



Anglican Diocese of Canberra & Goulburn

The Anglican Parish of Moruya



**Parish Profile
2026**

Parish Profile Contents

1. Introduction
2. Parish Perceptions
3. Diocesan Perspective
4. Services and People
5. Leadership and Ministries
6. Parish Facilities
 - Saint John the Evangelist Church -Moruya
 - Saint Andrew's Church – Tuross Head
 - The Old Rectory - Moruya
 - The Red Door Hall - Moruya
 - Parish Office and Meeting Room - Moruya
7. Local Community
8. Saint Peter's Anglican College – Broulee
9. Parish Finances
10. Provisions and Conditions of Service
11. Diocesan Appointments Process

1. Introduction

The **Anglican Parish of Moruya** has been in existence on the south coast of New South Wales for more than 150 years. The parish runs from the north bank of the Tuross River to North Rosedale just south of Batemans Bay. It borders the Bodalla, Batemans Bay, and Braidwood parishes.

The parish consists of two church sites, namely:

- The Church of Saint John the Evangelist, Moruya (St John's Moruya),
- The Church of Saint Andrew, Tuross Head (St Andrew's Tuross).

St John's Moruya is located to the west of the town centre and in the Heritage precinct of the town. St Andrew's is in the southern part of the township.

Also situated within the parish boundaries is Saint Peter's Anglican College, Broulee (St Peter's College), which is highly successful (Section 8).

Our Reverend Rector, who retired in January of 2025, was with the parish for over 17 years.

This Parish Profile has been prepared and approved by the parishioners as a means of advising a new applicant for the position.

2. Parish Perceptions

Parish Strengths

One of the main Parish's strengths is our ties with the community and our outreach to many other communities and organisations, both private and public.

St John's Moruya Red Door Hall is used by church members and the local community.

Our key strengths are being:

- Community minded.
- Welcoming.

- Outward looking.
- Of strong faith and works (hard work and commitment, real faith / gospel expression).
- Of awareness (social justice issues/ Aboriginal issues / climate change).
- Musical.

Parish Weaknesses

One of the parish's weaknesses is the ageing of the church **worshippers**. Without Parish growth, our two churches face significant problems, e.g. Demographics, relevance, leadership, lack of young people and children and finances.

3. Diocesan Perspective

Current Diocesan Mission Priorities

The Anglican Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn are committed to engaging our world of difference with the love and truth of Jesus. In particular, we are seeking to establish and nurture congregations, schools and welfare ministries characterised by:

- Gracious and patient witness
- Safe and sustainable ministry
- Compassionate and skilled service
- Creative and informed advocacy
- Just and generous stewardship
- Inspiring and empowered worship

Our diocesan ethos is to promote Christ-centred collegiality. We encourage and support women in all levels of ordained ministry.

Contribution of the Anglican Parish of Moruya to Diocesan Mission Priorities

4. Services and People

The Parish of Moruya serves two churches:

- One is St John's Anglican Church of Moruya in Page Street, Moruya. This is the main church, with weekly services at 10.00 am on Sundays.

- The other church is St Andrew's at Tuross, which also has weekly services on Sundays at the same time.

St John's Moruya is served by the Rector of the Parish every week except the first Sunday of the month. On this first week, St John's Moruya is served by a visitor, currently Bishop George Browning, and the first week in Tuross has its service conducted by the Rector of the Moruya Parish. On the second, third, and fourth Sundays, St Andrew's Tuross services are led by a lay minister or team member. When there is a fifth Sunday in a month, the two services are combined.

We are lucky to have a lay minister team, which currently consists of four licensed lay ministers. A lay minister will assist the Rector as the Rector requires, particularly for Holy Communion. (Holy Communion is served each Sunday at Moruya and twice monthly at Tuross.)

The Parish has a monthly meeting of its Parish Council, which consists of a Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and eleven active members. It also has a small but active Anglican Women's group, which assists with catering, fundraising both for the church and other missions, and other activities.

The Moruya Red Door Hall, adjacent to St John's Moruya, is a great asset to our Moruya Church, and morning teas are provided after each Sunday service. In addition to the Sunday services, both churches are active in other capacities - concerts, etc and in particular the Red Door Hall is used on a regular basis for Tuesday community lunches (serving about sixty meals) and the Slightly Bent Choir. At other times it is used by a theatre group, film club, the Samaritans Purse *Operation Christmas Child* working bees, the Refugee action group, the Repair Cafe, Southcoast Health and Sustainability Alliance (SHASA), climate change group, a Chamber Orchestra rehearsal venue, and the Moruya Brass Band. It is also used by other groups, such as the Breastfeeding Mothers' Group. The hall is either rented out hourly, made available for an annual donation, or, for community lunches and charities, provided at no charge. It was also used extensively during the 2019/20 bushfires and is now being maintained as a safe haven in adverse climatic conditions.



The precinct of the main Church has beautiful gardens, including a labyrinth and a micro-forest garden. These are regularly enjoyed by local residents and visitors alike. There are also a few community garden beds that are on annual leases.

The Rectory has been leased to Anglicare for the last ten years. The lease has been extended for another five years, beginning in 2026.

Both churches are available for baptisms, weddings, funerals, and wakes, which are sometimes held in the Red Door Hall for the church's own parishioners.

Currently both churches do not have very large congregations (an average of 30 at St John's Moruya and an average of ten at St Andrew's Tuross), but despite this, our Churches (particularly St John's Moruya) are considered safe havens for the community, well known and spoken about because of its outreach and the people that regularly attend - something the Parish Council are proud of.



5. Leadership and Ministries

The Parish currently operates with a licensed locum rector, the Reverend John Thomas, with the assistance of four licensed Lay Ministers.

The chaplain from St Peter's College, the Reverend Sascha Peard, is also active within the Parish.

The Parish aims to maintain active pastoral care within the district.

The worship style is contemporary liturgical, mixing APBA liturgy and TiS music with Wild Goose and Taizé material.

There is potential for ministry in this parish with the number of families and holiday makers drawn to the area.

6. Parish Facilities

The Parish of Moruya has two areas of facilities, namely:

1. The Saint John's Church precinct in Moruya, and
2. The Saint Andrew's Church precinct in Tuross Head.



The Saint John the Evangelist heritage church is over 130 years old. (The foundation stone was laid in 1890). The church has beautiful stained-glass windows. It can seat about one hundred people. The church is also used as a concert venue, featuring a high-quality sound system suitable for a variety of artist combinations.

St Andrew's Tuross Church precinct was developed in 1973 as a War Memorial Church to provide ministry services to the people of Tuross Head. This facility is also used for other community activities.



The "Old" Rectory, which is over 100 years old, has been converted to an office building. The original garage has been converted into a counselling area/meeting room. This facility is leased to Anglicare as their South Coast headquarters. The house, for several reasons, is not suitable as accommodation.

The 'Red Door' Parish Hall is widely used by community organisations, which has provided a highly regarded centre for Moruya (see section 4). It is fitted with solar panels and a battery so that the air-conditioning will operate even during a power loss.

The Parish Office and Meeting Room. This building is used on Tuesdays for the Parish's administration. The Meeting Room is also used by members of 'The Commons - Moruya.'



7. Local Community

Our facilities are used by the local communities (see Sections 4 and 6).

Another user is 'The Commons - Moruya.' The makeup of 'The Commons - Moruya' is the main community groups that use St John's Moruya Church precinct. It has two Parish Council Representatives.

Some of the other local community groups or people are The Red Door Theatre, Tai-Chi, Iconic Circus, Moruya Brass Band, Slightly Bent Choir, Just Dance, Ecstatic Dance, Repair Café, Sewing & Friendship Group, Eurobodalla Chamber Orchestra, Refugee Action Collective, 350 Eurobodalla, Moruya Film Club, River of Art, and the Circle Foundation.

The parish is well known in the community for its social justice and environmental actions, as well as being a place for personal and spiritual reflection. For example, St John's was recently filled with people for a prayer vigil following the Bondi attack.

Moruya is an old country town which has been added to with one or two new housing developments. One of its great charms is that it has that "old country town" feel and the community is diverse but warm and caring. There are many original extended families which have stayed in the area, and this includes some First Nations families with ancestral links to the area. The area has proved popular with retirees looking to leave urban environments (especially Canberra) seeking an easier lifestyle. The town also has two excellent private high schools which have encouraged more young families have moved into the area. During the Covid pandemic many workers were encouraged to work from home; the local amenities assisted in enabling people to choose a more decentralised lifestyle for their families.

Being only two and a half hours from Canberra, the town is still within reasonable commute for those needing to attend Canberra for when in-person meetings are required. The ABS shows the current population of Moruya as being 4295 – our town offers so much in terms of health, schooling, retail and restaurants and a wide river enabling water sports. A new level 4 hospital is currently under construction to service both Moruya and the local area. The hospital is scheduled to open in March 2027.

Tuross, located 15 kms from Moruya, has evolved from being a holiday destination to highly residential, and 2021 census recorded its population as 2,353. It is a popular spot for water sports, especially fishing with two beaches and lakes either side of the road which leads from the highway to Tuross Head. During the tourist season, both Moruya and Tuross see their population expand greatly. The local economy benefits greatly from this period, and it also presents opportunities for the mission of the church for example the Tuross Christmas concert and Cancer Council Biggest Morning Teas.

From the 2021 data, the ABS has the median age in Moruya-Tuross as 56 (compared to the average of 36 Australia). 5% of the population claim indigenous heritage. 'No religion' was the leading response in the Religious affiliation question of the 2021 Census at 42%, above the levels for the rest of the state and nation (NSW 32.8%; Australia 38.4%).

The parish encompasses not only Moruya and Tuross, but the villages of Broulee, Mossy Point, Tomakin and Rosedale and other small communities between there and Tuross (with an estimated population of 3,792). The median age in Broulee-Tomakin is 52.

8. St Peter's College

In approximately two thousand, the Parish agreed that the district needed an Anglican School. The then Rector, Reverend David Hill, set up a committee to explore the proposal and plan for the establishment of the school, which was to become Saint Peter's Anglican College, Broulee.



Starting with a sandy bush block in Broulee on the corner of George Bass Drive and what was then a brand-new extension of Train Street, St Peter's College has grown into a college of more than 700 students, catering to students from Prep to Year 12.

An independent school, one of eight Anglican schools within the Canberra-Goulburn Diocese, the foundation stone for the new school was formally laid on 5 October 2002 by Bishop George Browning. The school welcomed its first students in January 2003 with two permanent buildings and one temporary administration building.



The relationship with the College has been very important to the Parish. The School Chaplain is the Reverend Sascha Peard, who is also active in the Parish. Pending the opening of the School Chapel, the church has been regularly used for School services.

The Parish considers the continued relationship with the College as very important.

9. Parish Finances

The Parish income for the year 2025:

| | |
|-------------------|-----------|
| Open Plate | \$ 32,522 |
| Direct deposit | \$ 23,690 |
| Donations | \$ 6,476 |
| Red Door Café | \$ 6,288 |
| Hire of buildings | \$ 4,996 |
| Rectory income | \$ 32,412 |
| Other income | \$ 1,524 |

The Parish expenses for the year 2025:

| | |
|--------------------|-----------|
| Clergy cost | \$ 58,935 |
| Diocesan and legal | \$ 16,870 |
| Utility services | \$ 5,403 |
| Parish expenses | \$ 10,279 |
| Insurance | \$ 6,625 |
| Vehicle expenses | \$ 4,314 |

The Parish's total cash balance for 2025 is \$106,919.

The Parish has no loans.

The Parish has a term deposit and National Trust account for the upkeep of St John's Moruya.

10. Provisions and Conditions of Service

The Parish is looking for someone who:

- Understands our connection with the community and can build on it.
- Is a positive communicator in the public space / community.
- Is a good preacher:
 - a) St Andrew's - good Bible focussed preacher.
 - b) St John's - relates sermons to today's issues.
- Is forward looking and knows what it is to be Christian in 2026 and beyond.

- Lives out Micah 6.8 'to do justice, and to love, kindness, and to walk humbly with your God'.
- Is enthusiastic.
- Is a kind and empathetic people person.
- Can delegate and encourage others to develop and use their God-given gifts.
- Is creative with services - in use of liturgy, other forms of service and music.

The Parish can afford a minister for three days a week. The Parish will also provide transport, either as an allowance or as a vehicle, and will follow the advice in the Administrative Circular issued by the Diocese.

Due to the Rectory's unsuitability as a residence, we will pay a housing allowance.

Telecommunications will be provided either as an allowance or a mobile phone.

The Rector also has a dedicated desk space in the Parish Office.

The Parish will also cover the expenses for attendance at Synod and Clergy Conferences.

11. Diocesan Appoint Process

This is a summary of the usual process in our Diocese:

1. The Parish consultation is held.
2. The Parish profile is produced.
3. A Clergy Appointments Board (CAB) is convened with the following persons:
 - . A Bishop or Archdeacon to chair
 - . Three Parish representatives, elected by the Parishioners.
 - . Three Diocesan representatives from a panel elected by the Synod.
4. CAB meets multiple times and covers the following:
 - . Consider candidates who have expressed interest to the Bishop.

- . Brainstorm possible candidates for the Bishop's consideration.
 - . Seeks applications from potential candidates approved by the Bishop.
 - . The Bishop's office conducts background checks.
 - . Shortlists possible candidates in consultation with the Bishop and conducts interviews.
 - . Suggests a preferred candidate to the Bishop for his/her nomination.
 - . Bishop decides whether the candidate will be nominated for balloting by CAB members.
5. The Bishop offers the Parish to the successful candidate.
 6. Candidate formally accepts the Parish.
 7. Details are then worked out, such as communicating the appointment to the candidate's Reverend and new Parish, moving house and induction date.

Instructions to Prospective Candidates

Thank you for considering ministry in this Parish! We trust you will prayerfully engage in this process, asking for God's guidance and blessing for both yourself and the Parish.

The process is one of discernment. In other words, applications and interviews are conducted in the expectation that God will be at work, making it clear to all parties who the right person of God's choosing is. As you engage in this process, we want you to do so with an openness and curiosity to see whether God might be leading you to serve here. That said, there comes a time when decisions must be made. In particular, it is helpful if you can have a fair degree of confidence PRIOR to the interview that this is the Parish God is calling you to serve in. We do not expect certainty – and the interview is a time for you to ask questions and learn more about the Parish-but we do expect at least a reasonable degree of confidence in accepting it should the Bishop offer it to you following the interview. If you have serious questions and doubts about whether this Parish is the right fit for you, please try to resolve them before the interview, as this will result in the least disappointment all round. The Bishop and Archdeacon are always available for confidential conversations at any stage throughout the process.

In most cases, the Bishop will offer the Parish to the preferred candidate within five days of the interview. We would hope that acceptance would be given either. Immediately or within a few days of the offer.