Choose
Hope
Love
Justice

The Parish Paper

Established 1968 Volume 58 Issue # 3 November 2026
The Anglican Parish of Bass—Phillip Island
Rector: The Rev'd Ruth Hanlon

Breaking the Last Fast

The end of an era, as breakfast is served in the Parish Hall for the last Moto GP event on the island.



Our parish acknowledges the Boon Wurrung people as the traditional custodians of the land on which we live and meet. We commit to working respectfully to honour their ongoing cultural and spiritual connections to this country.

Rector's Reflections



Greetings to all the Saints of Bass and Phillip Island! I pray you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the hope we have in God, and are living each day in the power of the Spirit.

Given we have recently finished a series on Romans; Paul's longest letter. I thought I would be inspired by his openings! It's also All Saints Day this week as I write this – so I remind you that we are all saints – God's holy people, not because of anything we have done, but because of our relationship with Jesus and what he has done for us.

Paul wrote such a wonderful epistle of what it means to be a Christian in his letter to the Romans, and I hope you were encouraged as much as I was. Highlights include that there is no condemnation for those who believe and have been adopted into God's family. We are saved by faith and grace alone; we have hope in the future glory to be revealed and nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

It's been a while since our last parish paper, and much has happened. In May and June, Michael and I enjoyed six weeks long service leave travelling and soaking up the sights and history of Eastern Europe. We were encouraged at times to witness the lively faith of many in countries that for many years had lived under communist rule. It seems there is a bit of a revival going on.

Thanks to all who capably kept the parish running, especially James Millward for all his administration support, with Sunday input from locums Liam Matthews and Jon Taylor.

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Marinus and Hannah van Meerten had not long been commissioned as BCA trainees, with Marinus as Assistant Minister focused in San Remo when I went on Long Service Leave. They had a steep learning curve and they continue to settle in to more regional parish ministry.

By the time you read this, Marinus will have been ordained as a Deacon at St Paul's Cathedral Sale on 7 November.

A wonderful initiative has been Marinus opening the church at San Remo on Wednesdays, with a focused prayer time at midday. Various people have called in from the community who have never been inside the church before. This may be on their way to the op shop or the food pantry or just walking by on the street and they hear music and see the doors open. We pray for this time of engagement and witness.

We also continue to give thanks for the op shop and the food pantry and all the volunteers. It is great to have that presence in the community, and we pray that we can feed those in need with care, and spiritual food as well as pasta and noodles.

St Paul's Bass continue to join the communion service at St Augustine's fortnightly, and they enjoy a joint bible study at St Paul's, where they are currently bravely studying Revelation!

It was great to see members of St Augustine's go to St Paul's for a combined service when the rest of us joined the Island Combined Church Service at the Adventure Resort on 4 October. All the churches had been invited by the resort/ Christian Youth Camps to an ecumenical service. Over 350 gathered and it was a truly beautiful time of worship coming together in unity. I'm sure Jesus was smiling to see the church meet as one. The hope is for this to happen at least annually.

In the last couple of months there have been a couple of very big events in the Parish Hall. Following the devasting floods in Nepal, Glenys and Richard Gijsbers met with the Nepalese Community and within a week a fundraising dinner had been planned and, on the night, around 200 people came to dinner and over $10,000 was raised! It was a wonderful time of the community coming together for a great cause.

On 8 October, a very different fundraiser was held in the hall. This time raising funds for MND, as a member of our Cowes congregation is journeying through life with this disease. One of our artistic members, Lindy Yeates, led a creative art morning with Sally Matthews and the CWA twilight branch providing lunch.

It was a special time, with Laurel (member with MND) and members of her family, along with church members and others, enjoying the creative time. See photos of their creation on Page 9.

Most recently we have farewelled the MOTOGP from the island and for the last time served breakfasts from Friday to Monday morning. Thanks to Erena Norfolk, Glenys Gijsbers, Janet Bell and the amazing team of cooks, servers and washer-uppers! Over 300 breakfasts were served and all those who had been returning year after year were very sad to say goodbye. People noted the warmth and kindness, along with the best cooked breakfasts. One said he would miss the breakfasts just as much as the race! It really was a mini mission field, with people gathering from all over the nation and beyond. We pray that many seeds of faith were sewn.

As we head toward Christmas, I pray that we will prepare our hearts in the Advent season to again marvel at God coming to us as a vulnerable baby. Jesus, Emmanuel. May we pray for all the churches to be full of people seeking to worship and adore Jesus. May we be his witnesses, inviting others to come and see.

And again, calling on Paul's letter to the Romans:

> *May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.* Romans 15:13.

Postscript:

Since writing this report, I have had the privilege of leading the ordination retreat for Marinus at Raymond Island and preaching at the Cathedral Service on the 7th of November. At the retreat we reflected on Jesus' final discourse and prayer in John 13-17. We can all be so encouraged knowing that Jesus prays for us. Congratulations to Marinus on his ordination as Deacon. It was a special service and celebration at the Cathedral. We pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to bless and guide him as he serves, now as a Deacon in our parish.

Some photos referred to in the above article



Bishop Richard presents Marinus & Julie as newly ordained Deacons



Members of St Augustine's & St Paul's have their own combined service and celebrate Lois' 90th birthday after the service



The ecumenical service at the Phillip Island Adventure Resort. 300 strong and all worshiping the risen Lord



A spokesman for the local Nepali community addresses those gathered to support the fundraiser dinner



Ruth with Laurel behind some of the creative artwork in aid of MND research



Members of the GP Breakfast team. Yummy pitstop tucker is their speciality. No need for a pace car here!

Notes from Parish Council

Parish Secretary Janet Owens

- The Parish Directory has been updated and issued to all those listed in it.
- The defibrillators at St Augustine's and St Philip's will not be replaced as units are available in nearby premises.
- Site safety inspection checks at all three churches are being completed.
- The Parish Hall refurbishment is complete.
- The stained-glass window at St Augustine's is being repaired.
- The land at Bass has been sold and settlement is pending.
- The Emergency Food Pantry at St Augustine's will become a project funded and supervised by the Parish.
- Safe Ministry checks have been facilitated by James and by Diocesan staff who met with volunteers in September at Cowes.
- The NCLS surveys have been completed.
- A policy manual for the Parish has been developed.

The Parish's mission support of Bush Church Aid (BCA), Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) and the Aboriginal Ministry fund continues and was boosted by additional fundraising drives (MAF's Fuel for Father's Day and a Fundraising dinner that raised money for Nepal following the devastating flood in August.)

Christmas Services in the Parish



Christmas Dinner on Tuesday 8 December, 6pm in the Parish Hall, bring and share.
Red Frogs will be in the Parish Hall 28 Nov – 5 Dec.
SU Theos from 26 Dec 2026 to 3 Jan 2027.

SUNDAY 20 DECEMBER: 9 Lessons and Carols
11 am St Augustine's, San Remo
6 pm St Philip's, Cowes

CHRISTMAS EVE 24 December
5 pm St Augustine's, San Remo - Family Service with Carols.
5 pm Parish Hall, Cowes - Family Service with Carols.
8 pm Holy Communion (Carol singing from 7:30pm) - St Paul's, Bass.
11 pm St Philip's, Cowes - Midnight Communion (Carol singing from 10.45pm).

CHRISTMAS DAY 25 December: Holy Communion
9.30 am St Augustine's, San Remo
9.30 am St Philip's, Cowes.

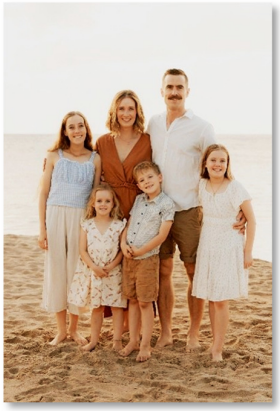


Mission Aviation Fellowship

Mission Matters

Josh and Ely Flynn

Thank you for choosing to connect and support us in our work on Yolŋu country.



Life in the Engineering hanger has been busy. With the arrival late last year of Amber, an AME from PNG, as well as the signing on of two apprentices in Dave and Evan. Work on MAF's fleet of GA8s and Cessna Caravans has been chugging along at full speed. Josh has been enjoying the challenge of training young engineers again, seeing their growth and development.

Josh has also been blessed to serve again in MAF's Timor-Leste programme. This was a sweet time for engineers to come from various MAF locations to support this programme and the vital work they do. Some serious work was done, as well as trips for tasty local food in the evenings and a walk up the mountain to see the big cross looking over the capital Dilli.

Our church life has been a great encouragement this year. Many Yolŋu Christian's have been



participating in leading worship and various ministries. This is culturally very significant, as the believers are making a strong declaration of faith in Jesus. This is over the 'two-way' living of partial adherence to Christian faith and continued engagement in cultural ceremonies associated with animism and ancestor worship. Our Yolŋu brothers and sisters in Christ have much to lose in terms of their family support, relationships, jobs and especially standing in traditional culture as they take a stand for Jesus. The road is often very bumpy and difficult. It is a privilege for us to see God growing their faith through enduring these hardships.

We've also had quite a few baptisms - including our eldest Evelyn! Up here things happen a little differently. We don't have a specially made built-in font equipped with tap and drain, we don't use a blow-up pool, we don't even go to the ocean (crocodile risk!). It's tradition here to go down to the river. It has been a true blessing to watch Evelyn's faith grow in the last year to the point where she wants to declare that Jesus is the King of her life.



Ely's work has established a pattern of outreach home visits, hiring a small hall, some Telehealth and also continuing the flights out to remote communities. This year she's been travelling to Gapuwiyak for some intervention and therapy work there.

This year has held more opportunities for rest for us as a family, which we are deeply grateful for. We've enjoyed some camping trips and adventures around Arnhem Land and the wider top-end. This has included visits from family and supporters! Such a blessing.

We are preparing for our upcoming home assignment period over December 2026 and January 2027. We will be in touch in the coming months with more details as plans get made. We would love to connect with as many supporters and churches as we can during our time "down south" as they say up here. Practically we need to book in speaking arrangements as well as look into housing and car use for our family of six. If you are prompted about any of this, we would love to hear from you.

MODAWA Niusleta

NEWSLETTER OF THE MODAWA INSTITUTE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

NEW DEAN APPOINTMENT HERALDS FRESH ERA OF MELANESIAN COOPERATION



The Governing Council has announced the appointment of Fr Walter Samini as the new Dean (Principal) of the Modawa Institute. Fr Walter will move from the Solomon Islands to Popondetta with his family, ready to take up leadership in time for the 2027 academic year.

Modawa Institute Governing Council Chair, the Hon. Alan Jogioba, has said that he hopes the appointment of Fr Walter will herald a time of greater cooperation between theological educators in PNG and the Solomon Islands. "FONO* discussions between the leaders of our two Provinces have encouraged us to look in this direction, and we trust that Fr Walter's appointment is the beginning of a closer journey together"

PARTNERSHIP PRODUCES GROWTH

Our institute symbol, the Modawa Tree, supports its canopy of green with many branches. In a similar way, the Modawa Institute is supported by many different partners. From various government and non-government agencies, through to individual donors, they all contribute to growth.

One very obvious example is new two-story building being paid for by the Northern Provincial Government. Upstairs there will be two lecture theatres. Downstairs, there will be various spaces, one of which is being set aside for a nursing simulation lab.



Then, in September, we were able to bless a new vehicle, given through the generosity of



Fr Spencer Kombega blesses a new Hino truck, which, in itself is a great blessing to the institution.

Australian donors. This additional transport will be a critical addition for us as we initiate a daily pickup of staff and students. Unfortunately, personal safety has deteriorated in Oro Province over recent years, and we have been concerned about the welfare of students as they make their way to classes. We also need to service student placements and the addition of a truck that has good ground clearance enables us to engage with schools that are off the one or two bitumen roads.

With new female boarding houses completed and ready for occupancy, our next project is a dining hall. What is being planned is not the classical university hall, but an open-sided building that will seat about 60 students at a session.

This building will cost around $100,000AUD and we are hoping that funds can be secured so that it can be built in time for second semester 2027.

For your prayers and support.

The development of the Modawa Institute of Higher Education has come about by the contribution and commitment of many, both in PNG and within our international stakeholders. But it is still an infant, full of potential but very fragile. It will continue to need the support of friends and partners if it is to fulfil its potential.

+Jeffrey Driver

***Fono** *a council gathering church leaders from Papua New Guinea, Australia, Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands, and Aotearoa New Zealand.*

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life of all who put their trust in him; raise us we pray, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness; that we may ever seek the things that are above where he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

MISSION PRAYERS
Rhoda Hayhurst



MAF MISSION AVIATION FELLOWSHIP

Pray for Josh and Ely Flynn and their children Evelyn, Margot, Reuben and Dorothy serving with MAF in Arnhem Land.

Please pray for;

- The health and spiritual wellbeing of all the family.
- Protection and safety as they work and travel.

Prayer points from the family;

Requests

- The future movements of our family as we consider how we will serve the Lord beyond 2027.
- Upcoming home assignments in December 2026 and January 2027 – for us to use this time to connect with supporters and glorify God for his good work together.
- Ongoing uncertainty and changes to this region.

Praise

- Yolu Christian's leading worship and ministries at church.
- Baptisms at church – including Evelyn!
- MAF Engineering team growth with new team members and efficient work.
- Ely's work in remote communities and homelands.

Psalm 18.2 ESV
The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer, my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

Please pray for MAF International

- The safety of all pilots and ground staff.
- Safe landing strips in dangerous areas.
- Good maintenance of all planes.
- Good cooperation between staff, spiritual protection in all areas of work.
- Health and strength of all members of the team.
- God's continued guidance, and for wisdom and unity, as leaders make decisions that will shape the next decades of ministry.

THE BUSH CHURCH AID SOCIETY

Prayer

Lord our God, help us to remember those who live in isolated and remote parts of our land. We ask you to strengthen and encourage all whose ministries are supported by The Bush Church Aid Society. Refresh them in times of discouragement and loneliness and call others to stand with them in the task of making Christ known. Grant that through the ministry of word and sacraments, through caring and service and by support of young people, the message of your redeeming love may be proclaimed and accepted by the people of our land. We ask these things through Jesus Christ our Lord **Amen**

Please pray for;

Marinus and Hannah Van Meerten and children Samuel and Elianna in San Remo Bass/ Phillip Island.

Marinus and Hannah love to share their hearts and lives and the Gospel of Christ with the poor, vulnerable and those on the margins of society. They desire to serve in under-resourced areas and seek to build deep relationships and strong community.

- Pray especially at this time for Marinus as he is now ordained Deacon.
- Pray for spiritual protection and health and safety for the whole family.
- Pray for the Wednesday Midday prayer times when the church is open and Marinus welcomes all who enter.
- Pray that the congregation will support and encourage him in the months ahead.

Gracious God, we humbly thank you for life and health and safety, for freedom to work, leisure to rest, and for all that is beautiful in creation and human life. But, above all, we praise you for our Saviour, Jesus Christ, for his death and resurrection; for the gift of your spirit and for the hope of sharing in your glory. Fill our hearts with all joy and peace in believing; through Jesus Christ our Lord **Amen**.

LOCAL PARISH MISSIONS

Lord God, we pray for all the communities in which we live and work. Help us always to be good neighbours and friends; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

Pray for all involved in parish mission. Pray that God will protect and keep safe all workers. Make our places of mission places of peace, encouragement and safety. God is our strength and refuge let us lean on Him and praise Him for His faithfulness in all things.

Please pray for the work of the MTR [Mary Talbot Room]

- Pray for more volunteers
- Pray for health and strength of current workers
- Pray for cooks to fill the shelves.
- Give thanks for all who come through the door that they will be blessed and filled with peace.
- Give thanks for the Emergency Food Relief at San Remo. We thank you for the abundance of donations and the many who use the food bank that they may be blessed by entering God's house.

Give thanks for all who work at the Book Sales over the year, for all who worked serving breakfasts at Grand Prix weekend.

Give thanks for all volunteers in the local community serving your people.

Eternal God and Father, by whose power we are created, and by whose love we are redeemed: Guide and strengthen us by your Spirit that we may give ourselves to your service and live this day in love to you and to one another; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Teach us gracious Lord, to begin our works with reverence, to go on in obedience and to finish them with love; and then to wait patiently in hope, looking joyfully to you whose promises are faithful and reward infinite through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Welcome the Rev'd Marinus Van Meerten!

Les Ridge

On the Saturday morning of 7 November in Sale, a joyous event took place in St Paul's Cathedral. It was a family affair; not a wedding or baptism, or even a funeral. It was exclusive and yet, at the same time, totally inclusive. You see, it was all about God's family and Julie Bruce and Marinus Van Meerten were invited into the household of Christ, there to minister as deacons.



In her sermon, the Rev'd Ruth Hanlon noted that there were some similarities between this service of ordination and a wedding. Both candidates were clad in white, but were certainly not marrying each other. However, they were promising fidelity and commitment – not to each other, but to the Lord, as they served in His kingdom. Also, just as in a wedding, there were many gathered there that day to support Julie and Marinus. They included family members and friends, and of equal importance, members of the congregations they had already been ministering to. Those fellow saints came from the Anglican Parish of Moe/ Newborough for Julie and St Paul's, St Augustine's and St Philip's Cowes for Marinus.

The months preceding this day were filled with much training, preparation and valuable experience for Julie and Marinus. Then, this period of intense activity was replaced by a precious three days of personal retreat, just prior to the service of ordination. It was not a time of navel-gazing or self-examination, but rather a time of coming before God and allowing the Holy Spirit to show each ordinand exactly what their Heavenly Father saw, as he looked lovingly into each heart and soul.

This period of self-discovery and refocusing of purpose was ably led by Rev'd Ruth in the idyllic Abbey on Raymond Island. As you might expect, this special time was saturated in prayer, as were the months leading up to it. But as Rev'd Ruth pointed out in her sermon, while the prayers of others may well give us feelings of encouragement, support, comfort, strength and love, it is the knowledge that Jesus intercedes before his heavenly Father on our behalf that gives us the courage and faith to do whatever God places before us.

As the ordination litany was sung, the prayers of our Saviour went ahead of these words:

> *Bless your servants Julie and Marinus*
> *who are to be admitted to the order of deacons.*
> *Pour your grace upon them,*
> *that they may faithfully fulfil the duties of this ministry,*
> *build up your church, and glorify your name.*

The exhortation that followed was delivered by Bishop Richard and included the words:

> *You are to be an ambassador of Christ, serving God as you serve others in Jesus' name*.

In this world, an ambassador is treated with honour, dignity and respect, because they are the representative of another country. However, as ambassadors of Christ, in many ways the reverse is true. Instead of being feted with banquets fit for a king, Marinus and Julie will be taking on the role of servant, as they follow Jesus and wash the feet of those they serve.



It was with this mindset that Marinus and Julie knelt before Bishop Richard as he laid his hands on each of them in turn. With the enabling blessing of the Holy spirit, they were then set apart for the office and work of a deacon.



Vested with the sash of office and holding a copy of the New Testament, Julie and Marinus were then presented to the congregation amidst enthusiastic applause.

There then followed two meals – one a symbolic re-enactment of the last supper, which fed the spirt and soul, and the other a veritable feast of sandwiches and savouries which amply fed the body.

Before the final hymn, Rev'd Canon Amy Turner presented each of them with a green stole (that worn most frequently) and Ms Jan Misiurka from the Mothers Union presented them with prayer books.





Congratulations Marinus and Julie and may God our Father greatly bless your individual ministries as deacons.





CreativeSanctuary: A fundraiser for MND

Lindy Yates

Laurel has Motor Neurone Disease. It came on so suddenly. And our community at St Philip's grieved the debilitating effect of this disease on a dear friend.

Today we celebrated Laurel – her courage, her resilience, her struggle and her journey. Artist Lindy Yeates and CWA president Sally Matthews, together with the women of St Phillips, decided that Lindy's *CreativeSanctuary* workshop was the perfect way to support Laurel and her family whilst raising money for research into MND.



Guided by Lindy and served by Sally's team of bakers, twenty-four women from the Phillip Island community sat side by side, chatting with each other, making new friends, laughing with old ones, responding to the colour and beauty of spring flowers while creating a communal painting together - a by-product of their decision to pause and play.
One very long table, one very long piece of paper and many humble hands.

We drew, we ate, we painted and we shared lunch. Once this artwork was complete, it became the stunning tablecloth on which were placed tiered plates, laden with cakes and pastries, ribbon sandwiches, scones and fruit, all prepared by the gorgeous women of the CWA.

The hall of St Phillips was transformed by the generosity of other local women who donated from their flowering gardens until the room was filled to overflowing with beautiful blooms.

Candles, music and such a sunny day all added to the joy of the event but watching Laurel draw and paint with her quiet, beautiful energy, sharing precious moments with friends and daughter Ashley, made the day extra special indeed. Magic happens when women show up imperfectly and create something together.

This *CreativeSanctuary* Fundraiser for MND was not an art class, it was permission to play - recognition that women are creative vessels who just need opportunity to slow down in order to reconnect with their creative selves; a safe space free from expectation or the pressure to produce and perform.

Many of the women gathered today confided that they didn't see themselves as particularly artistic at all, that they were well out of their comfort zone. But by the end of the workshop, these gorgeous women expressed their delight at having been part of something special. They had discovered the joy of working with other women and had surprised even themselves with their creativity.

The morning raised over $1,500 for research into MND.

To learn more about Lindy's *CreativeSanctuary* workshops, you can visit her website: lindyyeates.com or look her up on Instagram: lindyyeates_artist



Ruth with Laurel and that fantastic artwork

Nepal Flood Relief Dinner

Glenys Gijsbers

Just after the terrible disaster in Nepal caused by the collapse of a glacier high in the Himalayas, we had a catchup with Govinda, a Nepali friend here on the Island. I said, 'I have had a crazy idea - what if we held a fundraising dinner and got the local Nepali community to cook?'

The idea took off - but there was a catch, Govinda was leaving in a week to get married! So many in the disaster had only 10 minutes warning, so we should be able to do something in a week!

Very quickly, bookings were opened, posters prepared and a menu decided on. Then bookings came in and it was only four days before we were full - what to do? We opened a second sitting and by the day before the event that was also full!

The dinner on 8 September exceeded all expectations. We fed over 200 people and raised $10,200!! During planning we had decided that funds would be shared equally between an agency that the Nepali community wished to support (the Nepal Prime Ministers Disaster Relief fund) and one the church would like to support (a faith based indigenous organisation Assal Chhimekee Nepal - which means 'good neighbour').



We are most grateful to the Nepalese Community who cooked up a wonderful meal, making full use



of the Parish Hall and kitchen. Also, to all the churches on the Island who promoted the event at such short notice; to everyone who came

(or did not come) and donated so generously and the CWA who organised a raffle.

We not only had a delicious meal. but also paused and remembered so many who had lost their lives, their families, their livelihoods and so much more.



Following the dinner we received these messages:

Dear Glen, Richard and Church Organisers, 🙏
A heartfelt thank you to Glen, Richard, and everyone at the church for organising the Nepal Flood Relief Fundraising Dinner and bringing our community together for such a meaningful cause. We truly appreciate all the time, effort and support that went into making the event possible.
❤️ NP

Dear Richard Daju,
Thank you so much for your effort, which is deeply appreciated. I am grateful for all you have done to organize this. Engaging with the Nepali folk there is itself a story for us too. John Daju arrived yesterday, and we hope to spend some time together this evening over dinner to catch up on the news and stories from there. Thank you again for standing with us. Warm regards**, Raju**



Moto GP Breakfasts – The last Hurrah!

Erena, Janet & Glenys



Being the final Moto GP on the Island since it started in 1989, there was a bittersweet edge to this year's event. The Breakfasts started because a parishioner had found some people wandering around looking for breakfast and a cuppa - in those days none of the cafes opened until 10am. Thus, an idea was born and with the church needing some funds to help maintain the facilities and its ministries it was a win win!!

The first breakfast in the hall was in 1989. Lillian reported that 'It was a funny old kitchen back then, we used a row of electric frypans and toasters in the hall and only had a domestic stove - and the dishes were washed in bowls on the stage!'. Things have changed and in 2008 the Commercial kitchen was completed which now makes it a lot easier to produce the hundreds of breakfasts that have been served (some years over 700!). This year our volunteer team served over 300 breakfasts and we cleared over $6,200.

Looking in the visitors book we have had visitors come from all over Victoria and as well as many

from further afield, including from Perth, Cairns, the Gold Coast, Mt Gambier, Brisbane, Adelaide, Sydney, Darwin, Alice Springs, Mackay, Ireland, Scotland and South Africa.

Many have been returning customers and have enjoyed coming for 15 or 20 years - we will miss seeing them! Some of the comments in the visitors book this year reflected this last hoorah and included:

'*For the last 11 years, have enjoyed your lovely breakfast and company. I will miss you as much as the Moto GP*", *Love this place and especially the people helping here, Thanks*!', '*Thanks for your warmth and kindness'*, '*Absolutely terrific*!', '*Fantastic people and service*', '*Great people and food*', '*Amazing experience*'.

Erena, with Janet and Glenys led a total team of 26 volunteers (with a core team of 15 who worked every day or 3 out of 4 days) and overcame

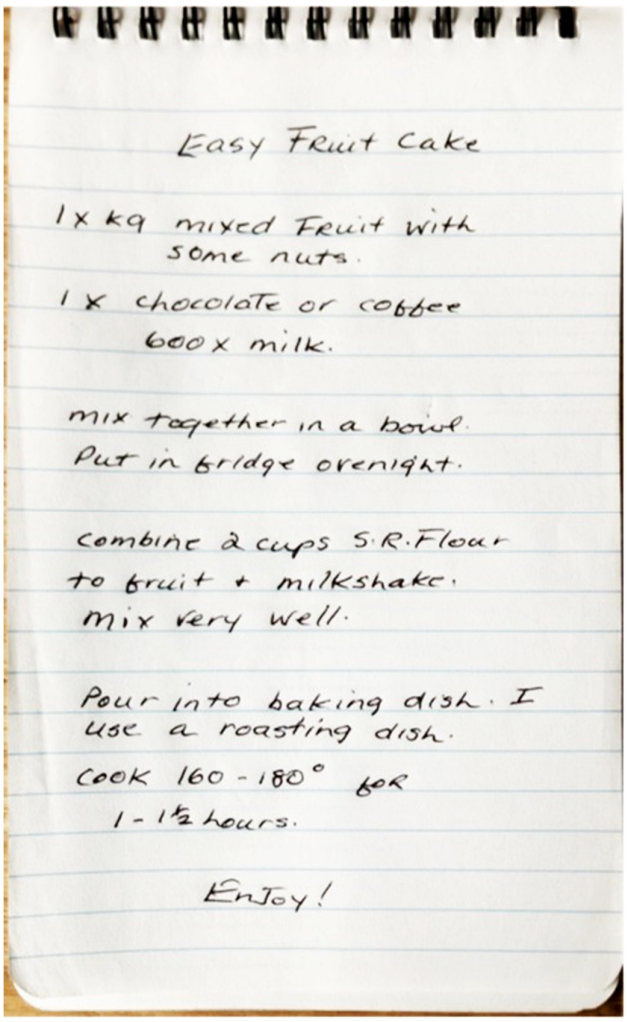


challenges (including the Bain Marie breaking down on the second morning and the eggs with yolks that kept breaking and were very challenging to cook!). Our thanks go to each and every one who gave their time so willingly and cheerfully.



Easy Fruit Cake
Sally Matthews





Parish Hall refurbishment

Glenys Gijsbers

The majority of the elements of the Parish Hall Refurbishment Project, which included polishing the floors, painting internal walls, new lighting and air-conditioning, installation of sliding glass side doors were completed by the end of 2025. The final step of the project was to install a veranda outside the Emmaus Room earlier this year.

Below: Various stages of the Veranda project





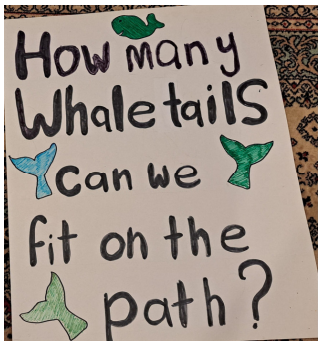


Whale Festival

Glenys Gijsbers

The annual whale festival has been a draw card for visitors to the island for many years. In recent years, St Phillips members have taken advantage of the influx of youngsters that are not so keen on spending hours in a boat or on a lookout, trying to catch a glimpse of a breaching fluke.

What do kids like? How about doing painting of whales or making cutout whale tails. Or even better, munching on a whale biscuit or two. Following marked out pathways to interesting displays could be fun too















Customising a whale tail. Origami Master at work. More Whale biscuits than you can poke a stick at.



Care for our visitors, based in the Parish Hall

Red Frogs from 28 November to 5 December

Scripture Union Theos from 26 December 2026 to 3 January 2027



Parish AGM and Church Annual Meetings

An elector at the AGM is anyone over the age of 18 who has regularly attended a church in the Parish in the three months prior to the AGM. They must not be an elector of any other Parish.

The **Parish AGM** will be held at 9.30 am on Sunday 29 November in St Philip's, before a combined Parish Holy Communion service at 10.30 am in the Parish Hall. **The quorum is 10 electors**.

Annual Reports to be sent to Janet by Friday 15 November for inclusion in a booklet to be handed out at services on Sunday 22 November:

Elections / Appointments: Nominations to be given to the Parish Secretary by Sunday 22 November

If no nominations are received before the meeting, nominations can be taken 'from the floor'

- Two (2) Deanery representatives and 2 alternates
- Safe Ministry Officer
- TGA Parish Secretary
- Mission Secretary

Church Annual Meetings: the quorum is 6 electors.

An elector at a church annual meeting is anyone over the age of 18 who has regularly attended that church in the three months prior to the Annual Meeting. They must not be an elector of any other church.

St Augustine's will be held after the service on Sunday 13 December: Nominations by 6 December

St Paul's and St Philip's will be held after Sunday services on 6 December: Nominations by 29 November

Business of the meeting

- Approve Minutes of previous annual meeting
- Reports: Wardens, Rector
- Fix dates for at least 3 congregational meetings during 2027
- Any business referred from the Parish AGM
- Elections /Appointments at each Church:

Nominations to Parish Secretary Sunday before the meetings.

If no nominations are received before the meeting, nominations can be taken 'from the floor'

- 2/3 Wardens (1 appointed by the Rector)
- 2/3 Parish Councillors, 1 must also be a warden (1 appointed by the Rector)
- OH&S Officer

Parish Council Meeting 2026–27: The quorum is a majority of the members.

There will be no Parish Council meetings in November or December 2026.

The first meeting after the AGM will be held on Thursday 21 January 2027 at 7 pm in the Emmaus Room at Cowes.

Elections / Appointments

- Parish Secretary
- Assistant Secretary
- Parish Treasurer
- Assistant Treasurer
- Hall Manager

Notes:

- As the Principal Church, St Philip's Wardens and Councillors may all sit on Parish Council
- People can be both Wardens and Parish Councillors
- At least one Parish Councillor from each centre must be a warden
- Synod Representatives may sit on Parish Council



Church Service Times

St Philip's
Sunday 9:30 am: Holy Communion

4th Sunday: Prayer, Praise and Proclamation.

All other Sundays: Holy Communion.

Thursday 10 am: Holy Communion

St Paul's
Sunday 11.30 am: 1st & 3rd Sunday Holy Communion

NB: There will be no services on the 2nd and 4th Sundays

St Augustine's
11 am: 1st & 3rd Sunday Family Service

2nd & 4th Sunday: Holy Communion

5th Sunday of month

10.30 am combined Parish service in the Parish Hall

Speakers TBA

MTR Op Shop St Augustine's

Open 10 am – 1.30 pm

Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday

The Parish Paper

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Fund raising via IGA

If you shop at the Cowes IGA, make sure you quote our church shopper number: **1331**

If San Remo is where you shop, please ask for a loyalty card and nominate St Augustine's, San Remo.

NB: Any information of a personal nature in this publication shall be considered private and confidential for the use of this parish only and is not to be used for any other purpose.