



# New Horizons

The monthly newsletter of the Warwick, Killarney Freestone  
Uniting Church in Australia – OCTOBER 2020

## Lost – Pastoral Ponderings

Rev Ansie wrote the Pastoral Pondering and posted them, but they have disappeared in the ether instead of in my email box. Look for a special delivery next week, when Ansie returns from her weekend away

In just two months, we will gather to celebrate the foresight of the men and women who undertook to build a church where God could be worshipped each week. So many church buildings have either been replaced or converted for an alternate purpose. The Warwick Uniting Church congregation is fortunate to have this strong sandstone building in which to worship.

Last Sunday, Rev Willie felt the congregation in Warwick did not reflect the celebratory words of Psalm 105. The following meditation based on verses from the Psalm encourages us each one to celebrate the great foundation of faith we see each time we worship our God, our sure foundation

Yes, I want the whole world to know and experience the goodness of God! What a great and glorious God we worship! It is wonderful to share these experiences with other people, but it is also a great blessing to feel that I, as one individual, have also received these blessings from God. How glorious is the God we worship!

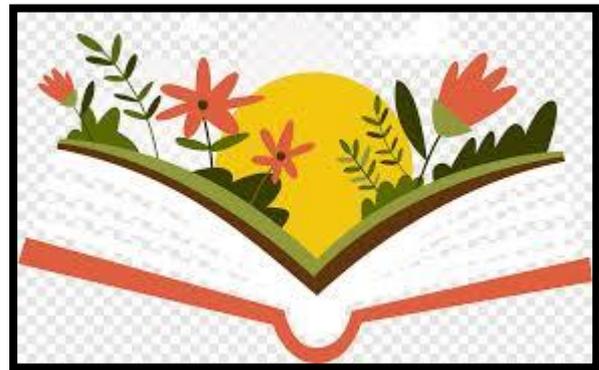
I want to give thanks for the privilege of having forebears who loved and served their Lord in their daily life, and in their commitment to maintaining a fellowship of worship, witness and service amongst their fellow believers; and to share those experiences with people who had no personal knowledge of God. I am so grateful for the memories and heritage in the faith that has been handed down through generations, and that is now mine to pass on to others. My memories and heritage are a blessing

God's promises made to the peoples in ancient times are just as relevant today. God's goodness and compassion has not lost its power; God's love and generosity is still as potent today as in earlier times; God's creativity and wisdom are still to be seen in the world and amongst people; and God's saving grace and mercy are still taking place in today's world, amongst God's people. Each of us needs to be on the look-out for any signs: 'Beware - God at Work'; and I give thanks for the encouragement those signs bring me. Be on the look-out for signs '*Beware - God at Work*'.

Yes, I want the whole world to know about and experience the goodness of God! How much richer would their spiritual life be with the knowledge of the timeless nature of God's goodness. The timeless nature of God's goodness

## Food for Thought.... NDE

We were in Mooloolaba and it was a rainy afternoon. Ah, there's a book shop with old and new books to ponder and peruse! Needless to say, although I was a reluctant starter, I left with a pile of books in my arms, eager to find a comfortable nook to start finding out what wisdom they might impart for me.



The first couple I read were all about NDEs.... Near Death Experiences. The first was a simple offering of thoughtful fiction from the author of 'Tuesdays with Morrie' which I have now placed in the Library. Deeply unconscious after a car accident, he visited scenes with his dead mother where he was made aware of times when he caused her grief and times when he stood up for her. It gave him the opportunity to ask for her forgiveness, to palpably feel the love she always had for him, and to reawaken his love for her before he was brought back to the present.

The other was completely different... a real awakening of the intensity of God's love. The title, Proof of Heaven, and its sub title, A Neurosurgeon's Journey into the Afterlife, explains the watershed that changed the life of the author, Eben Alexander MD. A highly respected and erudite scientist and highly trained surgeon of the brain, he was one of those who believed that, even though NDEs felt real, they were simply fantasies produced by brains under extreme stress.

His own brain was attacked by a very rare form of bacterial meningitis and, for seven days he lay in a deep coma where the part of the brain that controls thought, and emotion shut down completely. In fact, on that seventh day, his doctors were about to stop treatment and let nature take its course.... but his eyes popped open and he had come back.

As he recounts his journey into the afterlife, he finds language inadequate to explain what he saw and felt as he met and spoke with the Divine source of the universe. Experiencing God's inexplicable, overwhelming, and all-powerful love was too great for him to capture in words. But it changed his perception of life and faith. Before his journey, he could not reconcile his knowledge with neuroscience with any belief in God, the soul or heaven. Now he believes that true health can only be achieved when we realize that God and the soul are real, and death is only a transition.

All this because it rained one day in Mooloolaba! Shalom, Jean



### **Covid cleaners**

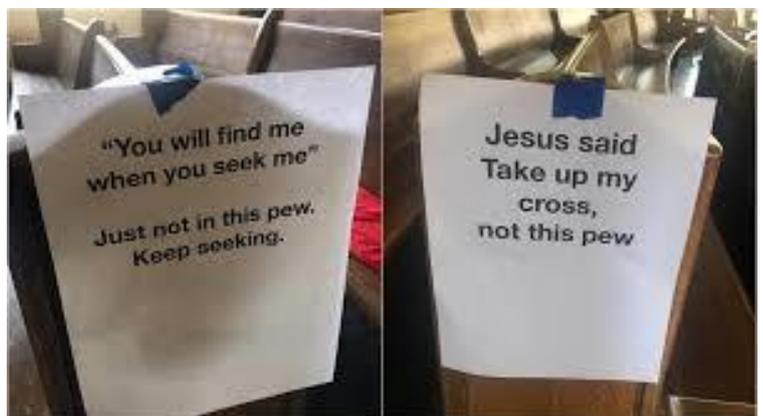
An essential part of being able to attend worship in person, is the time and effort given by our band of volunteers who ensure that all is cleaned before and after the worship service. A special thank you to the Covid leaders each week and their Covid elves who make sure all is in order. We rely on our ministry team for our worship service, but this would not be possible without the Covid elves.

*Erin, Nicholas, and Gary cleaning after Sunday 20th service in Warwick.*

## CHURCH COUNCIL CHATTER

Current Worship Services were evaluated with attendance to develop a preaching plan for October/November

- Freestone will continue to meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month at 2pm
- Killarney will continue to meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of each month at 8:30am
- Warwick will continue to meet each Sunday, 9am with the following change to note
- The Worship Service for the 150<sup>th</sup> Warwick Anniversary Worship on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> November will commence 10am to allow flow to the planned BYO lunch (see Anniversary events for details)
- We look forward to a new dishwasher being installed in the kitchen
- Although we can apply for a Synod Line of Credit devised to help congregations whose offerings have declined drastically due to Covid-19 closing churches and keeping people at home, we are holding fairly steady. We are down but have had some very generous donations and we are so thankful for these gifts.
- Ansie has had a sharp increase in people seeking emergency funding.
- Williams Hall and the Killarney Church Hall are open for hire – but like everything else, safe plans must be submitted by the hirer and approved by Council.
- A big thank you to those who have joined our Hospitality Groups, meeting Saturday mornings to tidy up the properties and prepare for Sunday. This is teamwork at its best -if you would like to join, we would love to have you!!
- October and the rest of the year will see
  - Spring Markets
  - Grief and Loss Facilitators Course
  - Alpha Couples Course
  - Anniversary Events





**God's Garden: Latest Report (August/September) – apologies to May and the garden Gurus. The notes went astray last issue but now you can catch up!**

Spring is just around the corner...hard to believe with the frosty mornings we're having.

Winter has been a time when we've allowed several of the beds to rest. We still have accomplished plenty, with the peas growing like wildfire; the radishes have been just amazing, although they're

about finished. Some of the carrots have been showing through, and the bush tucker plants and herbs are still in winter dormancy. The 'pick and pick' again lettuces have been growing very well: please feel free to take one home and enjoy salads for several days. Alison Payne puts hers in a cool spot on the bench, with the roots in water in a small container.

We have used one side of the compost, and the second side is ready to use. That will be used on the new beds. The team have had 3 pods from Lester's and now have six new round beds, John's work, which will assist with our productivity. These will be finalized in the next few days. When there are some lawn clipping for compost, there will be space to begin again.

The trench along the northern side of the Church has not been constructed yet, but with spring we'll go ahead with most of our planting plans. The strawberries have responded well to being broken up, and there are some plants in pots which will be on sale at our Spring Markets on the 17<sup>th</sup> October.

Let me share my excitement of our worm farm. When I watched Costa build his worm farm from a bath tub, with layers of different materials, my heart sank when I thought of our strange little worm farm...BUT the worms are thriving! They are eating the majority of kitchen scraps from our place, and the worm wee has plants jumping out of the ground. Perhaps when we have our plans more advanced, we can develop a more traditional worm farm.

God's blessings to all and remember to social distance.

May and the Garden team.

PS. As we all see, my earlier musings have come and gone! Spring has arrived! The garden team would like to give a big thanks to everyone who is supporting the garden, with plants, a large bag of fertilizer, and tubs. Thanks also to everyone who are enjoying the vegetables and fruit. Blessings for Spring and Summer from May and the green thumbs.



## GOD & LAWN CARE

**GOD** to **ST. FRANCIS**:

Frank, you know all about gardens and nature. What in the world is going on down there on the planet? What happened to the dandelions, violets, milkweeds, and stuff I started eons ago? I had a perfect no-maintenance garden plan. Those plants grow in any type of soil, withstand drought and multiply with abandon. The nectar from the long-lasting blossoms attracts butterflies, honey bees and flocks of songbirds. I expected to see a vast garden of colours by now. But all I see are these green rectangles.

**St. FRANCIS**: It's the tribes that settled there, Lord. The Suburbanites. They started calling your flowers 'weeds' and went to great lengths to kill them and replace them with grass.

**GOD**: Grass? But it's so boring. It's not colourful. It doesn't attract butterflies, birds, and bees, only grubs and sod worms. It's sensitive to temperatures. Do these Suburbanites really want all that grass growing there?

**ST. FRANCIS**: Apparently so, Lord. They go to great pains to grow it and keep it green. They begin each spring by fertilizing grass and poisoning any other plant that crops up in the lawn.

**GOD**: The spring rains and warm weather probably make grass grow really fast. That must make the Suburbanites happy.

**ST. FRANCIS**: Apparently not, Lord. As soon as it grows a little, they cut it, sometimes twice a week.

**GOD**: They cut it? Do they then bale it like hay?

**ST. FRANCIS**: Not exactly, Lord. Most of them rake it up and put it in bags.

**GOD**: They bag it? Why? Is it a cash crop? Do they sell it?

**ST. FRANCIS**: No, Sir, just the opposite. They pay to throw it away.

**GOD**: Now, let me get this straight. They fertilize grass so it will grow. And, when it does grow, they cut it off and pay to throw it away?

**ST. FRANCIS**: Yes, Sir.

**GOD**: These Suburbanites must be relieved in the summer when we cut back on the rain and turn up the heat. That surely slows the growth and saves them a lot of work.

**ST. FRANCIS**: You aren't going to believe this, Lord. When the grass stops growing so fast, they drag out hoses and pay more money to water it, so they can continue to mow it and pay to get rid of it.



**GOD:** What nonsense. At least they kept some of the trees. That was a sheer stroke of genius if I do say so myself. The trees grow leaves in the spring to provide beauty and shade in the summer. In the autumn, they fall to the ground and form a natural blanket to keep moisture in the soil and protect the trees and bushes. It's a natural cycle of life.

**ST. FRANCIS:** You better sit down, Lord. The Suburbanites have drawn a new circle. As soon as the leaves fall, they rake them into great piles and pay to have them hauled away.

**GOD:** No!?! What do they do to protect the shrub and tree roots in the winter to keep the soil moist and loose?

**ST. FRANCIS:** After throwing away the leaves, they go out and buy something which they call mulch. They haul it home and spread it around in place of the leaves

**GOD:** And where do they get this mulch?

**ST. FRANCIS:** They cut down trees and grind them up to make the mulch.

**GOD:** Enough! I don't want to think about this anymore. St. Catherine, you're in charge of the arts. What movie have you scheduled for us tonight?

**ST. CATHERINE:** 'Dumb and Dumber', Lord. It's a story about....

**GOD:** Never mind, I think I just heard the whole story from St. Francis.

## Warwick Killarney Freestone Uniting Church *2020 Spring Markets*



The planning has been completed to produce a series of Markets featuring some of our sought after Stalls. To do this, we have spread the event over 3 weekends, to ensure we are compliant with the strictest Covid-19 regulations. **Come, explore, enjoy.**

We promise the usual high quality in our Markets with lots of bargains to find and three weekends to come and browse.

Our usual community entertainment is curtailed but how lucky we are to have the Thistle Pipe Band on October 10<sup>th</sup>, the Scots Pipes and Drums on the 17<sup>th</sup> and the Warwick City Band on the 24<sup>th</sup> October. We are really excited to be opening our Markets with a different style of music each Saturday – from the swirl and excitement of bagpipes to the toe tapping tunes of the Warwick City Band. Do you need the companionship of a cat? ARK will have lovely cats looking for a home on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> October.

We will have home-made cakes and sweets (fudges etc) in the Home-Made Treats, but as a fundraiser we will also have a 'sweetless box' for people able to donate money -in lieu of our past mega variety of treats.

**What we have:**

**October 10<sup>th</sup> 9am – 12md**

- Trash 'n Treasure in Williams Hall
  - Bric a brac
  - Household goods
  - Clothing and accessories
- Thistle Pipe Band will be sending us off to a great morning. Come and enjoy the bagpipes and get in early to bag the bargains.
- ARK Animal Rescue will be there with some cute and healthy cats to adopt plus a selection of new and used dog paraphernalia for sale plus a raffle
- We can now offer home-made treats with lollies and cakes – look for the Home Baked Treats to spoil yourself.

**October 17<sup>th</sup> 9am – 12 md**

- Plant sale in the Courtyard
  - Our famous mix of natives and exotics, with passionate gardeners to inform and help
- Craft in Williams Hall
  - A great chance to get that unique beautifully hand-crafted Christmas gift at bargain prices
- ARK Animal Rescue will be present with their lovable cats to be re-homed and a selection of new and used dog paraphernalia for sale plus a raffle
- We start our morning with the Scots Pipes and Drums
- Home Made Treats in lollies and cakes wrapped, labelled and ready to be taken home to enjoy

**October 24<sup>th</sup> 9am – 12md**

- Pre-loved books in Williams Hall
  - Treasure to be found here with good quality used books sorted into category and author for your convenience
- Produce in the Courtyard
  - Our home-made jams, chutneys, and pickles – all made with love!
  - Fresh flowers and home-grown vegetables – can't go passed the freshness
- Commencing our morning with our wonderful Warwick City Band. Many shoe tapping memories in their repertoire.
- Last chance to purchase our delicious home baked fudges and sweets and home baked goodies

### **What we have had to change:**

As our Covid-19 regulations have prevented us holding our usual fabulous food stalls, please note that the following Stalls will not be present this year:

- BBQ
- Nachos
- Pavlova
- Morning Tea
- Soft drinks



We will be asking people to enter through our Williams Hall browse the stalls and then proceed to the Courtyard and browse the markets there before exiting through the Courtyard doors.



### **Spring Markets Working Bees**

In keeping with our three market days in October we have working bees to prepare for these days. The following is a summary of the stalls for each day and their leaders. Can you help in any of these times and days?

#### **Market Days**

- Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October 9 – 12 – Trash and Treasure – cakes and sweets – Rev May, Sue Campbell, and Mary Young
- Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October 9 -12 Plants and Crafts, cakes, and sweets – John Morris, Pam and Darell Fletcher, Ann-maree Clarke, Sue Campbell
- Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> October 9 – 12 – Produce, books, cakes, and sweets – Brad and Julia Beck, Carolyn Vardy, Gordon Bratby and Jenny Lane, Sue Campbell

#### **Working bees**

- Sweets packing – Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October – Wesley Room – 9am – contact Mary Young
- Setting up the hall – each Thursday after mainly music – contact Scott Young (8, 15, 22 Oct)
- Trash and Treasure – From Thursday afternoon (8<sup>th</sup>)
- Craft pricing – Thursday afternoon
- Books – from Thursday afternoon – evening (22<sup>nd</sup>)
- All help as always is gratefully accepted – for working bees, preparing items for the stalls, and working on the stalls, so contact the leader of each stall if you can help – or just turn up. This is a new way of doing our Spring Fair – just like a lot of activities through 2020 have been – so hopefully it will be a guide to how we might think about doing things differently in the years to come.
- Please note Wesley Room will be set aside for refreshments for workers each weekend

Sue Campbell

## Our 150<sup>th</sup> Celebrations

Our plans for celebrating our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary are well under way and there is an article in this edition regarding how to show your preference for which event you would like to attend. But you might like to know a little more about each activity. Numbers are limited for these events, but we are hoping that the regulations will have relaxed somewhat and we may be able to accommodate more than at present.



On **Saturday 31 Oct at 2pm** (at \$10/person) there is an Old-Fashioned Afternoon Tea planned – a high tea with fine china and dainty food, with Scottish songs, and some favourite old hymns. A trivia quiz to see just how much you know about our old sandstone lady – and a surprise to start the afternoon. We're suggesting that you might like to wear some old-fashioned clothes – men- a suit and tie, ladies – a hat, gloves, and pearls. This is our **REMEMBERING**. The 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary book will be launched and available for sale at this event. Thank you to Cathy Ryan and Celia Fletcher who have agreed to undertake the organisation of this special afternoon. An afternoon to reminisce

On **Saturday 21 Nov at 6pm** (at \$30/person) we have a formal dinner planned with speeches and entertainment. Most of our past (not old!!) ministers are attending this event and at present attendance is limited to a total of 50 guests. But we need people to help in the kitchen and serve tables, so this is a good chance to attend the dinner – but work – and we'll still be part of the **REJOICING**.

On **Sunday 22 Nov at 10am** the new moderator – Rev Andrew Gunton - whose family lived in Warwick during his High School years when he was a young member of this church, will preach. This is the **RENEWING** - where we look at the future of our church community in the light of the history of worship over the last 150 years. A commemorative plaque will be unveiled, to stand beside the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary plaque from 1970. Our maximum capacity for this service is 100.

After this service is our **BYO picnic** on the lawn at 12 pm. This will provide an opportunity for more people to talk with our past ministers as they partake in their BYO food.

Throughout all of these plans we have needed to be mindful of COVID-19 Safety directions – to maintain maximum capacity of people attending, to ensure safe personal hygiene and social distancing and safe dining practices. In many ways these celebrations will celebrate that we can actually gather together, where other communities will still be greatly restricted in their freedom to gather. So, we hope that everyone will take up the limited invitation to be part of this truly significant event in the life of our church.

Please ask any church council leaders for clarification on any of these matters – but if you would like to attend any event- put your preference form in early.

Sue Campbell  
Chair Church Council.



Mainly music held 4 sessions before the break for school holidays. The sign in procedure worked well even when we welcomed families who had not contacted us beforehand.

We averaged 10 families each week. The program has changed to more actions and movement without the props used previously. This ensures that all can be safely sanitised before and after the session.

Morning Tea – mainly music - Covid 19 style looks like our own picnic area. Parents provide morning tea for their children and themselves.

The mainly music team looks forward to welcoming our kitchen helpers back in term 4. This means we will be able to offer tea and coffee for the 'grown-ups'

O, HOW WE HAVE MISSED THAT REFRESHING CUPPA.

## PREACHING PLAN

	Oct 4	Oct 11	Oct 18	Oct 25	Nov 1
Killarney 8.30am		Daryal S		Rev Ansie HC	
Warwick 9.00	Rev Ansie	David	Rev Ansie	Rev Willie HC	Rev Ansie
Freestone 2.00pm		Rev Ansie HC			

## LECTIONARY READINGS

Date	Old Testament	Psalm	Epistle	Gospel
Oct 4	Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20	Ps 19	Phil 3:4b-14	Mat.21:33-46
Oct 11	Exodus 32:1-14	Ps.106:1-6, 19-23	Phil.4:1-9	Mat.22:1-14
Oct 18	Exodus 33:12-23	Ps 99	1 Thess.1:1-10	Mat.22:15-22
Oct 25	Deut.34:1-12	Ps 90:1-6, 13-17	1 Thess.2:1-8	Mat.22:34-46
Nov 1	Joshua 3:7-17	Ps 107:1-7, 33-37	1 Thess.2:9-13	Mat.23:1-12

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