



Photo provided by Amandine Ahrens, Bega District News.
L to R: Aunty Colleen Dixon, Robyn Campbell (née Woodwell), Peter Woodwell, Karen Woodwell, Mark Woodwell, Bishop Mark Short, Jennifer Woodwell, Uncle Ossie Cruise.

A champion of justice for Aboriginal people

A gathering of family, friends and community members recently celebrated the tireless campaign of a Canberra-Goulburn clergyman for justice for Aboriginal people.

On April 30 Bishop Mark unveiled a plaque in the grounds of St John's Bega in memory of Archdeacon Frank Woodwell, who served as Rector of the Parish from 1966 to 1974. During that time Archdeacon Woodwell was instrumental in arranging for church land to be set aside for the construction of the first houses for Aboriginal people within the town of Bega. This happened in the face of much opposition from amongst the community and churches.

Speakers at the unveiling included Aunty Colleen Dixon, whose family moved into the first house, and Pastor Ossie Cruise, who campaigned alongside Archdeacon Woodwell.

After a Welcome to Country and personal reflection from Aunty Colleen, Bishop Mark shared:

'In the Old Testament prophet Micah 6:8 we are given this short summary of our calling before God: 'He has told you, O mortal, what

is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?' In their life and ministry in the Bega Valley Archdeacon Frank and Mrs Merle Woodwell embodied this vision. The Woodwells' commitment to justice was seen particularly in their advocacy work on behalf of the Aboriginal people of the Bega Valley. Through their leadership the first inhabitants and custodians of this land were welcomed and honoured.

'Lest we think the welcome was all one way I quote from the Archdeacon's memoir – 'When we were preparing to leave Bega the Aboriginal community arranged a special farewell in the parish hall in their relaxed style with simple fare of sandwiches, cakes and soft drinks. Ossie Cruise and Mrs Pitman spoke thankfully on behalf of the Aboriginal Community.'

'Justice that builds community and grows gratitude. It is a legacy worth celebrating and an example worth following.'

Mark McKenna, who researched the work of Frank Woodwell when

writing his history of South-East NSW, *Looking for Blackfella's Point*, then spoke, saying:

'[Woodwell] offered what was then a radically different account of what the white man had done to Aboriginal people:

Since the white man came to this country, [the original Australians] have been deprived of their opportunity to live on the same footing as those who took this country from [them] ... A start must be made in Bega if our consciences are to be purged of the shame ... that is condemning a section of the human race to a deplorable state of physical, social and mental degradation.

'For Woodwell, Christianity was first and foremost a lived faith. Praying for the less fortunate was not enough; it was also necessary to provide material, social and political support to those in need. He came to Bega carrying a different understanding of Christianity and a different vision of Australian society ...

'Frank Woodwell stood up against injustice at a time when it was much harder to do than it is today. Together with his supporters, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, he formed the Bega Valley Aborigines Advancement Association ...

'As Woodwell explained, the Aboriginal issue played 'centre stage' during his time in the Bega area. To him, Aboriginal people on the south coast in the 1960s were fringe dwellers with lost culture, little hope, fractured family ties, poor health and little schooling, dependent on a few vegetable growers or timber mills for casual employment. Their living conditions were appalling, he thought, confined as they were to the rubbish dump, river bank or huts and shacks on growers' properties and with little control over their lives ...

'Frank Woodwell was a champion not only of Aboriginal rights, but of human rights. I know we're proud to honour his contribution, and proud to continue to work with everyone here today to carry on the spirit of his legacy.

'Because there is so much more work to do.'



Photo by Debby Hudson from Unsplash.com

Bishop Carol Writes ...

In the month of May our diocese faces two events that have the potential to challenge our unity as God's people in this diocese – and in fact, in the Anglican Communion in Australia.

The first is an election. All elections tend to bring out our differences, creating the possibility of ill feeling and disunity in the unwary church. This election, perhaps more than others, has the potential to divide us, as we emerge from the pandemic and count the financial cost to our nation. There are vastly differing opinions as to which party will best manage our financial resources and bring us back to stability.

The second is General Synod. From the 8th-13th of May, representatives from Anglican Dioceses across Australia will be gathering for this national synod in the Gold Coast. It is a full and somewhat fraught agenda. Among the agenda items are issues on which there are polarised opinions – such as same sex marriage. These opinions are deeply and passionately held, each side believing they are right and 'the other side' is wrong.

This General Synod, more than past synods, does not bode well for

the unity of the Anglican Church in Australia. There are murmurings of schism and the murmurings are not unfounded. Parts of the Anglican Communion in the USA, Canada and Africa have already gone in this direction, and the potential for a similar divide hangs like a spectre over the Australian church.

We're not unique in these oh-so-human struggles. The apostle Paul had to deal with them as well in the early church. The church in Crete was a case in point. Culturally, Cretans were a difficult people – turbulent and quarrelsome and impatient with all authority. In particular, they had a problem with false teachers, which was causing significant disunity amongst the believers.

Titus was leading this difficult church in Crete so Paul wrote to him with advice. There is much in Paul's letter to Titus which would resonate with the Anglican Church at this time.

In the letter, Paul speaks about holiness in the context of a Christian's civic responsibility, and then moves on to the particular issue of disunity brought about by false teachers that was plaguing the young church.

Talking about the believers' **action**

towards the government, Paul says in 3:1, *'Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work.'*

Paul's strategy was for the believers to set an example of good citizenship, so the young church would not be drawn into political agitation. This would be contrary to the way most Cretans approached life, and would set the Christians apart, allowing their 'light to shine'.

Then in v2, Paul speaks about the believers' **attitude** to the government – so often reflected in conversation. Paul exhorted the believers *'to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarrelling, to be gentle, and to show every courtesy to everyone.'* They were to reign in any tendency to be slanderous and argumentative over political issues, they were to avoid stirring people up, and to be deliberately courteous and reasonable towards one another – even those they disagreed with.

In an environment where everyone else was arguing about politics, taking sides and being aggressive towards one's opponents, it would have been a revolutionary concept for these new Christians to realise that Jesus called them to live differently.

This is sound advice for us as we move towards an election which is already looking rather tense.

What about the false teachers? Above all else, these false teachers had the ability to bring out the worst in the believers. They were disagreeing, quarrelling, and dividing over things that didn't really matter, according to Paul.

Unfortunately, whenever there is conflict over beliefs, it is precisely because people feel their beliefs do matter, that issues become so difficult to deal with.

Interestingly, in this passage, Paul did not concentrate on the rightness or wrongness of the beliefs in question, although he writes often in other places about the importance of holding fast to the truth of the Gospel. His focus in this instance was on the *disunity* that came about as a result of the conflict.

He says, *'After a first and second admonition, have nothing more to do with anyone who causes divisions, since you know that such a person is perverted and sinful, being self-condemned.'*

Disunity in the church has the power to subvert the message of the Gospel more than any other issue. We know so well Jesus' words on the subject: *'By this shall everyone know that you are my disciples – that you have love for one another.'*

In John 17:22-23, we read Jesus' prayer that his followers would be one, as he and his Father were one, and the reason was so that *'the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.'*

- Please pray for the Anglican Church as we approach the election, that we as God's people will be courteous in listening to one another's opinions and beliefs, without allowing ill feeling or division to emerge.
- And please pray particularly for members of General Synod as they discuss agenda items which will trigger deeply held beliefs and feelings. Pray for a willingness to listen and really hear each other; pray for a deep respect for the unity of the Church and pray for a revelation of the importance to Jesus of the unity of his church and the power of the church's witness as we live together in love.

The Anglican Communion has the capacity to be loving and accepting of a wide range of Christian beliefs and practice. May we not allow ourselves to be derailed by our need to be right, but to hold fast to Christ's plea for unity in his Church.

Psalm 133:1

How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!



Clergy Moves

The Reverend Liz Sloane has been licensed as Honorary Deacon Assistant Tumut with responsibility for pastoral care and counselling (26.04.2022).

Anglican News

Editor: Alison Payne Address: GPO Box 1981, Canberra, ACT 2601
 Phone: 02 6245 7154 Advertising: enquiries to the editor.
 Email: alison.payne@anglicands.org.au ISSN 2207-6484

Article Submission Details

Articles for each edition need to be submitted by the 25th day of the previous month.

The Anglican News welcomes contributions of up to 600 words that highlight ministry and mission initiatives across the Diocese or explore new ways of engaging a world of difference with the love and truth of Jesus.

Any statements or opinions expressed in articles published in this newspaper are attributed to the identified author and are not necessarily endorsed by or representative of the Diocese or its officers.

ADS farewells long-serving CIO Vince Dove

In the first office morning-tea gathering since the pandemic, Anglican Diocesan Services (ADS) staff farewelled Chief Information Officer Vince Dove after 20 years of service, with speeches, gifts, much gratitude for his wonderful contribution and every blessing for his retirement.

Vince has shared some history and a reflection of his time with ADS:

'I began working for the Anglican Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn in 2002 as an Information and Communication Technology (ICT) contractor. At that time, Anglicare

Youth and Family Services head office was based in Cowper St Goulburn and had an IT network consisting of two computers connected via Coaxial cable.

'The IT department grew from two to four technicians. We were tasked with joining all Anglicare Youth and Family Services separate geographical sites into one connected network, with around 12 offices and 120 staff. As a contractor, I stabilised and grew the network to one server and 40 workstations. Shortly after completing this work, I applied for and successfully gained



the Network Administrator role.

'In 2008, Anglicare Youth and Family services merged with Anglican Retirement Community Services, doubling the number of seats and locations the newly formed network was charged to support, and I was promoted to the ICT manager. My ICT team grew from four to five technicians, we commenced the work of joining five aged-care facilities to the broader network. My staff base increased to seven technicians.

'The ICT team has grown from one tech in 2002 to its current, highly-skilled team of 17. In 2013, the Anglican Diocesan Services (ADS) was formed at the request of Bishop-in-Council. The ICT team and functions were transferred and tasked with supporting (where necessary) Diocesan Education, youth, family, disability,

homelessness, youth homelessness, ageing, the AIDF, Bishops Office and our Boards and Committees. We assumed the support roles for St Peters Anglican College in Broulee and Sapphire Coast Anglican College in Bega. We commissioned all the ICT required to start a new school at Googong and, most recently, a full Service Level Agreement with The Riverina Anglican College in Wagga.

The highlight of my time with the Anglican Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn has been the knowledge that the ICT team is one of the ADS back-office services that support the mission of our Diocese. When I stop and consider the amazing things we all do for the people of our Diocese I can't help but be excited for us. I wonder where we will be in five years.

'As I contemplate my retirement, I realise none of our achievements would be possible without the work of Bishop-in-Council and the Bishops' Office. Being a part of an organisation with Christ at its core gives us all sure knowledge we are all in accord with his teachings.'



Mothers' Union Diocesan Chaplain retires

by Joan Eberle
Diocesan President

At the Canberra & Goulburn Diocesan Mothers' Union's Annual General Meeting, held at Holy Cross Anglican Church, Hackett, on Wednesday 23rd March, 2022, The Reverend Joan Smith announced her retirement from the position of Diocesan Chaplain. Joan was appointed as our diocesan chaplain on 23rd September, 2016 at St Saviour's Cathedral, Goulburn, by Bishop Stuart Robinson, and

has served our members with love, dedication and as a spiritual guide in all our undertakings. Joan was ordained in the Diocese of Bathurst on 22nd August 2002 by Bishop Richard Hurford, as seen in the photograph at right.

Our new diocesan Chaplain has been appointed by Bishop Mark Short. The Reverend Canon Anne Wentzel has accepted and she will take over from Joan, guiding us as



we make our plans for the NSW State Conference in October, as well as her general duties as our Chaplain.

Anne can be seen thanking Joan for her service to Mothers' Union and sharing a special moment with her. The members presented Joan with a gift and flowers.

Joan will continue to be involved

as a member of the Hackett Branch where her Quiet Days will continue to be held twice yearly.





ADS welcomes new CIO Rohan Smith

Rohan Smith commenced in the role of Chief Information Officer during April, taking over from Vince Dove, who retired after two decades of service across

the Diocese (see page 3). Bringing over 15 years of experience in senior leadership to the Diocese, most recently as the Chief Services Officer for the Anglican

Schools Corporation in Sydney, he is a welcome appointment to the team within ADS.

In his most recent role, he was responsible for teams in both transactional and technology disciplines, working to provide a positive customer service experience through the use of efficient digital tools, processes and access to information.

Rohan has had a long and successful career with the Anglican Schools Corporation and was originally tasked with creating the shared services function for ICT. As Chief Technology Officer, he led the development and implementation of minimum standards for ICT across the group of schools, consolidation of each schools ICT operations into the shared service, implementation of corresponding shared infrastructure and numerous strategic initiatives, such as the implementation of a group wide Learning Management System.

Rohan is married to Lisa and they have two children, Kingsley who is nearly four and Guinevere who is nearly two. When asked about his decision to join the Diocese, Rohan had this to say:

‘It is very exciting to be a part of a Diocese which is enabling so many excellent ministry opportunities to share the good news of Jesus, whilst at the same time providing practical support for so many in the community, no matter the stage of their life. There is tremendous purpose to come to work each day.’

When asked about what he hoped to achieve in the role, he said that he hoped to unlock the real opportunity that existed to leverage the scale of the Diocese to provide a quality technology offering, which enables every ministry to flourish.

Rohan is hoping to be actively involved throughout the Diocese, having served in various capacities of church life in Sydney, including as a warden, service leader, ‘muso’ and Synod representative. He is currently ‘church shopping’, so you may find him checking out your Sunday services in the near future!

Please pray for him and his family as they seek a new Church home, and Rohan specifically, as he seeks to take the technology needs and opportunities of the Diocese forward into the future.

Biography provided by Rohan Smith



Glenn Maytum returns

by Susan Bazzana



In 1989 Glenn had been in conversation about re-starting Anglican Chaplaincy at what was then called the Riverina-Murray Institute of Higher Education (which became Charles Sturt University). In 1990 he received a phone call from Bishop Barry Hunter (then Bishop of the Riverina) who wanted his help ‘to solve a problem.’

‘I’ve been back to St Martin’s many times over the years, and it has been exciting to see the College grow’ Glenn said. ‘It is great to see the College booming again.’

The Bishop had received a bequest from Mr George Tassell, a parishioner at St Martin’s Anglican Church in Moulamain, which had been earmarked for ‘youth’ and Glenn’s suggestion was to see if it could be possible to commence an Anglican Residential College on the campus at Wagga Wagga.

In what was a unique project at the time the Dioceses of Riverina and Canberra and Goulburn came together to work on the project, which was spearheaded by Archdeacon Stephen Williams, and in 1992 the College was opened in time for the start of the academic year.

Glenn was commissioned as its first Chaplain and moved onsite into the Chaplain’s Flat, which was attached to the Chapel. The first residents lived in an eight-bedroom cottage that was called ‘George Tassell House’ in acknowledgement of its benefactor.

‘I’ve been back to St Martin’s many times over the years, and it has been exciting to see the College grow’ Glenn said. ‘It is great to see the College booming again.’

‘We started with eight residents 30 years ago and now it can house 96 people and the community is thriving.’

‘I am really looking forward to the 30th anniversary and do hope to see many of those residents from the early years come along.’

Tickets to the various 30th Anniversary events will be available soon on the College website or you can contact the College via martiesturns30@csu.edu.au or telephone ph 02 6933 4966.



Rallying for refugees on Palm Sunday

by Charles Body

‘There are two things that I think set a nation apart as a leader among nations. One is generosity. The other is wise and good stewardship.’ These were the opening words of Bishop Carol Wagner’s talk at the Palm Sunday Refugee Rally in Canberra’s Garema Place on Sunday 10 April.

Bishop Carol then considered how Australia’s treatment of refugees and

asylum seekers measures up against these qualities.

The pitifully small number of refugees we accept for settlement in Australia and the cruel way we treat those seeking asylum is certainly not generous.

And the cost of keeping refugees and asylum seekers in detention is enormous. Australian taxpayers pay around \$470,000 per detainee per

year to keep them in hotel detention. In addition, the cost of keeping the Murugappan family from Biloela in detention for the past four years has been over \$7 million. Spending hundreds of millions of dollars to lock up and mistreat refugees is not good stewardship of Australia’s resources.

Mostafa Azimitabar, a Kurdish refugee from Iran, spoke about his eight years in detention before being released last year on a temporary bridging visa. His detention included two years locked in the Park Hotel in Melbourne where Novak Djokovic was detained for five days earlier this year.

Mos has written and performed songs about his time in detention and to express his thanks to those who have supported him. He gave a very moving rendition of one of his songs at the rally.

Hasima Ebrahimi, a refugee from Afghanistan, struggled to contain her emotions as she spoke of the situation in her homeland. Hasima is an actor and film-maker who uses her talents to fight for her family, society and freedom and to ensure the world does not forget Afghanistan.

Craig Foster, former Socceroo and SBS sports reporter, has given up a lucrative career in television to work for justice for refugees. He spoke about his visits to the Manus Island detention centre where he and Mos became good friends, and

he passionately argued for refugees to be treated as people rather than as pawns for political purposes.

Associate Professor John Minns from the ANU ended the rally with some words of encouragement. He pointed out that for the first time in two decades, on the eve of an election, the Australian government has released a few refugees from detention. This glimmer of compassion must extend beyond the election campaign.

Christians from all denominations joined people from other faiths and the wider community in the crowd of over 1,500 people who then marched peacefully around Canberra’s city centre.



Remembering those animals who served

by Reverend Tim Narraway

On Anzac Day, April 25 2022, a special ceremony took place at the Narooma Soldiers and services club. Reverend Tim Narraway, Rector of Narooma and chaplain to the RSL in Narooma, dedicated a memorial to remember those animals who served and died in war.

Throughout history, in war and in peacetime, animals and humankind have worked alongside each other. As beasts of burden, messengers, protectors, mascots, and friends, the war animals have demonstrated true valour and an enduring partnership



with humans. Often this partnership is underestimated and seldom celebrated. Three times as many

Australian horses went to the Anglo Boer war than did soldiers. Few if any returned.

Animals are remembered during Anzac day through awards such as the Dickin medal (the animal equivalent of the Victoria Cross) and the wearing of a purple poppy.

In Australia and New Zealand the role of the ordnance detection dog has resulted in numerous commendations and awards, not to mention the psychological benefits the animals offered troops.

Fun Fact: The most decorated animal is the pigeon.



Photo provided by the RSL

Finding a way to support Ukraine

by Reverend Ian Powell

I'm used to St Matt's folk giving more than I hope they will, but I was still surprised when they gave over \$12,000 for Ukrainians over two Sundays,' said Reverend Ian Powell of Wanniasa.

The parish leadership could feel the concern for Ukraine in various prayer meetings so thought we should find a way for wealthy and secure Canberrans to give aid to the desperately needy. (This became

especially obvious when about 50 folk turned up for a prayer meeting specifically for Ukraine.)

So we used Facebook to get suggestions about the best organisations to get help to the neediest in Ukraine, and with minimum overheads.

After a couple of weeks' research we decided to give through Anglican Relief and Development Fund (ardfa.org.au) and through Logosdor

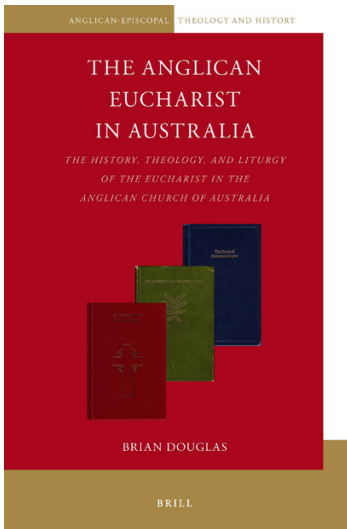


(logosdor.com), who have turned their extensive Ukrainian sports ministry network into a network for loving those fleeing carnage.

Ian explained, 'I confess it feels a little uncomfortable talking about the giving from our church but we thought other churches might not have realised how so many

Christians really want to help, but don't have a straightforward way to do so. All it needed was an in-church explanation, boxes with the Ukraine flag at the doors and money able to be given electronically with the word Ukraine included. Easy.'

And as our Master says 'it is more blessed to give, than it is to receive.'



Book review: The Anglican Eucharist in Australia by Rev Dr Brian Douglas

by Reverend Robert Willson

Brian Douglas, *The Anglican Eucharist in Australia: The History, Theology, and Liturgy of the Eucharist in the Anglican Church of Australia*, Anglican-Episcopal Theology and History, Vol 8 (Leiden, Koninklijke Brill NV, 2022)

It is a tragedy that many of the papers of Dawes were lost or destroyed after his death, but what remains should help students of realist philosophy to a much deeper understanding of sacramental theology. It certainly helped this reviewer.

The final section of this book explores how the Australian Anglican Church, in spite of very diverse theological traditions, was able to achieve agreement on liturgical reform of the Prayer Book. I was one of the very last priests ordained according to the BCP 1662. Anglican clergy have now encountered successive Australian Prayer Books, but with the advent of modern technology and virtual Eucharists, one wonders what the future will bring. This fine study will shine a powerful and scholarly light on the journey so far, and hopefully will help to overcome the neglect of sacramental theology in Australian Anglicanism.

Brian Douglas has achieved a monumental study. Copies of his book are available in the National Library and St Mark's Library.

This book is subtitled *The History, Theology and Liturgy of the Eucharist in the Anglican Church of Australia*. The book is a very important contribution to Australian Anglican history and is a scholarly exploration of a theme that has never been previously studied. Dr Brian Douglas, retired Archdeacon in this Diocese, is to be congratulated on a pioneering study of a neglected subject.

As I know from my own theological training in the 1960s, sacramental theology is almost totally neglected in the formation of clergy in Australia. An Anglican priest is ordained to the ministry of 'Word and Sacrament', yet in many cases, while preaching the Word is stressed, celebrating the Eucharist is almost ignored. That sad fact is why this book is so important to help redress this neglect.

The author explores the diverse theology of the Eucharist in the Australian Anglican Church

from the beginning of European settlement in 1788. Until the middle of the 20th century the 1662 Book of Common Prayer determined the nature of Eucharistic celebration in Australia. Dr Douglas uses the philosophical notions of realism and nominalism as a focus in the book. My clergy training, and I suspect that of many others, never mentioned these important concepts.

In a brief review it is impossible to touch on all aspects of this valuable study. The author gives us a fascinating account of the work of early clergy like Johnson, Marsden and Bishop Broughton. The first Chaplains to the Colony of NSW were representative of 18th century Evangelical traditions but the first Bishop, Broughton, and later Bishop Nixon in Tasmania, were influenced by the Tractarians, led by EB Pusey, and espoused a realist eucharistic theology.

Other early Bishops, like Perry of Melbourne, maintained an

evangelical and nominalist eucharistic theology. This emphasis was continued by the Diocese of Sydney after the end of Broughton's episcopate.

This study includes a remarkable account of First Fleeter William Dawes, and his very significant study of Aboriginal spirituality through his friendship with a young Aboriginal girl named Patyegarang.



Sudanese Service of thanksgiving for the outgoing Ministry Unit Council and commissioning of the new Council

by Monica Short

On Sunday, 3rd April 2022, the South Sudanese Anglican Ministry Unit had a beautiful worship and thanksgiving service, followed by a delicious meal. Lots of laughter everywhere. God is good. Thank you to Reverend Peter Kuot and everyone in this inspiring congregation for a wonderful time worshipping our great God.





Responding to the Northern Rivers floods

by Helen Bennett, Anglicare

Listening to the news and weather forecasts on television or radio is something that most of us do daily or at least several times a week. It gives us a sense of what is going on around us, other people's experiences and needs, and often guides us in our own thoughts, prayers and actions.

Though February and early March I was following intently stories in the media of higher than average rainfall and water levels in much of Eastern Australia and the devastation this was having on low (and not so low) lying communities.

As Anglicare's Regional Disaster Recovery Coordinator I watched

and waited and wondered if our Disaster Recovery (DR) teams would be called upon to respond. You see, Anglicare has an MOU with the NSW and ACT governments to assist in times of disaster but only if it is safe to do so. We have to wait to be 'activated' under the Welfare Services Functional Area Plan. Our volunteers are trained and accredited and know what role to assume as they work alongside members of other agencies in supporting evacuees in times of loss and trauma.

I learnt of Evacuation Centres being set up in Queensland and Northern NSW and as far south as Sussex

Inlet. Colleagues further north were activated as people had to leave flooded homes and properties, but still no call to action for our teams. Then in March, following further flooding, the call went out across the state for additional volunteers to assist/supplement/relieve those who had been working so hard in the flooded areas. It was time to act.

The first contingent from our region, drawn from Anglicare DR volunteers who had submitted Expressions of Interest, headed to the Northern Rivers in early April. They were deployed from our Disaster Recovery teams in Bungendore, Moruya, Narooma, Batemans Bay and Canberra. Magnus Linder, Anglicare's Sydney-based Disaster Recovery Manager, joined the group on their route north.

Re-routed via the Gold Coast because the runway at Ballina airport needed repairs, the team were accommodated on camp stretchers hastily set up in the buildings of Wollongbar TAFE. The original Base Camp constructed of purpose built air-conditioned tents had been established on the TAFE oval but then condemned due to moisture, mould and mud issues from a heavy dump of rain four days earlier. Toilet and shower blocks on the oval supplemented the amenities inside the TAFE buildings and meals were provided in a large mess tent.

Rapid Antigen Testing was mandated morning and night to try and prevent/contain any outbreaks of COVID-19 at Base Camp and if a test came back positive, the individual was immediately removed to Casino Hospital. Close

contacts were isolated in a separate section of Base Camp, a fate experienced by myself and another Anglicare volunteer several days into the deployment. I must say we were looked after incredibly well whilst in isolation and neither of us contracted the virus!

Our DR volunteers worked alongside Red Cross and other agencies in Recovery Centres at Chinderah, Murwillumbah, Mullumbimby, Kyogle, Lismore, Ballina and Tabulam, meeting and greeting those impacted by the floods and assisting with registrations and grant applications. A second team, of which I was a part, headed north at the end of the first week to relieve the original group. Deployment of a third team of volunteers was mooted but with the risk of further COVID-19 outbreaks within Base Camp the hard decision was made to return to only utilising 'local' volunteers who did not need to be accommodated.

It was a privilege, a humbling experience to be part of this response. It was hard work, at times frustrating and emotionally draining, but also uplifting and inspiring as we saw people draw on unknown strength and resilience.

Please read some of the personal stories and experiences as our DR volunteers reflect on their time away. Should you wish to learn more about volunteering with Anglicare, please visit our website: www.anglicare.com.au/services/get-involved/volunteer/ or email me at disaster.recovery@anglicare.com.au or Britt Campbell, Volunteers Co-ordinator, at volunteers@anglicare.com.au.

Dirk the dog

It was getting towards the end of the day in the Recovery Centre. Staff and volunteers were becoming tired.

He came to the desk alone, edgy, unsettled. He had been told that, having lost his home and possessions, he'd probably be entitled to a Red Cross grant. Did he have a phone on which he could access the internet to lodge his application? Yes, he had a new phone. It had been given him by a well-meaning person the same day. His original phone was lost in the floods, along with just about everything else he owned.

Could he get the Red Cross web site on his phone? Didn't have a clue how. This was an iPhone. His old

phone was a Samsung.

The Anglicare volunteers located the Red Cross website for him. Could he set it up with his email address and a password? He could remember his email address, a complex combination of letters and numerals, and he used the same password he always used: 'Dirkthedog.'

Did he have a driver's licence? Yes. The Anglicare volunteers took a photo of it using his new phone. Did he have access to a bank statement? Wouldn't have a clue.

Could he get to his bank account on the phone?

At this stage he was losing it. The stress of trying to satisfy all

the legitimate Red Cross grant application requirements when he was already at the end of his tether was evident. He began to swear.

He started to stuff his small collection of documents into his battered backpack. He grabbed his phone. 'I don't need your ** grant. You know what you can do with your grant!'

He was about to push back his chair and leave, angrily dismissing any further offers of help. There seemed to be no placating him now.

Then one of the Anglicare volunteers asked him, 'Is Dirk a real dog?'

'Yeah, he's my dog.'

'Is he OK? Did he (pause) did he make it through the flood?'

'Yes, he's back where I am staying.'

'Do you two get on?'

'He's me best mate.'

'How long have you had him?'

'I've had him for years, he was a

rescue dog.'

And then he sat back down and told the Anglicare volunteers about this best mate of his. Soon the paperwork was out of his backpack, the grant application was completed in long-hand for lodging later on his behalf and the man left with a grin on his face and an assurance that the grant application would be processed within a week or so.

Thank God that he told us his password. Thank God for Dirk the dog!



Photo by Cynthia Smith from unsplash.com. Not actually Dirk!

Personal stories

1 Nell entered the Recovery Centre at the Southern Cross University with a handbag over her shoulder and a smile on her face. Once she had been triaged, visited all of the professional agencies she required assistance from, and was preparing to leave, I offered her some refreshments. She insisted on making her own cup of tea. We sat down together and Nell said to me, 'I was rescued by a kayaker, you know?'

She said that she has a two-storeyed house on stilts. During the night, flood water filled her house until she could no longer remain in it. She climbed out of the window on her first floor, with only her handbag over her shoulder. She told me that she is 81 years old. It was very cold. The water was swirling around her waist. She clung on to the window frame.

A young man in a kayak came along the river to offer her assistance. He tied his boat with rope to her stilts and swam in the swirling waters to where he could climb up to where she was holding on for dear life.

She said to me, 'You wouldn't think that a three seater sofa would float,

would you? Well, mine did.' Her dog was sitting on her mattress inside her bedroom. It was rising in the water close to the ceiling when the kayaker climbed in and rescued her little dog, putting him into the boat. The kayaker then rescued Nell by assisting her into his boat.

Nell told me how she didn't have anything with her other than her handbag. The bank had since been helpful in printing out personal statements upon request, enabling her to prove her identity to gain access to funding.

Throughout the telling of her story, Nell remained calm, matter-of-fact and positive in her outlook.

2 Bob and his wife Margery are local farmers. Bob told me that they had only been living in the Lismore region for a few short years. They used to have a farm out west and found it was very dry country and hard to make a living. Friends told them to go to Lismore as it gets substantial annual rainfall there.

They have been affected twice by flooding this year. They have lost a couple of cows and the remaining



ones have foot rot. Margery said that they would recover in time as the ground water dried up.

They were waiting on a Hydrologist to assess their home and determine whether it had been subjected to flooding or storm damage. That was the only thing currently standing in the way of them receiving funding to rebuild. Bob said to me that 'Blind Freddy could see that it was flood damage.'

At this stage, they were not sure whether they would stay and rebuild or move again. It depended on the Hydrologist's report.

3 Thomas and Karl came in. Two young fellas who would have been about 18-20

years old. I assisted Thomas with accessing the \$500 funding from the Government by talking him through the process as he used two thumbs to competently key in details on his mobile phone.

He struggled to keep a straight face as his eyes kept welling up with tears. I felt that he was bearing a heavy load. He and his mate Karl spent a good deal of time with other agencies in the centre. They left with a bottle of water each, a round of sandwiches (that were excess to our needs; the Centre was not set up to provide food) and a solid hug each from a Red Cross worker.



Photo by Giulia Bertelli from unsplash.com

4 Our days were busy with many people to meet and greet, many stories to hear and much to do to assist those affected by directing them to the various agencies offering support at the recovery centres.

One day I met a woman whose story I would like to tell. I'll call her Mary.

Mary wasn't sure what she wanted and didn't want to be a bother. I sensed she needed a listening ear and so I sat with her, over a cup of tea and a biscuit, as she told me her story.

The circumstances which brought Mary to the Northern Rivers were fresh in her mind. In the latter part of the previous year Mary's husband had left her and Mary had struggled

to come to terms with her new reality. Her children were supportive of her and wanted her to come and live with them. But Mary had chosen to move to an area she had always loved – the Northern Rivers Area – to build a new life.

With funds from the sale of the family home and all of her savings Mary bought and moved into a permanent caravan in a caravan park close to the river. Three weeks after she moved in the floods hit her small community.

When the floods hit she had very little warning. There had been a knock on the door. 'Get out quickly' she was told so she grabbed a backpack, her little dog and went out the door. She took nothing else. The water was very deep outside her

home and she had difficulty moving through the water. She was very afraid.

She told me how two boys had rescued her and her neighbours from the rapidly rising water. Since then she had been in emergency housing but that was to come to an end soon and she had nowhere to go. She felt hopeless and lost.

With the Anglicare training I had received and the knowledge of the assistance available to flood victims I was able to direct Mary to the

support she needed. Mary received housing and financial support as well as professional counselling. Mary was also promised follow-up from the involved agencies.

As she left the centre Mary came to say goodbye. Her face showed a smile. Mary said she was grateful for the listening ear and the support I had given her. Her immediate needs had been met and now the world seemed a whole lot brighter.

[\(Stories continued on page 10\)](#)



Accommodation arrangements for the volunteer team



5 After the floods my wife and I wanted to do something. We could see on the nightly news that people were coming from all over the country to help. There were groups cooking food, others organising clean-ups. We knew that

we could just drive up and pitch in but we were also aware that with the lack of basic services we could just be adding to the problem. We felt stuck until we were offered spots on the Anglicare Disaster Recovery team.



The team en route to the centre.

For me, the real buzz was being part of a team, not just a couple of individuals hoping we could help. We were billeted in an instant camp of 500 volunteers that rotated each week. The Anglicare role was to assist the Red Cross efforts at various State Disaster Recovery Centres – there were 12 centres that had been set up in the area.

The first centre to which my wife and I were sent was staffed by about 50 people who were all there for just one reason – to help in any way they could. It was amazing to see this entire team all pulling together to help those affected by the floods.

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entire team all pulling together to help those affected by the floods.

There were thousands of people being organised to help and we felt privileged to be part of it. Individually we know that we were also able to make every person we encountered just a little bit better because we were there.



Helen Bennett from Anglicare taking a RAT test each morning



The Governor-General visiting the Lismore Recovery Centre



Photo of the Lismore Recovery Centre

Mrs Hurley's Gift

On the 6th April the Governor-General Mr David Hurley and Mrs Hurley visited the Lismore Recovery Centre to meet workers and some of the evacuees

using the Centre to access services. One of the families there at the time comprised a mother and her baby and two young children. Whilst in the reception area the children were

given colouring books and pens to entertain themselves as their Mum and her youngest went off with one of the staff to discuss her needs. An Anglicare volunteer kept an eye on the remaining family. Mrs Hurley stopped to speak with the little boy and admire his art work.

At this time a storm had developed and the young girl had become visibly upset, a pattern of behaviour that had become evident since the floods whenever it rained. One of the Anglicare volunteers tried to distract with food and drink but soon realised the immediate need was to soften the noise of the rain. She found two plastic cups which she placed over the child's ears and the muffled sound 'magically' became the sound of waves.

Mrs Hurley became aware of the little girl's distress and soon returned with a small square box for each child. When opened, a

beautiful round metal medallion was revealed. Tears were replaced by smiles as the presents were shared with Mum. All this was captured on camera, with Mum's permission and an afternoon of sadness became one of joy!

What they were privy to however was much more important and that was a complete turnaround of emotion, and the impact one small gesture can make on the lives of others.

The Anglicare volunteers never did find out the names of those in the family nor any of the details shared with staff at the Centre. What they were privy to however was much more important and that was a complete turnaround of emotion, and the impact one small gesture can make on the lives of others.

Easter at Bermagui and Cobargo

from the Parish

After two years of disruptions due to the impacts of bushfires, COVID and an interregnum, the congregations of the Parish of Cobargo gathered in strength for this year's Easter services.

On Good Friday a reflective service of Devotions on the Crucifixion was held at Bermagui, followed by a feast of hot cross buns at the Rectory.

On Easter Day services at Bermagui and Cobargo were well attended by parishioners and visitors.

Priest-in-Charge, the Reverend

John Thomas, said 'We are a small and diverse parish of rural and coastal communities located at the northern end of the Bega Valley. At present the parish is in a rebuilding stage, and the Easter services were an early sign that this is gaining in momentum.'

The next element in this will be a Community BBQ to be held this month in the village of Quaama, where St Saviour's Church was completely burnt down in the bushfires.



Easter congregation at Bermagui



Easter Day morning tea at Cobargo



India: God's grace overflows through women encountering Christ

Survivors of abuse find safety at Bangalore Women's Safe House with Anglican Aid

Through the Diocese of Canberra's partnership with Anglican Aid, Christians are showing the love of Christ to women in need all over the world.

In India, Deepthi and her mother were verbally and physically abused by her father for many years.

By God's providence, they came to the Bangalore Safe House, a project

supported by Anglican Aid and run by local Christians. At the safe house, Deepthi was able to access education which has been critical in enabling her to secure a job. This job is what now supports her mother and siblings. The kindness given in this provision has led her family to experience much joy, and security of faith in Christ. Through him, they

now have hope for a future.

The Bangalore Women's Safe House provides refuge for women and children who are fleeing situations of domestic violence and abuse. The Safe House provides support networks and vocational training to help them to rebuild their lives.

Did you know? Approximately 1 in 3 women in India are victims of domestic violence.

Ananya* was sexually abused for years by her uncle but then she received help from the Safe House. She has survived to start a law degree, and now advocates for other victims of sexual abuse. By God's grace, her work guides women from being victims, to survivors, to advocates for change.

Antonia too is a survivor of domestic violence. Her experience led her to establish an additional shelter for victims of domestic

violence in Bangalore. Advocating for change in Indian society, where violence against women is commonplace, the home has sheltered more than 400 women.

Deepthi, Ananya* and Antonia, are three women who have experienced God's grace through Bangalore Women's Safe House. These women are now extending his love and care to others – their immediate family, community, and other survivors of abuse.

Thanks to the generosity of Anglicans in Australia to Anglican Aid, many women like Deepthi, Ananya* and Antonia are receiving life-changing care from projects like Bangalore Women's Safe House.

Anglican Aid supports over 100 long-term aid and development projects like this one, in more than 30 countries – anglicanaid.org.au.

*Name changed for safety.

by Amy Touzell, Communications Officer Anglican Aid



Eat your food with gladness

We would like to include an original recipe from around the Diocese each month in Anglican News, so if you have any you are willing to share, ideally with a photo, please send them in (see contact details on page 2).

This recipe of Doreen Warren's is from *Inspired Eating* a recipe book compiled in 1977 by the parishioners of the Church of St John the Baptist, Canberra, as a fundraising initiative towards the cost of a new organ at the church at that time.



Date and Apple Meringue Pie

Pastry

6 tablespoons SR flour
1 tablespoon sugar
2 tablespoons margarine
1 egg yolk

Work margarine into flour and sugar with hands. Add beaten egg yolk and a small amount of water. Combine mixture using knife. The mixture should be dry enough to press together and not too sticky. Divide into two. Roll out one portion and line a 7inch pie dish.

Filling

2 or 3 green apples
½ cup chopped dates
Sugar to taste

Cook all ingredients together with a small amount of water. If necessary reduce liquid by cooking without lid on saucepan. While still hot put in pie dish lined with pastry and cover with second portion of pastry. Bake in moderate oven for about 30 minutes, or until light brown.


Meringue

1 egg white
2 tablespoons of sugar
Beat egg white until stiff and beat in sugar. Heap onto cooked pie and cook slowly in moderate oven till very firm to the touch.

'... eat your food with gladness ...'
Ecclesiastes 9:7



Student organisers of Radford College's Dirrum Dirrum Festival with Associate Chaplain Andy Fleming and refugee activists Mostafa Azimitabar and Craig Foster. Details of the Festival to come!

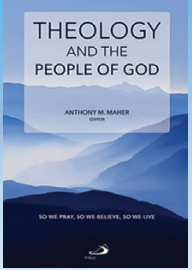


**AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR
CHRISTIANITY AND CULTURE**
WISDOM FOR THE COMMON GOOD


- ◆ The Rt Rev'd Dr Sarah Macneil, Chair of the Board, Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture
- ◆ The Rt Rev'd Mark Short, Anglican Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn
- ◆ Professor Mark Evans, Deputy-Vice Chancellor (Research), Charles Sturt University

*Invite you to attend
the Commissioning of
Executive Director
Professor Anthony Maher
and a Book Launch*

Professor Stephen Pickard will launch
Theology and the People of God
by Professor Anthony Maher (Ed.)



- ◆ 6pm Friday 20 May 2022
- ◆ The Chapel, 15 Blackall Street, Barton
- ◆ Please RSVP by 18 May 2022 to acc-c@csu.edu.au



Charles Sturt
University