafalgar Parish is pursuing the offering of Duke of Ed to local youth connected with the parish. Duke of Ed can be commenced from 14 years of age and is now available up to the age of 25. Other vehicles for discipleship in the gap between 10 and 13 years of age include the Governor of Victoria's Compass Award, which is a junior version of Duke of Ed, and Rotary's Community Award for Grade Six students. The latter involves an intensive and hands-on exploration of community and is already operating successfully in Trafalgar through the local Rotary club.

We are also investigating regional or diocesan ways in which small numbers of participants in these awards might gather across parish boundaries for mutual Christian encouragement, especially where they may be among only a handful of participants being mentored in smaller parishes. In doing so, we are borrowing a strand of the thinking behind the historic success of Cowwarr, recently remembered and celebrated through the publication of *From the Mountains to the Valleys Below; Cowwarr — A Personal Experience* (February 2026).

The Rev'd Dr Dean Spalding is the Rector of Trafalgar.

Where to Next?



Anglican church at Tarraville

A marvel of 19th-century timber construction

■ Rachael Lucas – kindly republished with permission from ABC News

Christ Church Tarraville celebrates its 170th anniversary

Tarraville's Christ Church, built in 1856, stands as one of the last remaining public monuments to a once-thriving frontier seaport town.

Architecturally unique, the Anglican church features a rectangular timber Victorian gothic revival design and is a rare surviving example of drop-slab construction.

Its congregation is celebrating the church's 170th anniversary and the work that has gone into ensuring it remains Victoria's oldest active timber church.

No nails, almost

The building's ability to withstand the test of time is a testament to the skills of builders past.

Yarram Anglican parish member Fred Wright, who has helped maintain the building, said the original construction was based on a Scottish design.

'It's stated as not having any nails in it, which is partly true,' Mr Wright said.

The church's upright beams are slotted with crossbeams painstakingly cut and assembled so that the yellow bark timber could be tessellated into place without nails.

'It's quite a substantial building and it's a very important part of our cultural history of our traditions,' Mr Wright said.

Nails became a necessary addition when the original shingle roof had to be replaced with galvanised iron in the 1900s.

The original shingles are still visible under the eaves, made from local mountain ash.

'It's quite a substantial building and it's a very important part of our cultural history of our traditions,' Mr Wright said. 'It's old English, and the majority

of people who moved into these areas were from the United Kingdom area, a lot of Scottish, Irish and English. It's part of Australia's history.'

Gateway to the goldfields

Tarraville, situated on the Tarra River, is 175 kilometres south-east of Melbourne in South Gippsland.

It was settled by Europeans long before Victoria even became a state.



Christ Church at Tarraville, pictured in 1947, has remained active since it was built in 1856 (Supplied by Yarram Anglican Parish)

Named after Gundungurra Burra Burra man Charley Tarra, an Aboriginal guide and tracker who travelled with explorers, the area is the home of the Brataualung clan of the Kurnai people.

By 1843, land was surveyed for a township to service what would become the bustling supply depot of Port Albert.

By 1844, Tarraville had become the largest town in Gippsland, with 50 predominantly brick buildings, including hotels, numerous stores, a police station, courthouse, jail and later schools and a mechanics institute hall.

'This area was only accessible by sea, as from here to Melbourne was all through the Koo Wee Rup swamps and there were no reliable roads through that area,' Mr Wright said. 'Port Albert was the only place they could land from a boat, and then to move inland. They had to go this way to get through to the goldfields of Walhalla and Sale.'

Makeshift ministry

Tarraville's first priest was The Rev'd Willoughby Bean (1801–77), an English free settler who had migrated to Gosford, New South Wales, where he farmed about 800 hectares.

Suffering financial hardship, the aspiring clergyman returned to England to pursue theological studies in 1843 before Bishop of Melbourne Charles Perry posted him to Tarraville as an ordained priest in 1848.

His parish posting encompassed a vast area comprising Warragul in the west, Tarwin in the south and Omeo in the east, nearly a third of what would later become the state of Victoria.

Traversing uncleared forests, bush scrub, marshes and crossing rivers on horseback with a buggy, The Rev'd Bean facilitated prayers and performed

Sunday services in homesteads, courthouses and woolsheds.

Camping, sleeping at farms, pubs and shanties, he met labourers, stockmen, storekeepers and publicans.

He officiated marriages, births and burials, no matter what denomination, recording them diligently in his hand-ruled, hand-sewn registers, which he carried in his saddlebag. But after eight years as an itinerant priest, £456 was raised from Church of England authorities in Melbourne, local subscriptions and donations from The Rev'd Bean's English connections to fund a parish church.

'Everything's original, nothing has really been changed, it's got the highest rating for a heritage building in Victoria,' Mr Wright said.

A church is born

Constructed on the banks of the Tarra River, the first service at the Christ Church Tarraville was held at 11:30am on Sunday, 8 June, 1856, attracting a full house of parishioners from across the district.

'According to the original paperwork, it was designed to accommodate 180 people, but I think they must have been pretty small,' Mr Wright said of the compact original wooden pews still intact.

The bell, made in London, dated 1858, was installed in a bell tower two years later.

A plaque acknowledging Tarraville's most famous parish member, contralto opera singer Ada Crossley (1874–1929),

as a choir leader and organist remains on the wall.

As the building never had power connected, replica recesses for kerosene lamps are fixed to the walls, pulpit post and ceiling, with only one original wall recess remaining.

From gateway to ghost town

Neighbouring Yarram eclipsed Tarraville as a city centre as Tarraville's population decreased from the late 1870s, with better roads and the completion of the railway connecting Melbourne to Sale in 1878.

Shipping declined, and by the early 1900s, few buildings remained, rendering Tarraville a virtual ghost town.

By 2000, the church had deteriorated badly due to rust from the corrosive salt air and damage from seabirds.

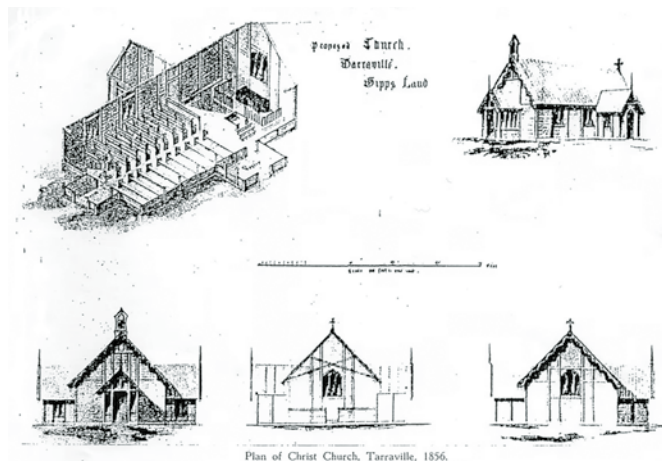
Volunteers painstakingly numbered, removed, repaired or replaced every single board, restored rusting mesh, wrought iron, damaged windows and bird-proofed the roof during a full restoration between 2000 and 2006 with funding from Heritage Victoria.

'Everything's original, nothing has really been changed, it's got the highest rating for a heritage building in Victoria,' Mr Wright said.

Today, Tarraville has a few homes, and dairy farms, the remnants of its former school built in 1877 and the church, which still operates and attracts an occasional busload of tourists by appointment.

'We basically keep the service for the locals on the fifth Sunday of the month, and have quite a large Good Friday service every year that gets 80 to 100 people,' Mr Wright said.

Photos courtesy of Rachael Lucas – ABC News



Original sketches of the church show the decorative, evangelical design of JHW Pettit and George Hastings (Supplied by Yarram Anglican Parish)



Fred Wright has overseen the restoration of Christ Church at Tarraville



A historic church, a living faith

Wilma Wallace enjoying sections of the newly painted building

■ Carol Monson

One of Warragul's oldest buildings is beginning to shine again, with restoration and repainting works now underway inside the historic St Paul's Anglican Church.

The project began recently with volunteers repainting sections of the church damaged by significant water leaks several years ago. Damaged plaster has now been repaired and repainted, while the entire northern wall of the church has received its first fresh coat in many years. Parishioners say the lighter colour scheme has noticeably brightened the worship space and given the church a renewed sense of warmth and life.

Importantly, this is not simply a heritage preservation project. St Paul's remains a living church building at the centre of active worship and ministry in Warragul. In fact, it is believed to be the

last historic church building in the town still regularly functioning as a place of worship.

Alongside Sunday services, the church has also seen a growing interest in the Anglican tradition of Choral Evensong. Regular Evensong services are now held at Warragul, featuring the parish choir and music drawn from the rich Anglican choral tradition. The service follows the historic pattern of evening prayer found in the 1662 *Book of Common Prayer*, combining scripture, prayer, psalms, canticles, and reflective choral music.

Evensong has deep roots within Anglican worship, evolving from the ancient monastic traditions of Vespers and

Compline and becoming one of the defining features of Anglican spirituality and church music. The service is often described as a form of contemplative worship, where music and liturgy work together to create space for prayer, reflection, and beauty.

For Warragul Anglicans, the revival of Evensong alongside the restoration of the heritage church reflects something much bigger than maintenance work. It is part of an ongoing commitment to preserving not only the building itself, but also the traditions of worship, prayer, and sacred music that have shaped generations of Anglican life.

The restoration works are expected to continue gradually over time as volunteers are available. Recent working bees have also included the installation of a new handrail inside the church, general site clean-up, and ongoing maintenance around the property.

As one parishioner remarked during the recent works, 'These buildings matter because they remind us that faith has deep roots here, and because they're still helping people encounter God today.'

It is important to see this work as intended; a church of people strong in their faith that the past, present and future of worship are all important in continuing God's work. This is happening while Warragul Anglican Church is growing so rapidly that there is a need to create a third Sunday service.

Carol Monson is the TGA representative at Warragul.



Damage to a section of the wall in the heritage church



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Creative Worship

Sharing the Good News through music and fellowship

The Creative Worship team: Joanne (keyboard), Fiona (violin), Marshall (guitar), Amanda (nyckelharpa) and Doug (Irish bouzouki)

■ Joanne Stuchbery

Creative Worship is a gathering of men and women united by two great loves: a love for God and a love for music. What began many months ago as a simple desire to support country congregations has grown into a valued ministry across our region.

Originally travelling every fortnight, the team now visits churches monthly, particularly serving communities that currently lack a resident minister. Through music, prayer, Scripture, testimony and fellowship, Creative Worship seeks to encourage local congregations and strengthen the bonds of Christian community.

Over the past months, the team has ministered in churches at Lang Lang, Corinella, Kongwak, Loch and Walhalla, sharing worship and fellowship with local congregations. Each community has its own character and history, yet everywhere we have been welcomed warmly and have witnessed the faithfulness of God's people.

At the heart of every gathering is a desire to share the good news of Jesus Christ. In creative and engaging ways, we tell the story of Christ's death and resurrection, and of the salvation offered through him. Whether through songs, reflections, readings or personal stories, our aim is always to point people towards the hope, grace and new life found in Jesus.

The ministry is built on the belief that worship is not simply something we

attend, but something we share. As we travel country roads and meet faithful Christians in small communities, we are continually encouraged by the warmth, resilience and faith of God's people.

A growing part of this ministry is the writing and sharing of original Christian songs. God continues to inspire new music, and we are slowly uploading these songs to our YouTube channel, *Songs of Life and Love*. As the psalmist writes, *Sing to the Lord a New Song; Sing to the Lord, All the Earth* (Psalm 96:1).

If you would like to follow our journey, learn where we will be worshipping next, or receive updates about upcoming gatherings, visit our Facebook page, *Creative Worship*.

We look forward to continuing this ministry in the months ahead,

bringing music, fellowship and the good news of Jesus Christ to country congregations, and discovering together the many ways God continues to work among his people.

Joanne Stuchbery is the TGA representative at Leongatha.





Mothers Union installs Red Bench™ in Drouin

A place to pause, remember, and commit to changing the ending: Drouin's Red Bench™

■ Libby Willems

Trigger Warning: This article references Domestic Violence and key indicators of the risk of death.

The community of Drouin is the latest to receive a Red Bench™ as part of the Red Rose Foundation's project to help prevent Domestic Violence. Through the leadership of Mothers Union Drouin Branch, a Red Bench was constructed, blessed and dedicated as a place to pause and remember the ongoing need to keep people safe from Family Violence and to prevent it in all its forms. The Red Bench Project is an initiative of the Red Rose Foundation that works to prevent deaths from family violence by raising awareness and understanding of non-lethal strangulation as a significant risk indicator (Strack & McAllen, 2001; Glass et al., 2004, cited by Red Rose Foundation). Each of the 300+ Red Benches around Australia carries a plaque that reads 'Change the Ending: Let's Stop Domestic Violence'.

The benches are positioned in a public location to raise awareness of domestic violence and provide an opportunity for this serious issue to remain visible. The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare reports that on average, one woman was killed every 11 days, and one man was killed every 26 days by an intimate partner in 2024–25.

Christ Church Drouin's prominent position on the main street of Drouin close to the public library, the primary school and commercial district give good access for many people to see the Red Bench.

The Red Bench was blessed and dedicated on 3 June by Archdeacon John Webster who prayed,

We have come from within the church, into the open air, beside the footpath where everyone walks — those who pray and those who do not, those who are well and those who are wounded. We are here to bless and to set apart a Red Bench, a sign placed on these grounds in partnership with the Red Rose Foundation's Red Bench Project. Across Australia, more than 300 such benches now stand in parks, churchyards, and council lands, each one a quiet but stubborn refusal to let domestic and family violence remain hidden. We do not bless this bench to console ourselves. We bless it as a public promise: that this parish, this community, will not look away.

Whoever sits here — weary traveller, troubled neighbour, frightened partner, grieving family member, ordinary passer-by — will sit on ground that has been prayed over, and on a seat that says, plainly, in red: you matter, your story matters, and the ending can be changed.

The installation of the Red Bench in Drouin was made possible by the partnership of Anglican Mothers Union Australia Drouin Branch, Craig Handasyde, Drouin Men's Shed, Drouin Anglican Church, and Red Rose Foundation.

Libby Willems is the TGA representative at Drouin.

Family and domestic violence support services

If you need help immediately, call emergency services on Triple Zero.

Women's Crisis Line
1800 811 811

Respect National Helpline
1800 737 732

Men's Referral Service
1300 766 491

The Kids Helpline
24-hour support on 1800 55 1800

Lifeline
131 114

The Blessing

*God of the open road and the wayside well,
you sent your Son to walk the dusty paths of our world,
to sit at tables and beside wells,
to stop where others passed by,
and to lift up those who had fallen among thieves:
bless, we pray, this Red Bench,
set here on the grounds of Christ Church, Drouin, and turned toward the footpath of this town.
May it be a place of rest for the weary,
a place of safety for the frightened,
a place of remembering for those who grieve,
and a place of resolve for those who pass.
Let its red speak louder than our silence:
of the blood of the wounded,
which you do not forget;
of the fire of your Spirit,
who is the Comforter;
and of the love of Christ,
poured out for the life of the world.
Grant that all who sit here may know themselves seen by you;
and that all who walk past may be made neighbours by your grace.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
who is our peace,
and in the power of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.*

From the top of the world to the bottom

The monks of Pluscarden Abbey in the north of Scotland help the parishioners of Hedley Anglican Church of the Transfiguration

Pluscarden Abbey, Moray, Scotland

■ John Waterhouse

Christmas 2025 was a rather sombre and disheartening time for the congregation of Hedley's Anglican Church of the Transfiguration during what is generally a festive and joyous occasion.

The cause of this distress was the discovery on Christmas Eve the church had been burgled a few days earlier. On 22 December an unknown person had stolen many of the church's valuable and important brass and silverware artefacts used during worship services. In fact, most of the missing items had been donated by past parishioners over the years going back to the church's earliest days.

The police investigation unfortunately did not lead to the culprit or the stolen artefacts, nor did ongoing surveillance of eBay and other internet selling sites locate them. But, in an unexpected twist, a monastery in Scotland was found to be advertising similar items for sale as those stolen.

Contact was soon made by Hedley parishioners with the monks at Pluscarden Abbey near Inverness to confirm the security of the offer, and the monks were very pleased to be able to assist the people at Hedley to replace most of the missing items. The monastery is a Catholic Benedictine order which was established back in 1230 during the Middle Ages.

When the large package arrived at Hedley in January 2026, there were many wonderful surprises for the church members including; a cross and candlesticks originally from a chapel at

a RAF base in Scotland, a silver-plated bread paton from another RAF base, a glass wine and water cruet set previously owned by an Anglican priest, a Victorian-era wooden cross used by a travelling priest, the Bishop of Ullapool, on the west coast of Scotland, and a surplice that is now being used by the Corner Inlet Parish rector, The Rev'd Canon Dr Fran Grimes.

Not surprisingly, the monks in Scotland and the Hedley Church of the Transfiguration parishioners have become warm friends, and the generosity of the monks at the top of the world has helped these South

Gippsland residents at the bottom of the world to lighten their grief at the loss of many artefacts of great sentimental value to them with these new treasures.

The Hedley Church of the Transfiguration will be holding its annual Patronal Festival on Sunday 2 August at 11am and any interested persons are welcome to join the parishioners of the Anglican Corner Inlet parish at this special service.

John Waterhouse is the Communications Officer for the parish of Corner Inlet.



Hazel Vening (left) and her great-grandchildren (holding the Bishop's wooden cross) with daughter-in-law Lisa Vening (centre) and Kathleen Hiho (right), Hedley Church's warden. The new brass cross and candlesticks are behind them with the other artefacts from The Abbey on the table in front



Students lend a hand in BlazeAid bushfire recovery effort

Gippsland Grammar students rebuild burnt fencelines at Alexandra with Blaze Aid

Gippsland Grammar students, families and staff have rolled up their sleeves to support bushfire-affected farmers in Victoria's north-east, contributing to the recovery effort through a hands-on service initiative with BlazeAid in Alexandra.

A group of 14 volunteers from the school community travelled from Sale in the early hours of the morning in late April, arriving on site to begin a full day of physical work supporting two properties impacted by the Longwood bushfires earlier this year.

Working alongside BlazeAid volunteers, the Gippsland Grammar team helped dismantle and prepare damaged fencing across the properties, completing the equivalent of 96 hours of labour in a single day. In total, the group removed approximately 2.5 kilometres of burnt fencing, clearing the way for rebuilding so that stock can safely return to paddocks.

Deputy Principal Mr Bo Power, who organised and supervised the trip, said the experience provided a powerful example of values in action.

'This was an opportunity to support people in clear need,' Mr Power said. 'We often talk about knowledge and understanding, but there is also great importance in values expressed through action. We didn't need specialised skills, just a willingness to help and a genuine care for others. That was evident in every member of our group.'

For Year 10 student Lucy Dray, the experience was both eye-opening and inspiring.

'One moment that really stuck with me was getting to work closely with other people from all around Australia and even the world,' Lucy said. 'It was really cool how we had all come together for this cause and how we all had the same goals throughout the day.'

Lucy said seeing the aftermath of the bushfires firsthand gave her a deeper understanding of their impact.

'I think what surprised me most was how green everything was,' she said. 'If you just looked at the farm once quickly you would think nothing had happened, but then if you looked closer at the tree trunks and the fenceposts we were removing, you could actually see where the fire had come through and start to imagine the damage it had done.'

The initiative brought together staff, parents and students from Years 7, 9 and 10, reflecting the strength of the School's connected community and shared commitment to service. Mr Power said the opportunity for students to hear directly from property owners was particularly powerful.

'For many of our students, it was a real awakening to see the scale of the damage and to hear firsthand the impact on both farm productivity and the lives of those affected,' he said.

'It was both humbling and deeply rewarding. There was a strong sense of purpose in knowing that their efforts were making a genuine difference.'

Lucy said the experience also highlighted the importance of collective effort in supporting recovery.

'The BlazeAid experience taught me so much about helping regional communities, but the most important thing I learnt is how much work there is to do after bushfire season,' she said.

'Even a small group travelling for just one day can make such a big difference. When you combine that with everyone else helping, including those who travelled even further or stayed longer, the difference that can be made to one family's life is really powerful.'

Parent Katy Dray, who attended alongside Lucy and her younger daughter Milly (Year 9), described the day as a meaningful experience for their family.

'It was a chance for the girls and me to help families still working to recover from such a devastating event,' Mrs Dray said. 'To see the after-effects of bushfires for the first time is not something they will forget. It has helped them understand more deeply the extent of loss and devastation these communities face. Helping others is something we have always encouraged as a family, and being part of the BlazeAid effort was a humbling experience that will stay with us.'

Gippsland Grammar was one of only two volunteer groups working at the Alexandra site on the day, highlighting both the ongoing need for support and the importance of community involvement in recovery efforts.

The School hopes to continue its partnership with BlazeAid in the future, building on this experience as part of its broader commitment to service learning and community connection.

St Paul's Drouin Campus celebrates its first anniversary milestone and building opening

Unveiling of the plaque: Wayne Farnham MP (Member for Narracan), Emily Brown (St Paul's Board Chair), The Hon Harriet Shing MP (Member for Eastern Victoria), Cameron Herbert (St Paul's Principal), The Right Rev'd Dr Richard Treloar (Anglican Bishop of Gippsland) and Rowan van Raay (Head of St Paul's Drouin Junior School)

St Paul's Anglican Grammar School's Drouin Campus has marked another major milestone, celebrating the opening and dedication of its new Junior School Learning Centre as the campus celebrates its first anniversary.

Guests gathered for the special ceremony, which recognised the continued growth and development of the campus since opening its doors in 2025. The school welcomed The Hon Harriet Shing MP, Member for Eastern Victoria, to officially open the new facility, and The Right Rev'd Dr Richard Treloar, Anglican Bishop of Gippsland, who performed the dedication.

Designed to foster collaboration, creativity and flexibility, the new learning centre features six paired learning areas connected by a central shared learning 'street' for specialist learning activities. The hub extends seamlessly to outdoor spaces beneath

an extended roofline, encouraging play-based learning and outdoor exploration while integrating with the natural environment.

The project was partially supported by a \$6 million capital grant from the Victorian Government through the Victorian School Building Authority's Building Fund for Non-Government Schools – Independent Schools, a contribution acknowledged by school representatives as instrumental in delivering the new centre to support growing enrolments and enhance learning opportunities for students at the Drouin Campus.

Adding to the celebratory atmosphere, the event also recognised the campus' first anniversary. Two Prep students delighted guests by handing out party hats before attendees joined together to sing *Happy Birthday* to the Drouin Campus.

The occasion highlighted not only the rapid growth of the campus but also the strong sense of community and optimism surrounding its future.

Our commitment to a safe church

The Anglican Diocese of Gippsland is committed to ensuring our centres of worship and outreach are safe places for all, and it does not tolerate abuse or misconduct by church workers.

If you have any concerns, for yourself or someone you know, please contact our Professional Standards Office for a confidential discussion.



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Crafternoon at Maffra

Jan Kewley enjoying the 'Crafternoon'

■ Lisa Ogilvie

On Saturday 30 May, we had our very first 'Crafternoon' at Maffra. This was the culmination of some brainstorming from some of our parishioners on ways in which we could connect and build relationships with some of those around us in our community, while at the same time providing an opportunity for people to come and learn a new skill.

In total we had approximately 30 people cycle through and join us. Some people brought their own craft projects along to work on and others joined us to learn a new skill in one of our workshops. Throughout the day small workshops ran, and participants had the opportunity to learn how to make cards, decorate biscuits with fondant, crochet and knit.

We also had a variety of different skills on show including crochet, knitting, cross-stitch, cardmaking, sewing, slow stitching and embroidery, as people spent time working on their own projects. We even had some mums bring their kids along and their kids loved being able to get involved as well, making cards, decorating biscuits and even learning to crochet! Everyone was treated to a delicious lunch, included sandwiches, soup and sausage rolls, with slices and cakes proving popular for nibbling throughout the day.

This day proved to be a great way to form some new connections with people in our community who we might not normally cross paths with. Social isolation continues to be

a growing barrier for many in our community, and this day was a great way to connect with and support some of those around us through the sharing of knowledge and skills and supportive conversations. We all made some new friends as well and are looking

forward to the next 'Crafternoon' which is being planned for later this year.

I'd like to leave you with a couple of quotes from some people I met for the first time and got to make some connections with:

Thank you so much for showing my daughter how to make decorated fondant biscuits. We go to St Paul's in Sale, as we live not far from there and I really just needed to get my daughter out of the house today.

Thank you for sharing your knowledge with me today and demonstrating how to make these. My parents live just down the road and although they only attend church here at Christmas (as my Dad struggles with dementia), I would love to bring my mum (who is a knitter) next time, if you do this again.

Lisa Ogilvie is a Liturgical Assistant at Maffra.

Editor's note: Members of the Maffra and Sale congregations were shocked and saddened to hear that Jan Kewley, (pictured) died suddenly from a heart attack on 11th June. Her funeral was held at Maffra on 26th June. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

Reach out to our rural readership

From Nar Nar Goon to the border, *The Gippsland Anglican* is distributed to parishes across our region.

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Traralgon
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(03) 5174 2258



■ Cath Connelly

Hello to each of you.

This month I am bringing you the work of spiritual direction. As a spiritual director myself, I am often asked what is involved in such a relationship. We come to our director on a regular basis, usually for an hour each month. This is sacred time dedicated to you, the directee. You come bringing whatever is happening in your life. It is not counselling; it is not about fixing problems. It is the opportunity to explore, in the context of what you bring, where the movement towards love is in your story. It is around questions that emerge when you might be facing change, or when things are tough. It is about how to live a life of service or sometimes it is about being able to celebrate together the joyous moments of life.

Underpinning our time is the premise that God is in you and God is in me and together we are discerning how you might fully live this 'one wild and precious life.' One way we might address this is to explore the wisdom of theologian Frederick Beuchner that 'our vocation is the meshing place between our deepest gladness and the world's greatest hunger'. So often we get caught up in questions about which of many causes we should dedicate ourselves to. Rarely do we get to ponder about our 'deepest gladness', our joys, our desires. In that these yearnings come from God, spiritual direction is the space in which to unpack this most sacred of questions.

I encourage you to consider finding a spiritual director. There are a few of us around. We have all undergone extensive training so that we might be present to you when you come with a heart full of life to explore.

You are welcome to contact me at, abbey@gippslandanglicans.org.au and I can help you find a director that will be a match for you.

Save the date



For further information, please contact
Cath at the Abbey: (03) 5156 6580,
info@theabbey.org.au

JULY

- 9 *Hush Quiet Day Lessons from the Oak*
Facilitator: Su Mills
- 10 – 12 Weekend Retreat *Celtic Spirituality*
Facilitator: Cath Connelly
- 20 – 23 Mid-week retreat *Pilgrims of Renewal: From Wilderness to Glory*
Facilitator: Dennis Webster
- 24 – 26 Weekend Retreat *Moss!*
Facilitator: Kelly Skilton

AUGUST

- 13 *Hush Quiet Day Two Celtic Saints: St Non of Wales and St Ia of Cornwall*
Facilitator: Cath Connelly
- 14 – 16 Weekend Retreat *Circle Dancing*
Facilitator: Robyn Sussems
- 21 – 22 Diocesan Retreat
An Experience of my Relationship to my Faith Using Creative Arts
Facilitator: Dr Jenny Orford Hill

SEPTEMBER

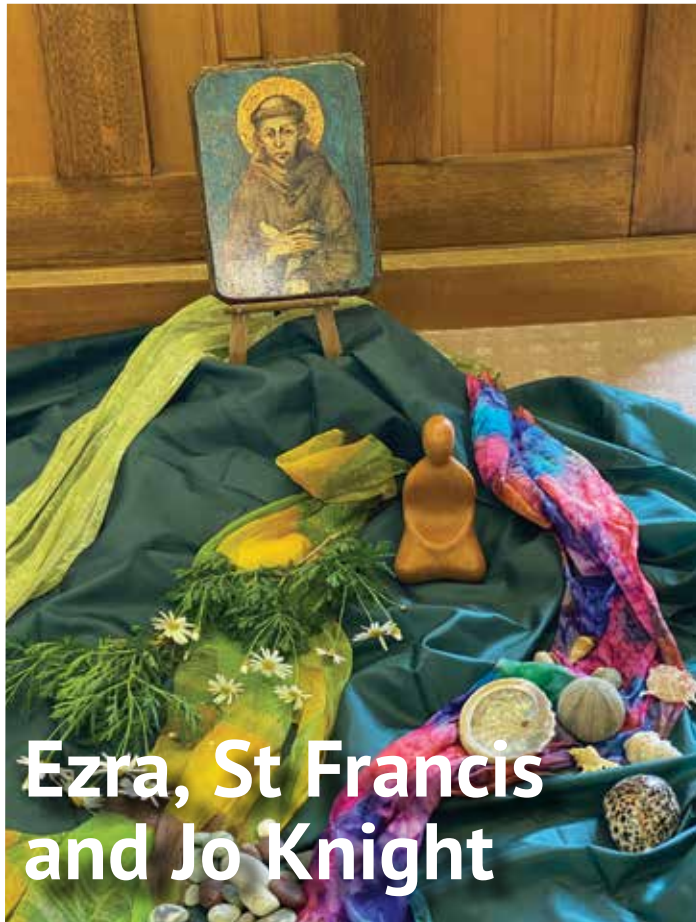
- 10 *Hush Quiet Day Sound of Music*
Facilitators: The Rev'd Sue Newcombe and Cath Connelly
- 12 Our wonderful, marvellous annual Abbey Feast

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Ezra, St Francis and Jo Knight

Centrepiece at a Franciscan retreat

■ Jan Down

On starting to re-read the *Book of Ezra*, I was struck by the similarity between the calling of King Cyrus of Persia to 'rebuild the house of the Lord, the God of Israel' (1:3) and the calling of St Francis as he prayed before the San Damiano crucifix, to 'rebuild my house, which you see is in ruins'. After a false start, Francis came to realise this calling was about God's people, not stones and mortar.

In the story of Ezra God first calls a non-Israelite to the work. To me, this is a reminder that God is at work in the whole world, not just among God's people, and that God is ahead of us.

What comes next is a willing spirit: 'everyone whose spirit God had stirred got ready to go up and rebuild the house of the Lord in Jerusalem'. Again, God is the one taking the initiative (1:5b). Ezra's own call comes later in the book (Chapter 7).

From Ezra and Francis to Jo Knight and her book, *Called to Care: For People and Planet*, which also focuses on the rebuilding of the Church.

Richard Prideaux, in his review of the book (*The Gippsland Anglican*, April 2026, page 15: <https://tinyurl.com/4zm87czy>), says the author 'seeks to rewild our hearts and communities and ignite our imaginations with visions of a church that reflects God's justice and love'.

Jo Knight, writing about 'holistic mission', says that 'justice, political action and structural change in our physical world belong together with spiritual, personal change and worship ... holistic mission leads to spiritual renewal in our churches. In God's good design, holistic mission is actually good for the Church and good for the world.'

This book itself is a new call for the rebuilding of the Church through the re-integration of the spiritual and material as we respond to God's call to act for creation and justice. It is an uplifting and easy read, overflowing with the author's own love for God and the world.

We look forward to hearing Jo Knight speak at the Season of Creation launch at the Cathedral on 23 August.

A version of this article will appear simultaneously in Knit Together at <https://tssf.org.au/>.

Season of Creation Launch at the Anglican Schools Evensong



23 AUGUST, 2026
5PM



ST PAULS CATHEDRAL, SALE
AND ONLINE

Speaker: Jo Knight
CEO of Anglican Overseas Aid
and author of *Called to Care*

Followed by light refreshments



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Anglicare Parish Partnerships

July update



Sarah at a Volunteer Expo in Traralgon

■ Sarah Gover

There is a slight sense of déjà vu for me in writing this regular Anglicare Parish Partnerships column. Although I have been in the role of Anglicare Parish Partnerships Officer for just over a month, this is not my first time in the position. I previously held the role from 2008 to 2016, and I return with the benefit of those years of experience, along with the challenges, successes, and relationships they brought. In the ten years since, the Diocese has changed, Anglicare has changed, and so have I.

One significant change has been the addition of Emergency Relief to the portfolio. Last year, the government made major changes to the way funding was distributed to organisations supporting people in crisis. Although Anglicare Victoria has nine Emergency Relief sites across the



state, several of them based in parishes, there had been none in Gippsland.

In the most recent funding round, Anglicare lost funding for a couple of centres in Melbourne but, for the first time, secured funding for Gippsland. Over the last six months, people in crisis have been able to access support through an Anglicare statewide emergency helpline. St Mary's Parish in Morwell has been working with Anglicare to establish an Emergency Relief Centre so that people in crisis have a place to go for help.

One of the benefits of St Mary's is its location, particularly its proximity to the train station.

On 26 May, we welcomed our first clients. It was a rewarding day as our new team of volunteers began learning their roles with the support of experienced staff from the Melbourne Emergency Relief team. The Centre will operate one day each week, helping people respond to unexpected challenges that can quickly become overwhelming.

Now that the Emergency Relief Centre is operating, it is time to turn to the other aspects of my role. The first of these is facilitating the Parish Partnerships grants. Traditionally, grants have been awarded twice a year, but last year the Parish Partnerships Committee was so impressed by the quality and initiative shown in the applications that it distributed a year and a half worth of funding. As a result, there will be only one grant round this year, opening in late June and closing on 24 July.

A highlight of the month was attending Synod and reconnecting with many people from across the Diocese. I am looking forward to beginning parish visits in July.

Please feel free to get in touch if you have any questions or would like further information about Anglicare, Parish Partnership grants, Emergency Relief, or the role more broadly.

Email me at:
sarah.gover@anglicarevic.org.au

The Rev'd Sarah Gover is the Parish Partnerships Coordinator for Gippsland.

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From the Editor



The gift of rest

Life can be busy.

Between work, family commitments, community involvement and the endless list of things that need doing, it can sometimes feel like we're constantly moving from one task to the next without taking a moment to stop and look around.

As we settle into the middle of winter, now feels like a good time for a reminder that it's okay to slow down. To take a breath, spend time with the

people who matter most, and appreciate the things that often get missed in the rush of everyday life.

It's often the simplest moments that stay with us most – a conversation with a friend, time spent outdoors, a peaceful view, or an hour free from the usual demands of the day. Taking time to rest is really about creating space to appreciate those moments and enjoy where we are. It is something I struggle with a lot and need to prioritise more!

For me, the opportunity to rest and slowdown is arriving this month. I'll be taking three weeks of annual leave to travel with my family, something we've been looking forward to for quite some time. I'm excited for the chance to step away from the usual routine, spend quality time together and explore some of Australia's remarkable landscapes.

As a result, *The Gippsland Anglican* will also be taking a short break. There will be no August edition, and we will return in September with more stories, news and reflections from around the Diocese.

I'd like to thank everyone who contributes to *TGA* each month, whether by writing articles, sharing your thoughts, providing story ideas or simply taking the time to read it. Your support helps make *TGA* a publication that reflects the life and ministry of our communities across the region.

Wherever this season finds you, I hope you can find some time in the weeks ahead to slow down, recharge and appreciate the people and places around you.

See you in September.

Krista Mountford

TGA needs policy on AI

Further to Bishop Richard's excellent piece on AI in the June *TGA*, I would like to suggest that the Editorial Board of *TGA* create – if it hasn't already – and make public its policy on the use of AI. Perhaps this should extend to social media as well, as it applies just as much in that context.

One idea for a policy, would be to require a declaration at the end of every article (a bit cumbersome) or every article of substance (better), as to whether or not AI has been used in the writing.

A more radical policy would be to ban AI altogether from the pages of *TGA*.

AI data centres use enormous amounts of energy and water. Australia is one of the driest countries on Earth, so water is precious. And this country is just beginning to make head-way on the transition to renewable energy. AI data centres could set this progress right back.

I am also concerned about the mining – both of minerals and of people's work – the latter without permission or payment.

Do we need AI? Mostly it seems to be about making a handful of people very rich at the expense of the planet and most of the people on it. (Yes, there are some useful applications, but are they worth it?)

This is not a topic ACTinG has discussed, and I am not writing on the group's behalf, so this is purely my own letter. We will be discussing it in the near future.

Yes, the horse has bolted. And it's a wild, unpredictable animal. But can we please have an explicit policy for *TGA* all the same? Perhaps a debate in these pages could come first?

Jan Down, Sale



Gippsland Anglicans

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**The love of Christ urges us on
(2 Cor 5:14)**



Wednesday Weekly Bible Study

If you would like to meet with others in Gippsland to read and discuss the Bible, you are welcome to join The Rev'd Bec Hayman's Zoom Bible study group on Wednesday evenings from 8:15pm–9:00pm.

Bec Hayman is the Anglican priest in the cooperating Parish of Churchill/Boolarra/Yinnar.

For more information or to receive the Zoom link contact Bec by telephone 0467 023 363 or email: becca_mike@yahoo.com

Join Us for a Family Worship Service with campfire

God can turn hurt into hope.

Genesis 45:1-15

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Casual, fun, and family-friendly. You are invited to bring some food for a shared meal afterwards.

For more info call Sarah on 0430082865

These Regional Family Services will be monthly, on the 3rd Sunday. September's service will be at St Mary's Anglican Church, Morwell, 20 September 4:30

Piano Concert

on the theme of "Twilight"

with returning Pianist Dr Zachary Dunbar

Sunday 30th August 2026 2-4pm

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All proceeds in aid of **ASRC** Asylum Seeker Resource Centre

An afternoon of Musical Splendor

EVENTS

JULY

- 5-12 NAIDOC Week
- 23-27 National Deans' Conference, Sale

AUGUST

- 2 2.30pm – Service to acknowledge and celebrate Thelma Langshaw's ministry, St Paul's Cathedral Sale
- 9-14 General Synod, Melbourne
- 23 5pm – Season of Creation Launch at Anglican Schools Evensong St Paul's Cathedral Sale (in person and online)

SEPTEMBER

- 12 12 noon – Abbey Feast

Church Health and Parish Leadership

Saturday 5th September 2026
10am-4pm
St James Anglican, Church Traralgon



Presented by The Rev'd Rod Morris
Lead Consultant in Church
Revitalisation, City to City Australia

The Rev'd Rod Morris is Lead Consultant with Revitalise Australia and has more than 30 years of ministry experience. He has served in parish ministry, university ministry, theological education, and church revitalisation, helping congregations across Australia and internationally develop healthy leadership and sustainable ministry.

The seminar is open to all, and tailored especially for Lay Readers, clergy and interested laity including Synod reps.

For more information contact:
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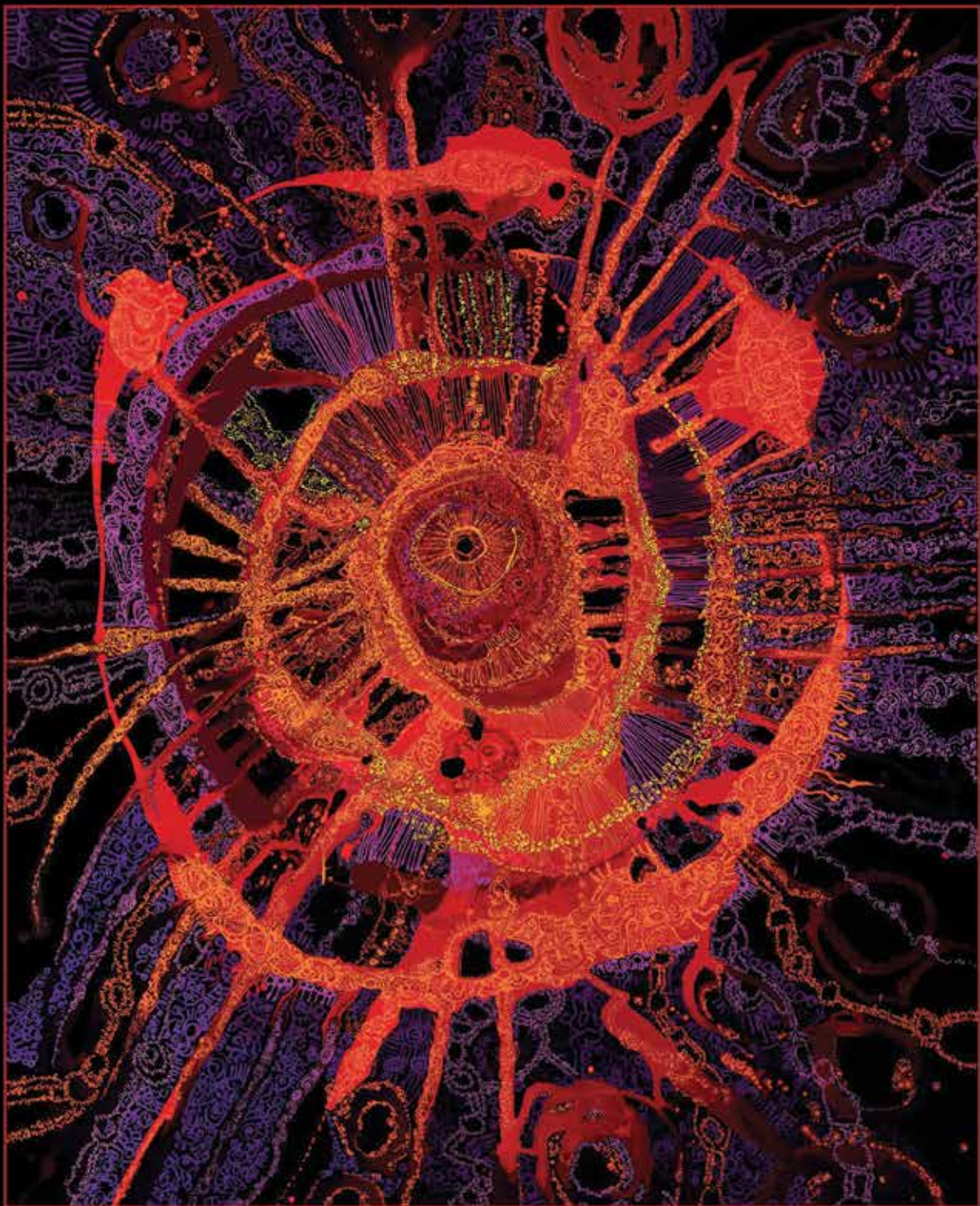
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Called to Care online study groups

ACTinG offers 3 online study sessions on
Called to Care: For People and Planet
by Jo Knight

7:30pm Tuesday evenings
1, 15 and 29 September
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5-12 JULY 2026

Paralpi by Zaachariaha Fielding

Paralpi extends Zaachariaha's acclaimed *Inma* series and reflects a deeply cultural and immersive narrative grounded in Country. The artwork depicts the sounds of *Paralpi*, a significant place just outside Mimili on the eastern APY Lands in South Australia. As Zaachariaha describes, *Paralpi* is a place where people come to embrace and celebrate children, where they are taught by Elders to move and mimic their Clan emblem – for Mimili, this being the maku (witchetty grub).

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Aboriginal flag
designed by Mr
Harold Thomas.



Torres Strait Islander flag reproduced by kind
permission of the Torres Strait Island Regional
Council, designed by the late Mr Bernard Namok.

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