



THE ADVOCATE

Our Diocesan Vision is to walk in the way of Christ.

The Anglican Diocese of Wangaratta | www.wangaratta-anglican.org.au

Vale John Parkes

With thanks to SIMONE KERWIN of the Wangaratta Chronicle (adapted)

Clergy and laity of the Anglican Diocese of Wangaratta and beyond are mourning the passing of former Bishop of Wangaratta John Parkes, who died on Thursday 3rd July aged 74.

Bishop John was the 10th Bishop of Wangaratta's Anglican diocese, serving from 2008 until his retirement at the end of 2019, prior to the appointment of current Bishop Clarence Bester.

Bishop John's funeral and burial will be held privately, but all are welcome to attend a Diocesan service of thanksgiving for Bishop John's life and ministry on 21st July at 11.30am at Holy Trinity Cathedral.

"We give thanks to God for John, for his life and ministry as a priest and a bishop in the church of God, as husband, father, grandfather and colleague, mentor and friend to so many" Bishop Clarence said. "We continue to pray for his beloved wife Margaret, children Nell and James, son-in-law Tanu and grandson Peter."

In late 2018, as he prepared to mark 10

years as Bishop of Wangaratta, Bishop John delighted in telling the Wangaratta Chronicle how he decided to relocate from Brisbane to Wangaratta.

It was the end of 2007 and he was considering a request by Archbishop of Brisbane Phillip Aspinall to become principal at Queensland's St Francis' Theological College, but a move to the north east of Victoria was also on the radar for the then Assistant Bishop and Dean of Brisbane's St John's Cathedral.

With wife Margaret, he travelled to the north east as he weighed his options. "We were driving up from Alexandra to Mansfield, when we came across Bonnie Doon" he said. "Now, I thought Bonnie Doon was a mythical town invented only for the best Australian film that's ever been, 'The Castle', so, as we came to the town, I said to Margaret 'I'm the Bishop of Bonnie Doon'." His delivery of the anecdote's punchline was accompanied by Bishop John's trademark booming laugh, but he quickly added "That's part of the story. It was clear to me that this was where God was calling me" he said.



SYNOD 2025

3rd Session of the Forty-First Synod

Bishop's Charge

After welcoming attendees and acknowledging that Synod meets on the land of the traditional custodians, the Bpangerang people, prayer was offered for the world in which the Church does its work of bringing the good news of love.

God of the nations, whose sovereign rule brings justice and peace, have mercy on our broken and divided world. Shed abroad your peace in the hearts of all and banish from them the spirit that makes for war, that

all races and peoples may learn to live as members of one family and in obedience to your law, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Bishop Clarence went on to acknowledge the busy time since Synod last met – two sessions of Growing Your Church, something he hoped would be prioritised by parishes; activities for HOPE25, including working through the booklet prepared by the Bishops of the Anglican Church of Australia (see elsewhere in this edition for examples of parish activities which were also presented during Synod). Bishop Clarence linked this reflection and action with the planned celebrations for the 125th anniversary of the Diocese of Wangaratta in 2027 but with celebrations starting in 2026. Bp. Clarence reminded us, in preparation for these events, of the importance of pausing, reflecting, praying, discerning and discussing

the ongoing direction for our Diocese. The year 2026 will mark the culmination of our current Diocesan Vision and Mission Statement.

The Bishop acknowledged his five years of Episcopal Ministry as both challenging and exciting – this milestone was celebrated at a function at Bishop's Lodge when, in addition to food and fellowship, the Dean blessed the new Pergola area, previously the Chook Pen, now an outdoor gathering place. It was also an opportunity to launch the Bishop's Home Mission Fund, which will assist parishes where needed with ministry and social development support, as well as extending beyond the Diocese and Australia where there are particular needs.

The Charge continued with a picture presentation prepared by Michelle of some of the Diocesan

activities since Bp. Clarence was consecrated and enthroned as the eleventh Bishop of Wangaratta and he reminded us that 'The concepts of visibility, availability and presence will always remain the focus of my ministry and I hope yours too. A ministry that does not include these three important actions will miss the opportunity of meeting people where they are.'

Other important events in the Diocese are 2025 being the first year for the award of the Gill Baker and David Mitchell Environmental Memorial Award which will be presented later in the year during the Season of Creation; and the confirming of the arrangements for ongoing ministry at the Chapel at St. John's Village, with the hope that this will increase from two days a week as is currently arranged.

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Bishop Clarence writes...

Dear Clergy, People and Friends of the Diocese

Winter Hibernation

Winter represents different things to different people. Some prefer the ambience of a fireplace, preferably with wood to warm up a space, others prefer the cold so that they can dress warmly whereas those who love skiing would venture to the snowfields to do what they love most. There are also those who cannot stand the cold so much that they would move temporarily to warmer areas. Then you get those of us who absolutely love the cold, the wet, the dark and the miserable weather because of our own suffering during hot summers. It is often said that, during winter, you can add on layers, but during summer you simply cannot do the opposite.

The winter hibernation, however, references a sense of calm and restfulness which will lead to recuperation, refreshment and hopefully being re-energized. Rest and good sleep are needed for this process of restoration and healing. This is an ancient remedy that, when properly maintained, allows the healing of body, mind and spirit to often occur.

I pray that, as we continue with our winter hibernation, we will experience what we need most, rest and reflection. May we also feel the warmth of God's loving embrace throughout our Christian Walk and journey.

Synod matters

Following our 3rd session of our 41st Synod which concluded on 31 May, we are already navigating the process, procedure and practicalities for our 42nd Synod which will take place on 29 and 30 May 2026. This planning process is important as the preparation for the first session of a Synod includes nominations and elections to the various Diocesan Boards and Committees. I hope that all our people have access to the Synod Charge of 30 May and that we will engage in our own strategic initiatives in discussing all the challenging areas raised. In mentioning resistance from some, I have also been hugely encouraged by some members of congregations facing those very challenges with wonderful and positive responses.

Changes in arrangements

At Synod we welcomed Rachel Ellyard as our Chancellor and awarded our previous Chancellor, Clyde Croft, the Bishop's Award for outstanding Service to the Diocese. As Clyde was not able to attend Synod, the award will be presented to him at a special service at St Paul's Milawa (date and time to be advised) when we will also bestow the title of 'Chancellor Emeritus' on Clyde.

Clearance for Ministry

Later this year, in preparation for our next ministry clearance and election Cycle of Parish Councilors, Church Wardens and Parish Nominators, we will also issue a mandate for the election of Synod Representatives to be in attendance for the 42nd Synod. All those who will be holding an office in whatever capacity in any of our parishes will have to be cleared for ministry beforehand. We will ensure that, with effect August, all safer church training programs are in place and, where necessary, the relevant documentation is all scrutinized. This has been our agony over the past few years but, with this advance notice, clergy and laity will need to ensure that all protocols are observed in a timely manner and before any election of office bearers takes place.

Ministry Action Planning (MAP)

Soon our Ministry Action Planning Team will gather to discuss and collate the information shared at Synod with the idea of setting the scene for the next two to five years. We are aware of the challenges that we face, but also excited about the opportunities for what we can do as Parishes within the Diocese. The beauty of our collaborative approach to ministry is our ongoing conversation about all that affects us as a Diocese and all our processes will now focus on action and practical aspects of how best we can go forward as Parishes and Diocese.

From Winter to Spring

Seasonal changes are necessary for the next phase of any development, growth and possibilities. Over the past few years, we have had various ways of expressing our regard for Creation, the fifth mark of mission of the Anglican Communion. This year, and in conjunction with the Gillian Baker and David



Mitchell Environmental Memorial Award, we invite all parishioners to join us for a Service for the Season of Creation on Saturday, 30 August at 10.30am on the Cathedral Common (green) Ground (on the side of The Close and Purbrick Hall). The only requirement is to email us to register your attendance and provide us with any dietary requirements. This is important to do as we will have to set up the outside area with enough chairs, umbrellas, tables etc... Please email Georgia at admin@wangeratta-anglican.org.au with all the necessary details.

Every blessing,

Clarence E Bester

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DETAILS

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Around our Diocese

Continued from page 1

Bishop Clarence then spoke to his Charge theme of The God of Collaboration, helping us to see what God is already doing through us in our ministry together. Amongst many important points the Bishop made was 'Since becoming your Bishop, the focus of my homilies and engagement strategies when visiting Parishes, including through intentional conversations, has been to re-focus our lens to move from a maintenance to a mission mode.'.... 'Five years of intentional conversations and a mission-mode operational shift must lead us to new ministry paradigms. We will have to collaborate on a ministry structure in our present context which provides us with challenges and opportunities.'... 'we need to explore how the God of Collaboration calls us to partner with each other for the advancement of God's Kingdom and for the furtherance of the gospel to bring good news to all. God has always been, and will always be, a God of Collaboration because God calls us to share in the work of God's Kingdom. Jesus, in the exercise of his ministry, never acted as a solo pilot, but called others to share in this ministry of collaboration, the ministry of working together.... In preparing the disciples for the gospel enterprise following his departure, Jesus called his disciples to love and support one another and to work, pray and minister together. This was important, knowing the hostility of their world and context. Somehow we have lost the plot, as parochialism has become the order of the day and, even within a Diocesan Ministry context, the 'them and us' syndrome is on the increase.

The Bishop spoke of the challenges of attracting enough clergy, especially in this rural Diocese, as well as the hard work needed to secure funds for Parishes. These difficulties have meant the deconsecration of six churches over the past few years. The setting up of Common Fund number four will hopefully attract sufficient income to alleviate some of these challenges.

The Bishop described how, in the past, we have amalgamated parishes to produce financially sustainable structures and now we have cooperating Parishes. To the best of our ability, we endeavour to retain the individual parish identity even within a cooperating ministry arrangement. Although there is some resistance to these

arrangements, as well as challenges for clergy covering multiple centres, it is one way of helping to ensure funds for their continued existence. Bp. Clarence outlined some of the proposals for local congregations in regard to financial matters. These guidelines will be communicated once finalised.

In the light of all of this, the Bishop hoped that we will further develop our collaborative ministry as the people of God in Wangaratta. This means exploring different models of ministry and ways of working together, also looking at Team Ministry opportunities - shared leadership among a few clergy. This will enhance our collaborative approach to ministry which will also be a supportive one. It would of course foster the radical idea that, in some instances, we will need to work across Parish boundaries, as well as increase the number of lay people trained and licensed for appropriate ministry roles.

Bp. Clarence explained how, as Archdeacon for Ministry Development, his first report to Bishop John Parkes included that the Diocese would only have 14 sustainable ministry structures. He can certainly see this becoming a reality. In one way, he said, we can describe some of our parishes as being on 'life support'. Unless we do things differently, act wisely and in a timely manner, we might find ourselves in a very awkward situation soon. In 2016, when there was a motion before the Synod to resolve an investigation into the division of the Diocese of Wangaratta, with parts going to other Dioceses, as a relative newcomer to the Diocese, Bp. Clarence opposed this. He knows the difficulties, he is aware of the challenges, he sees

the opportunities and will continue to work towards the ongoing ministry of the Diocese of Wangaratta. He asks all of us to join him in this journey because, together, we can do much. We need to collaborate so that we can consolidate better and work more effectively in the proclamation of the gospel of Christ. We have embraced the future together, we walk in the way of Christ and we journey with one another.

[This process of collaboration was started at Synod when attendees met in their Archdeaconries and had productive discussions about navigating the future together to build up the Church and spread the good news of Christ. These discussions will be taken forward by the MAPS teams.]

The Bishop concluded his Charge by thanking the many people who assist him in serving the Diocese in so many ways – some very visibly, others as the unsung heroes working behind the scenes.

In his final paragraphs he said: 'There are many who support me in various ways and you know who you are, but I would not be able to fulfil my ministry without the prayerful and loving support of Michelle.

Above all, my thanks to God for giving me the strength and courage to guide this Diocese into the Way of Christ. Many see Clarence the Organiser, but don't see those prayerful moments where doubts turn into faith, despair into hope and darkness into light, which maintains and strengthens my faith in our collaborative God.'



farmhouse and set to becoming farmers! Lots of trees were planted and invasive plants eradicated, all whilst John and Yu-Yu home schooled Clare.

John contacted Bishop David Farrer asking was there any useful role he could fill on a part-time basis. At that time there was only an acting Registrar and I had recently been recruited back (after retiring) to assist. It was like an answer to prayer - John with many skills, was recruited as Registrar and very soon absorbed the intricacies of the role. He was open and gregarious, a wonderfully supportive work colleague.

John was granted a PTO and was happy to take services in various parishes as needed. As an educator, his sermons often had a Q and A style. He also became involved with Wangaratta, Albury and Cobram Anglican colleges as a board member. John was innovative in his approach, sometimes ruffling a few feathers on the way!

He and Bishop David organised a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 2007 and about 30 folk, mainly from this Diocese, joined in this life-changing experience. John, along with Bishop David, were lively tour leaders, conducting study groups most evenings to reinforce what we were learning.

A farewell party on their property when John, Yu-Yu and Clare made the decision to move to Bowral was a fun affair - we were all given a bottle of wine from their collection.

I was very fond of John and kept in touch with him until he was unable to communicate.

My love and prayers are with Yu-Yu and Clare as they mourn John's death, but am confident in the knowledge that he is with the God to whom he dedicated much of his life.

Rest in Peace John!

Remembering The Rev'd Dr John Pryor

By Margerat Gibson

The Rev'd John Pryor, former Registrar of the Diocese of Wangaratta, died in Bowral on the 29th June.

Rev'd John and his lovely wife Yu-Yu and daughter Clare arrived in the Diocese of Wangaratta in 2000 and purchased a farm at Mollyulah, quite a change from his academic career as priest, missionary and University lecturer in NSW. They renovated a small cottage into a lovely spacious

Matthew McInnes Memorial Award Nomination

This award is presented by the Diocese of Wangaratta annually at Synod. It was established by Rev'd Ray and Mrs. Glenys McInnes in memory of their son Matthew, who died in a car accident shortly before Rev'd Ray became Dean of Holy Trinity Cathedral. Matthew had been very active in youth ministry in the Diocese.

In May, during the third session of the forty-first Synod, this year's award was made to Mr. Caleb Francis of the Parish of Shepparton. He was nominated by Rev'd Cathy Carden, priest at the Cathedral and Wangaratta West and the Warbys and Mr Jim Laussen, Principal of All Saints Anglican School, Shepparton.

Caleb's nomination recognised his involvement in the church and the community. From his arrival with his family in Shepparton in 2019 he participated in services through being a reader and a server in the sanctuary. He encouraged other young people to be involved and support church activities and this encouragement was



apparent in the community as well.

In 2022-2023 Caleb was a member of the Greater Shepparton City Council's Youth Committee, unofficially representing St Augustine's church and advocating for activities and events of interest to young people. Caleb's manner with people of all ages is warm and enthusiastic.

When All Saints Anglican School was preparing to open, Caleb was doing a journalism cadetship with The Shepparton News and wrote an article

for the paper about this exciting new development. At the opening of the school Caleb spoke on behalf of Kim O'Keefe, the local state member of parliament who was unable to be present. He has ongoing involvement at the school as a member of the school's Council.

Caleb's visibility and service in the church, the community and All Saints Anglican School led the nominators to feel that he would be a worthy recipient of the Matthew McInnes memorial Award.

Appreciation for Chancellor's Service & Changing of The Guard

This Synod marks the end of an era as we give thanks to God for the outstanding service of The Honourable Justice Clyde Croft AM, who has served this Diocese excellently for fifteen years as Chancellor. Clyde served with Bishop John Parkes for 10 years and Bishop Clarence has had the privilege of having his skilful guidance over the past five years. As Chancellor, Clyde was ex-officio on both Bishop in Council and the

Diocesan Trustees. Clyde wasn't able to attend Synod because of work commitments but his dedication will be recognised at a future time with the presentation of the Bishop's Award for outstanding service to the Diocese. The Bishop, during his Charge said 'I do want to express our thanks to Clyde and know that, in some way, he will still be involved with our Diocese.

The Bishop went on to say 'One of the most superb legal minds within the Anglican Church of Australia is our own Advocate, Ms Rachel Ellyard. As Advocate she has always guided us in our sessions of Synod and worked tirelessly in the preparation of legislation to be presented to Synod and, like Clyde, advises me on many matters pertaining to the legalities of our ecclesiastical structure. I am exceptionally excited that Rachel, with unequivocal support from Clyde Croft, has accepted my nomination to serve as my Chancellor. We look forward to a long association and know that, with Rachel's guidance, the Bishop and Diocese will be in good hands.'

Clergy Professional Development Days

At the end of April, many of the clergy of the diocese gathered in Bright for our professional development. We worked hard covering important matters to do with our ongoing work of Safeguarding. The Ven Matthew Healy brought us up to date with the new OSCA system and encouraged us in this vital work.

Our Bishop Clarence gave us a big picture of our diocese and highlighted important things that are happening in the wider Anglican Church of Australia, including the election of the new Primate. We reflected on the Hope 25 program and its implementation. We also talked about some important structural changes for the diocese.

We spent vital time worshipping

together, praying and studying the bible. In line with our upcoming Women's Spirituality Conference we had a look at some feminist insights into Gospel passages.

This year we were blessed to have Bishop Kevin Nichols from the Diocese of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania as a guest speaker. +Kevin brought to us his reflections on the psalms, working with the categories that Walter Brueggemann outlines, that of Psalms of Orientation, Dis-orientation and Re-orientation. +Kevin is passionate about the psalms and how they speak into our lives today and the time we spent fed us and energized us as clergy, both intellectually and spiritually. It was a deeply moving and liberating experience.

We were also blessed to spend collegial time with each other, deepening our bonds, which helps us recognize that we are individual

parts of something bigger, which is the Missio Dei here in the Diocese of Wangaratta.



Chrism Mass

By Revd Helen Malcolm

On Tuesday in Holy Week, clergy and laity assembled at Holy Trinity Cathedral for this annual celebration, when clergy reaffirm their ordination vows and laity recommit to their ministry in their various callings.

The day's readings reminded us that we are all called to continue Christ's ministry, but that we do not walk alone. In Luke's gospel Jesus stood up in the synagogue to proclaim 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor..... Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.' The letter from James showed us what our ministry should look like in practice and Psalm 23 reassured us that we have an ever-present Shepherd to lead us in right pathways as we fulfil our baptismal and ordination vows. The hymns also reflected the strength we have when we follow Christ.

At the start of his sermon, Bp. Clarence said how much it meant to be joining others to share in the eucharist. He had just returned from the National Bishops' Conference, where, because of some of our Diocesan legislation, some other Bishops refuse to share the eucharist with our Bishop. In an act of true Christian generosity, Bp. Clarence did not participate in the eucharist so others could, depriving himself of this act of communion.



Bp. Clarence spoke about how the gospel reminded us of the start of Jesus' ministry and how it can be an example for us. Jesus went to the people, not waiting for them to come to 'church'. He spoke with, touched and healed those who others would deem 'outcasts'. He extended God's love to all people, irrespective of who they were. Jesus' ministry wasn't just words, but action.

The Bishop expanded on how many people in the world today are 'captives' – not just in wars or overseas, but in our own country – captives to the past, to the power hungry, to the invaders of

their land. Jesus' ministry includes release to the captives and freedom to the oppressed and that extends to our ministry, wherever we are called.

After the reaffirmation of ordination vows and recommitment by the laity, the oils for anointing the sick and dying, for the Catechumen and the oil of Chrism were blessed and the Eucharist followed.

After the procession out of the cathedral and obligatory photos we were able to replenish our physical selves with refreshments, as our souls had just been refreshed, ready for our ongoing journey of faith and service.

Loved Bishop Remembered with Gratitude

It was just 8 months ago that +Dino officially returned home to Durban from Benalla here in Australia. I remember that, as Dino came to the end of his first two years with us, he expressed a desire to continue for an extra year. How could we refuse, because Benalla became +Dino's home away from home, a place and a people whom he loved at Holy Trinity which became his personal sanctuary together with the people of St Aidan Swanpool.

It was humbling to think that +Dino, a bishop in the Church of God, was willing to serve as a Parish Priest in a small regional town and rural city and with a small number of parishioners. Knowing his context as former Bishop of Zululand and Kwazulu Natal, +Dino acclimatised to this ministry like a duck to water. His adjustment included the lowering of his voice, as he was used to large crowds during divine services, but with the same kind of gusto and spirit-filled manner that drew so many people to him, to God and the Church.

+Dino was commonly known as the singing and whistling priest/bishop and his dynamism rubbed off on many clergy and people. No doubt that he was loved very deeply by the communities of Benalla and Swanpool as he was within the Diocese. +Dino's professionalism shone through

very strongly in whatever he undertook and his responsiveness to requests or replies to invitations stemmed from his own understanding of Episcopal leadership. +Dino was often among the first to respond and was always highly complementary in his affirmation of me as his leader in this context.

Though I often offered him the opportunity to join me as an Episcopal colleague at divine services, +Dino just wanted to be part of the clergy procession to extend that collegiality to the fellow clergy. Even as a senior and more experienced bishop than me, +Dino always accepted and received my guidance in good spirit.

Of the many memories that we will have of +Dino for a very long time at Clergy Conferences or Retreats, one is that we could all hear him every morning at 4.30am making his daily call to you, his beloved Nobelungu. His loud voice would wake up many through the thin rhinoboard walls of Australia, but it was good that he spoke in the vernacular so no one could understand some of his daily conversations with you.

Being away for three years and back home for 8 months, +Dino is now home with the God whom he worshipped and served all his life. We in Australia and this Diocese and the Parish where +Dino served, will always remember him as one of the team and are grateful to God for the miracle of +Dino within our lives.

As Dino's family mourn, so do we. I was in the Parish of Benalla on Trinity Sunday where +Dino served, something that had been arranged a long time ago. How good it was to be there and to be

able to hold and embrace the many who did not only hold him in high esteem, but the many who loved and appreciated +Dino so much that the news of his death shook their own world and that of the community too.

Dino went to South Africa as a Roman Catholic Priest and later joined the Anglican Church. He later became the Bishop of Zululand and then the Bishop of Natal in South Africa. After retirement he joined us in the Diocese of Wangaratta and returned to Durban at the end of October 2024.

Our prayers continue for his wife Nobelungu (Elizabeth) and their family.



Trinity Anglican College, Albury

Trinity Towards Tomorrow: Official opening of new buildings

On Friday 9 May 2025 we were proud to officially open three outstanding new buildings on our campus as part of the Trinity Towards Tomorrow development - a major milestone in the life of our school.

This transformative project includes 28 new learning spaces across three architecturally designed buildings, significantly enhancing the educational experience for our students. In addition to the classroom facilities, the development also features two multipurpose courts, upgraded road infrastructure with seven new bus bays, and a new power supply to support the school's future needs.

We were honoured to welcome a number of distinguished guests for the occasion, including representatives from AngliSchools, government, and the Anglican Church. The Principal, Dr Adrian Johnson, spoke with pride



about the scale and impact of the project saying "In terms of teaching and learning spaces, this project is unsurpassed in my experience. What you now see on our campus is an extraordinary outcome by any measure. We are truly blessed to be part of the AngliSchools family and to serve such a vibrant, supportive community here in Albury."

The opening marked not just the completion of a major building project, but the beginning of an exciting new chapter for Trinity students and staff.

Source: news from www.trinityac.nsw.edu.au

**ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF
WANGARATTA**

*Spirited Women in Mission
and Ministry*

Key Note Speaker
Dr. Robyn Heckenberg
*Cathedral Scholar. St Georges Cathedral
Perth.*

&

Guest Speaker
Dr. Robin Ray
President of MU Australia

26th July 2025
Cathedral College Wangaratta VCE Wing
9:00am-3:30pm

**Bookings: email; missionnoproblem@gmail.com
or QR Code RSVP 24th July.**

<https://www.trybooking.com/DCWIH>



AngliSchools

This year is a celebratory year for AngliSchools (formerly Anglican Schools Commission), its 40th year of operation. Amidst the normal activities of Board and Strategic Planning meetings, three other major events were planned.

On 6 June, Bishop Clarence and Michelle joined 330 other guests and dignitaries at a Gala Dinner at the RITZ CARLTON in Perth to celebrate this auspicious occasion.

The historical development and operation of AngliSchools over the 40 years has seen about 50,000 students go through this education system. The night of fine dining was attended by Archbishop Peter Carnley and his wife Anne (an original resident from Yarrawonga), The

Archbishop of Perth, The Most Revd Kay Goldsworthy AO DD and the Primate of the Anglican Church of Australia, The Most Revd Geoff Smith who was the keynote speaker.

The Bishops of Bunbury and Wangaratta together with their spouses also attended, as AngliSchools extends to these two Dioceses with four Schools in the Wangaratta Diocese.

Throughout the evening and between speeches, musical entertainment was provided by a few Perth Schools, as well as a documentary reflecting the modus operandi, development and planned future activities of AngliSchools.



Cathedral College, Wangaratta

Sleeping Rough - Homelessness Awareness

On Wednesday 14 May 2025, fourteen committed and courageous Year Nine students volunteered to sleep rough in a bid to develop their awareness and show support for the issue of homelessness in our community. This experience was an extension of their Year Nine RAVE study into Faith in Action. After school, students discussed the challenges people face such as lack of security, loneliness, vulnerability, violence, and hopelessness.

Mark Strack, a member of the local Night Shelter Committee in Wangaratta, was the guest speaker. He shared his motivation for getting involved. Mark spoke of the evolution of the Night Shelter Program and the importance of Zac's Place in providing a place of care and connection for those in need, as well as, discussing ways we as a community can help. The students' questions on this topic showed maturity and a strong desire to respond in a practical and meaningful way.

Editor: RAVE = Religious and Values Education

Source: news from www.cathedralcollege.vic.edu.au



Cobram Anglican Grammar School

Introduction of drone technology to educational curriculum

In the second term of 2025, Cobram Anglican Grammar School (CAGS) announced that it will be introducing drone technology to its education curriculum, ushering in an exciting new era of learning for our students made possible through fundraising by their Parents and Friends Group (P&F).

CAGS is thrilled with the arrival of several new drones to support our students' training and development — including the Mavic, Inspire, Phantom and the latest Mini Pro 4 models. These cutting-edge additions are helping take our aviation learning to new heights! This term, our aspiring remote pilots have been busy building both foundational knowledge and hands-on skills in drone operation. Their learning has included: logging flight hours in a consistent, structured format; performing detailed pre/post-flight safety checks; understanding how

weather impacts drone performance; practising effective team communication during flights; gaining awareness of airspace and drone regulations; building confidence with both simulated and real-world flying tasks. Through these experiences students are becoming safe, responsible and skilled drone operators; all while applying STEM principles and systems thinking in a dynamic, real-world setting.

CAGS Principal Mr Keith Willett said the introduction of the drone program was an exciting step forward that would complement the school's commitment to future-proofing its students in the technology space. "This initiative reflects the school's intention to provide a quality education that is tailored to the demands of the digital age and the modern technologies that will continue to define the way in which we work and live." As part of the drone program, students will delve into robotics, grasp aviation safety and responsibility and explore the diverse applications of drone technology. Drones are used in various industries, such as agriculture, photography, search and rescue and environmental monitoring. Introducing drones to the curriculum will provide students with insights into these real-world applications, helping them better understand potential career pathways.



Photo: Ben (Student, Year 11 CAGS) using a recently purchased drone

Source: media release from www.cags.vic.edu.au

All Saints Anglican School Shepparton

HOPE 25

ANGLISCHOOLS (Australia-wide) ran a song competition during HOPE 25 and..... drum roll please.....All Saints Anglican School Shepparton won the Victorian section with an amazing song. Words were written by the Coordinator of Faith and Mission, Mr Bill Boyer and the music was composed by music teacher Daniel Fenby.

Not only was a song written, performed

and submitted — a video was also produced featuring many students capturing the joy and energy we can all find when we acknowledge the hope we have in Jesus.

The Principal, Mr Jim Laussen, said in his letter to families: '[Our entry] was more than just a song. It became a collaborative project involving students, staff and the wider school community. We recorded it as a film clip, capturing not only beautiful music, but also the spirit and heart of our school. This is a wonderful recognition of the creativity and faith that is alive in our school.'

You can hear the song and see the students performing it on the opening page of the HOPE 25 website www.hope25.com.au. The opening picture features Evie Black-Griffin, a regular congregant at St. Augustine's Shepparton.

Source: Outreach, Shepparton Parish Newsletter

Patronal Festival Holy Trinity Benalla

On July 15th Holy Trinity Benalla celebrated our patronal festival with a special visit from Bishop Clarence and Michelle. Bishop Clarence gave us some wonderful thoughts on the grace and community that exists within the Holy Trinity and led us in a very meaningful and festive Eucharist. At morning tea, after Mass, we surprised the Bishop with a very special birthday cake and singing!



Biggest Morning Tea Swanpool

St Aidan's in Swanpool certainly knows how to put on a spread! We celebrated the Cancer Council's Biggest Morning

Tea recently to raise funds for cancer research. We feasted on delicious treats and enjoyed complimentary warm drinks from the generous souls at Kalari Coffee. Each one of us reflected on our own experiences with cancer and we were reminded by organiser Lesley Hupe to keep up our regular health checks.

The morning raised over \$300.



MU Members Enjoy Winter Social Lunches

By Diane Grant

Two Mothers' Union lunches were held in the Diocese in June.

At the first, the winter blues were forgotten when some Diocese of Wangaratta MU Lone members gathered on Friday, 20 June for a social lunch at Pickers Cafe and Collectables in Rutherglen. Lesley Baker, Ruth Little, Kris Reif, Cate Rankin and Robyn Aulmann were delighted to get together and be able to share some of their news with each other while enjoying a nice lunch. Robyn was able to distribute the MU Mia Mias to the ladies before they went home.

At the other social lunch, a few MU members of the Central Goulburn Parish branch met with friends to enjoy lunch at the Seymour Club on Tuesday, 24 June. Sadly this branch, that has been serving the church and community for 66 years, is down seven members over the past couple of years and now there are only eight. Health and mobility constraints and the lack of new members mean there has been no group meeting this year. The small group may have to decide very soon whether to become MU Lone Members in 2026 as it is hard to keep a branch operating when the youngest is 75 and the oldest

is 99 years of age. It is a sign of the times that many church groups, local clubs or organisations are folding due to lack of new blood, new membership or leadership and, especially in this Diocese, the challenge of long distance travel.

The Mothers' union was begun in 1876 by Mary Sumner, a grandmother in England, to support young mothers raising their children within the Christian faith plus their practical needs.

It began in Australia in 1892. Nowadays it includes male and female members, married and single members across the world. It is one of the largest church welfare organisations across the globe. It is an international organisation with over 1 million members in 60 countries and they carry out work in support of family life.

Awareness of the daily experiences of many members worldwide strengthens MU's commitment to social justice and the empowerment of women. Members have in common a desire to improve their own family life and that of others through faith in Christ, prayer and practical action.

The Diocese of Wangaratta is inviting MU members and Christian men and women to attend the 'Spirited Women In Mission and Ministry Conference' at the Cathedral College Wangaratta VCE Wing on 26 July from 9.30am-3.30pm. where the keynote speaker will be Dr. Robyn Heckenberg and Guest speaker Dr Robin Ray, Australian MU president. Bookings are essential. Bookings: email: missionnoproblem@gmail.com



Steps in the Faith Journey

By Ven Canon Matthew Healy

On Good Shepherd Sunday, 11 May 2025, Bishop Clarence visited Christ Church Beechworth to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation and the Rite of Reception into the Anglican Church. Mark, Grant and Margot have been a part of the worshipping community of Christ Church Beechworth, for a little while. When the call went out for candidates to seek Confirmation they approached the Vicar, Rev'd Matthew, to be prepared.

For eight Sundays we gathered in the evening for Evening Prayer and Catechesis led by Rev'd Matthew and Jean Henderson. During Lent we used the HOPE 25 study book and after Easter we covered the topics of the Bible, Baptism and Eucharist, the history of the Anglican Church and the theology and ecclesiology that underpins what it is to be 'Anglican.' Each of the candidates brought their own experience of faith and life which gave a great breadth and depth to our discussions.

Our candidates' experiences and journeys were mixed: one with minimal prior contact with the



church, but at Christ Church Beechworth they found a home and a safe place to explore the faith; another had been raised in the church but had drifted for a while and returned in the last few years; another had much involvement in the church of another denomination over the years, but found that Anglicanism was ticking the right boxes to further grow and develop in the faith

and as a person. None of this would be possible without the compassion, friendship and genuine welcome found in the faith community at Christ Church, Beechworth.

Photo above: L-R: Rev'd Matthew Healy, Vicar; Margot; Bishop Clarence; Mark; Grant; Rev'd Bill Squire, Associate Priest

Lay Preaching Course & Book Club Proposal

By Revd Mel Clark

One of the challenges of being in a rural diocese is attracting priests to vacant parishes, particularly if the parishes are able to offer part time ministry only.

Therefore as a diocese, to ensure our sustainability, we need to rely on team ministry and lay ministry a lot more than in urban areas, which is why it is important to ensure that our lay leaders are well trained and encouraging of others who may be interested in stepping up. However, these courses can be just as important for people who are just dipping their toe in and curious about their faith and wishing to explore for their own sake as well.

In the coming year there will be two different opportunities to be involved in learning and training.

The first will be a Lay Preaching Course to be held in November and it's for anyone interested in the process of researching, preparing, writing and presenting sermons in their parish contexts.

There will be two sessions with leaders from our diocese and one session that will incorporate an online session with Trinity Theological College which will offer helpful preaching suggestions for next year's lectionary readings.

The sessions are: Saturdays - November 8th, 15th, and 22nd from 10am until 3pm.

The second learning and training opportunity will be a diocesan book club. A book will be selected for everyone to purchase and read and then we will gather, either in person or by zoom, to discuss it.

The book club will be an easy way into discussions about faith and a safe place to explore and ask questions – both for new Christians and for those of us who've been in congregations for years. At this stage we are gauging interest and will work out dates when we know if people are keen.

Please get in touch if you have any queries about these learning options. Rev Mel Clark melissaclark3@hotmail.com or 0411 722 718

Yarrowonga Celebrates

By Revd Roberta Hamilton

Parishioners at St Cuthbert's have had a busy couple of months, welcoming new people to our Hope 25 service and Open Church, celebrating Pentecost and welcoming Bishop Clarence and Michelle for the Patronal Feast of St Cuthbert.

As part of the Australia wide Anglican Hope 25, St Cuthbert's invited new people to a 10.00am church service on Sunday May 25th. Each parishioner was asked to think of someone they would like to invite and some beautiful postcards were given out to members of the local community. Those who attended were able to experience a wonderful and welcoming service with the option for a cuppa and chat afterwards.

Through the leadership of Reverend Roberta, St Cuthbert's is welcoming new people through its Open Church services, which are held the third Sunday of the month, from 5-7pm. Open Church is a less formal version of Church, involving a theme, a couple of activities, a short church service followed by a meal. The Open Church services, which commenced in

March, have been well received and attracted some new people from the community. The small team continues to promote Open Church through newspaper articles, Facebook and word of mouth and would appreciate your prayers for this ministry. We would also appreciate your prayers for the 'mainly music' ministry, a wonderful Christian music session for preschool children and their carers.

The Pentecost service was a highlight, with some beautiful decorations of the church and parishioners joining in by wearing red to celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit to the early Christian Church. The feast of Pentecost is very close to our heart as we pray for the Holy Spirit to come on each of us as we invite the wider community to experience Christian faith and fellowship. More recently it was lovely to have Bishop Clarence and Michelle to celebrate the Feast of St Cuthbert's on the 22nd June and join us afterwards for morning tea. In +Clarence's inspiring sermon, he called us to serve others and meet them where they are, just as Jesus did.

St Augustine's Patronal Festival, Shepparton

By Revd Jerome Francis

St. Augustine's Anglican Church celebrated its Patronal Festival on Sunday the 18th May 2025, honouring St Augustine of Canterbury and drawing together parishioners and community members in a display of unity and shared purpose. About 60 attendees gathered for the festival, including many who are not regular members of the congregation. The turnout reflected the church's deepening ties with the broader Shepparton community.

The service was led by Bishop Clarence Bester



who celebrated and preached. Local dignitaries in attendance included State Member Kim O'Keeffe, All Saints Anglican School Principal Jim Laussen and Coordinator of Faith and Mission at All Saints Bill Boyer. The attendance of many community members reinforced the

event's significance as a moment of civic and spiritual connection.

This year's Patronal Festival stands as proof that St Augustine's mission extends far beyond its walls.

Nagambie Mothers' Day Morning Melodies was a hit

By Diane Grant

Nagambie's Kelvin Grove Village hosted a successful Morning Melodies on 9 May in their hall and the small band of Village folk who organised the event and set up the hall appreciated the support of the Village management and locals.

The small band of music lovers who attended were treated to a great morning of song by local singer Noel Pearson, who was joined by his audience in singing along to his popular songs. The organisers were very appreciative of all the generous donations by some Kelvingrove Village folk, MU members, locals from Seymour and Nagambie who attended and those who could not be there but who supported the morning by donations towards the two worthy causes. The over \$500 raised was shared between the Seymour Salvation Army for their upcoming Red Shield Appeal and the branch of the local Mothers' Union (MU) for their Overseas and Outreach Literacy project for women in the Solomon Islands.

Good fellowship was enjoyed by all who came to the fundraiser, as was the delicious morning

tea donated by patrons and prepared and served by volunteer friends from Seymour. Thanks go to them and all who helped out with the cleaning up afterwards.

The organisers would like to thank Noel Pearson and all the guests who supported this small fundraiser in anyway.

The raffle and lucky door segment kept everyone on their toes to see if they could win a prize and thanks go to Rebecca Baker Pharmacy, Tahbilk Wines, Champions IGA supermarket and Mitchelton Wines for their generous donations for the prizes.

Enid Simpson from Seymour Salvation Army Corps accepted the donation on behalf of their Red Shield Appeal and presented Kelvin Grove

with a Certificate of Appreciation. Enid said that the Corps hopes to buy a van to support their welfare work and the 2025 Red Shield Appeal will soon be underway in earnest to assist the organisation once again.

Marlene Brew of the MU accepted the donation for their project and thanked those who supported the fundraiser saying "Every little amount helps our church cause."

The fundraiser was a success thanks to the generous support of local people who have always shown support for this event.

Photo below: Celebrating a successful Morning melodies in Nagambie were Enid Simpson, Noel Pearson and Marlene Brew.



Parish of Marysville and Buxton – Ministry with Local Primary Schools

By Revd John Jessop

One of our key areas of ministry is with the two local primary schools at Marysville and Buxton. Although none of the children are regular members of the congregations, we are able to maintain contact with the schools in a positive way. Our links to the schools really began through the encouragement of the schools, by the local RSL, to participate in Remembrance and Anzac Day Commemorations. Our parish Priest is, in effect, the Chaplain to the RSL and so can ensure that the commemorations maintain the Christian emphasis and that the children are involved.

Following Remembrance Day four years ago, the Principal of Marysville PS approached us regarding a 'Christmas Story'. This resulted in the children being invited into Christ Church for the story and a modest Christmas celebration. This was followed by an Easter story. This pattern has continued ever since. More recently, Marysville PS has led the singing of the National Anthem on Remembrance Day.

Our links with the schools have blossomed. Each year we donate a total of \$2400 to the

schools as a way of supporting struggling families, to ensure that all children can fully participate in school activities. This brings lay members of the congregation into contact with the schools. Later in July we will be confirming the ministry of the Marysville School Chaplain during a service at Christ Church. An important contact with Marysville PS is through the Labyrinth at Christ Church which is regularly used by groups of children who enjoy the calming quietness of the Labyrinth.



News from Corryong

The Anglican Parish of Corryong consists of All Saints Corryong, Holy Trinity Cudgewa, House Church Biggara and Khancoban. We have services each Sunday at All Saints, 3rd Sunday of the month at Holy Trinity, 1st Sunday of the month at Biggara and the 5th Sunday at the Alpine Inn Khancoban followed by lunch.

We are enjoying having our newly ordained minister Rev Dr Peter Pocock in charge of the Parish. Rev Dr Peter was ordained by Bishop Clarence Bester in February 2025 at Corryong followed by lunch.

Beechworth Art Evening

By Jenny Anderson

On Saturday evening the 16th June we were so pleased to welcome four special guests to St Jude's: Dr Helen Haines and Phil and Bishop Clarence and Michelle.

The proceedings began with a whistle from Peter to get the attention of the crowd. Helen opened the show with a message to "be generous if you can".. and then Bishop Clarence gave us a wonderful blessing.

The Parish ladies do quite a bit of catering for funerals, farmers' markets (2nd Saturday of the month during the summer), afternoon teas and lunches for special occasions. We will be having a big street stall in October to raise funds for the Parish.

Holy Trinity has received a grant from Border Trust to put a ramp at the front of the Church which will give better access, especially for those with wheelchairs or walkers. This will be done in the next few months. The Rectory in Corryong had quite a bit of water damage recently when the frost (-6°) broke a water pipe in the ceiling above the kitchen and laundry. This will be fixed in the coming weeks.

The Bookshop, in the shopping centre in Corryong, is one of our main money raisers. It is quiet during the winter but gets very busy in

the warmer months, especially during school holidays and Man From Snowy River Festival in April.

Bingo is held every Wednesday afternoon and is well attended and makes money for the Parish.

Knit and Natter is held each Tuesday afternoon in private homes, where people can do their craft and chat to each other.

Our annual Debutante Ball was held in May with the Debs being presented to Rev'd. Alan Kelb and his wife Leigh. A fun night was had by all those who attended.

On arrival guests received a glass of wine of their choice from Ben Dahlenburgs Nomads Garden wines and a small platter of the famous Milawa cheeses.

A wonderful marquee and several well stoked braziers kept everyone cosy. Our amazing community committee kept the evening flowing. There was much great chatter and it was a very friendly and generous gathering. A local family donated the cheeses and the Dahlenburg family the wine.

Local artists' works were displayed in the church and many were sold to the patrons before the evening was over. Sacha Hill on violin and her brother on guitar with James on piano had quite a few people up dancing.

We cannot thank everyone enough for the funds that were raised. Our community committee has worked so hard and we are amazed at people's generosity.

Doreen and Doug; John and Cheryl; Steve and Jennie; Peter and Hannie; Ian and Trudy; Tim for the fantastic wood.

Helen presented the Knights of St. Jude medals to the men who had done all the work setting up church and marquee. Sue was the last to leave the fire at 11pm.

Thank you to everyone for making the evening such a success, especially the photographer.

HOPE 25
- Parish of Wangaratta

By Revd Cathy Carden

On the 15th June, a good number of people attended Evensong at Holy Trinity Cathedral. The service had a dual focus as we celebrated our Feast of Title, being Trinity Sunday and concluded the official season of HOPE 25.

Our Dean, the Very Reverend Neil Hicks, was the presider and Reverend Cathy Carden preached, bringing to mind the 1700th anniversary of the inauguration of the Nicene Creed, which was appropriate on this Trinity Sunday.

Following the sermon, there was time for reflection on the hope that we have in Christ,

with activities provided for people to consider how we can continue to be both individuals and a church that offers hope in the community. People were able to write on a card which they hung on a 'tree of hope' and they could light a candle to place on the word 'HOPE', as well as have time to mindfully reflect, or spend time in personal prayer.

Music throughout the evening led by music director and organist, Dr Kieran Crichton, reflected the themes of Hope and the Trinity, with the choir offering particularly thought-provoking chants during the time of reflection - 'You are the centre, you are my life' (Margaret Rizza) and 'In the Lord I'll be ever thankful' (Jacques Berthier).

Many thanks to the people who joined us for this service, especially the choir and Mr Nick Jones, principal of Cathedral College Wangaratta, who led us in a bible reading. We pray that people of our Cathedral and across the Diocese may continue to offer hope to the communities in which we live.



HOPE 25
- Parish of Northern Albury

By Bev Kernaghan

On a cold wet Saturday morning, 13 parishioners and 6 guests of the Parish of Northern Albury gathered at St James' hall Lavington to assemble 200 Safe Birthing Kits as our HOPE 25 event.

Birthing Kit Foundation Australia (BKFA) supplied the components and the assembled kits were returned to them. The Clean Birth Kits are simple and effective tools for basic infection prevention and first-line childbirth care. Each component has been selected to support the 6 principles of cleanliness at birth for mothers, newborns, and birth attendants in high-risk and emergency settings. BKFA currently works with over 31 organisations in 11 countries in Africa, the Pacific and the Caribbean.

The morning's activity finished with delicious soups and bread. This event was well supported by the parish and many have suggested we hold this event again next year.



Episcopal Visit to an Episcopal District

There were 13 of us at St Paul's Milawa for our regular twice monthly Eucharist on May 25 for the formal Pastoral Visit from Bishop Clarence, with photo credits to Michelle, of course.

gospel.
Now retired Archdeacon John Davis has been offering relief ministry at Milawa for the last 14 years.

Milawa was the last of the 66 places of worship in the diocese to receive such a visit. Significantly, Bishop John Parkes, with his home base congregation in his retirement, was able to read the

The service was followed as usual by breakfast at a nearby eating place. That takes at least as long - a good way to enjoy each other's company.



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