



# New Horizons

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

## *Pastoral Pondering*

The Christian Faith has an essential and critical role to play alongside the medical and psychology fields during pandemics and crisis. Christian Faith can grow and “widen up” our inner life. It offers the ability to appreciate silence, meditative thinking, and reflection. It certainly can assist with calming the storm within, and a turning towards God can build resilience and give assurance that many of us need at this time. It offers us the brothers and sisters in Christ as a family, and we can, therefore, experience the joy of being connected with others.

We have focussed during the past months on several issues to open up our buildings and to enable face to face worship. In our facilities Warwick, Freestone, and Killarney, there have been joy and celebration in the togetherness. Our life together has changed significantly, and although it is not hugs and for a while impressive after services’ teas and hospitality as we used to, it is still good to see each other again.

For those who are not able to meet in person, we continue to pray for you, and we trust that you will remain connected to your church family. Please do not hesitate to call your leader or me should you have any requests and suggestions of how we can assist you with your spiritual journey.

As part of my plentiful leadership training, I came across the concept of standards and extras, and I realized that often when the extras are packaged as standard, we come to accept that as the norm. Let us not do that; it is a privilege to be part of this church family during these strange times. The generosity of many has blessed us: the lawns are mowed, the windows washed, the disposable communion cups are supplied, the gifts are bought, equipment to broadcast high-quality online services are purchased, licensed material are purchased, the printing of the 150<sup>th</sup>-anniversary book is sponsored, the UCare admin program to assist with booking and pastoral care needs has been donated, the list is endless. The previous list is all material or financial. There are many more in hours of service and duties that are unseen: our treasurer working late at night after a full day at the school, the ongoing work in the restoration of the Warwick church building, all the people serving in the office, Council members continuing their pastoral care duties.

There is a spirit of generosity; people are a contribution to the life and ministry of this faith community, even when they are not able to attend services. I am humbled, and my heart is full of appreciation of what God is doing among us at this time.

However, the challenges are many, and teams to clean and to set up for ministry events are stretched. The hospitality teams in Warwick had a reshuffle to even out a shortage of able workers in the middle two groups.

I want to thank the following team leaders: In Warwick Dianne Cahill and Lawrie Clayton (Week 1), Janet Reid (Week 2) Gordon Bratby (Week 3), and Mary Young (Week 4). Killarney Caroline Vardy and Freestone Alan and Alison Payne.

Please note that you may be asked to assist in one of these teams to ensure our ongoing worship as a community. If you have not participated in any of the committees in Killarney, Freestone, or Warwick and you can serve, it will be appreciated.

We have received the promise of Spring and new beginnings are in the air, and I trust that you will also experience further growth in the season ahead.

*Ansie Liebenberg*

### **God's Garden Report:**

Sometimes the Universe aligns, and something that has been unclear, or even unknown, become known and are ready for celebration.

Let me explain when we began preparing to set up the Community Garden, We were assured that the smaller shapely tree was a Cedar of Lebanon. I had a discussion about it with Les Northway and Gordon Reid, who were both aware what the tree was, and who had given it to the Church.



Now, I can't speak for anyone else, but small matters like that will often escape my powers to recall all the salient points, and Les and Gordon are no longer available to ask.

One Sunday morning after Church several people came out to the garden. I explained to some that this was a Cedar of Lebanon, but we no longer had the name of the person who had given the tree. One of my audience was Claire Cunningham from "Enchanted Gardens". Claire agreed that the tree is, indeed, a Cedar of Lebanon, and she had given it to the Church from the nursery!!! WOW.

God is so good. That tree for me had been 'unfinished business'. Now the full mystery is revealed. I hope next time any of you visit the garden, you will recall where the tree came from, and admire its beauty. God's Garden continues to grow us together.

May, Sue, Alison and the garden committee,



**Congratulations to Rev Ansie** on receiving the Spirit Of Synod Award announced last Sunday afternoon during the 35<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Uniting Church Queensland Synod.

Newly inducted Moderator Rev Andrew Gunton will present the award to Rev Ansie during his time here in Warwick for the 150<sup>th</sup> Celebrations on the weekend of 21-22 November. This will be a great time for those of us who knew the Gunton family to renew friendships as both Jim and Lyn will also be here.



What joyful music was enjoyed at the Spring Market last Saturday. Thanks to the rain the Warwick City Band played inside. Hasn't been such a variety of music since Covid 19 restrictions.

### **Food for Thought.... Prayer...and us!**

Prayer is often something we find difficult to do consistently. It can so easily be pushed to the margins of our busy days. Here are some gems of advice from those who know our struggles.



- From Martin Luther in a 40-page letter to his barber who had asked him "Dr Luther, how do you pray?"  
*It is a good thing to let prayer be the first business of the morning and the last in the evening. Guard yourself against such false and deceitful thoughts that keep whispering, 'Wait a while. In an hour or so, I will pray. I must first finish this or that.'* Thinking such thoughts takes us away from prayer into other things that will hold us and involve us until the prayer of the day comes to naught.

- From Robert Law  
*Prayer is a mighty instrument, not for getting man's will done in heaven...but for getting God's will done on earth*
- From Thomas Watson  
*Prayer delights God's ear, melts his heart and opens his hand: God cannot deny a praying soul.*
- From Ethel Barrymore  
*When life knocks you to your knees—well, that's the best position in which to pray, isn't it?*
- Three anonymous gems  
*Prayer is the key to the morning and the bolt of the evening  
A day hemmed in prayer is less likely to come unravelled  
Daniel would rather spend a night with the lions than miss a day in prayer.*

**A Parable to Finish....** From Hugh Price Hughes' story, *City of Everywhere*.

One cold morning, a man arrived in a city. As he got off the train, everything seemed normal, except that everybody was barefooted. They all wore no shoes. He noticed that his cab driver was also barefooted. "Pardon me," he asked the driver, "I was just wondering why you don't wear shoes. Don't you believe in shoes?" "Sure, we do," answered the driver..... "Then why don't you wear them?" "Ah, that's the question. Why don't we? Why don't we?"

At the hotel it was the same...everyone barefoot! In the coffee shop, he asked a fellow at the next-door table who was also barefoot, "I notice you aren't wearing any shoes. I wonder why? Don't you know about shoes?" The man replied, "Of course I know about them!" "Then why don't you wear them?" "Ah, that's the question. Why don't we? Why don't we?"

At breakfast he walked out onto the street into the snow.... but everyone was barefoot. He asked another man about it and pointed out how shoes would protect them from the cold.

The man said, "We know all about shoes. See that building yonder? That's a shoe factory. We are so proud of it and every week we gather there to hear the man in charge tell us about shoes and how wonderful they are."

"Then why don't you wear shoes?" ..... "Ah, that's the question!"

Don't we believe in prayer? Don't we know what it would mean in our lives? Then why don't we pray? Ah, that's the question...why don't we?.....Shalom, Jean



## CHURCH COUNCIL CHATTER NOVEMBER

- Church Council congratulates the following groups opening with Covid Safe plans:
  - Girls Brigade
  - Killarney Sunday School
  - Killarney and Warwick mainly music
  - Killarney Adult Fellowship
- The following Home Groups are meeting informally as friends
  - Selah
  - Beta
  - Gamma
- Church Council did not meet in October with the very busy month of Markets and Book Launch and High Tea
- Church Council will be meeting for the last time this year on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November when we will be looking at Ministry and Task Team reports for action and inclusion in our Annual Report. *We will be meeting in person for the first time since March.*
- We have re-formed Hospitality Groups along Covid lines with leaders doing the simple online TAFE courses on cleaning and food handling – required for volunteers, along with a vulnerable workers assessment whether you are vulnerable or not. The vulnerable workers risk assessment is a tool for Ansie to provide ongoing care to our volunteers. *These forms may sound intimidating, but we can help people do them and the more volunteers we have the more we can do. This has never been more important now that we do need to clean (disinfect) after events and record attendance.*
- When filling in attendance sheets, please fill out all required fields or we could be closed.
- Congratulations to our Property leader for getting a grant from the Department of Environment and Heritage to cover repairs to our sandstone church
- Attendance at Sunday Worship in Warwick: while limited to 50 people in the church, please be assured that Williams Hall is set up for any overflow. It is airy, it is pleasant, and we have the worship streamed onto the screen with sound. Please give it a go and stay. And aren't we enjoying morning tea after our worship!

### Our Spring Markets marathon

First of all, we didn't think we could have a Spring Fair – then we could – but wait – then we had three market days. At our September meeting we had a better idea of what we could and couldn't do as far as meeting COVID-19 guidelines – so in less than a month the final three-day plan took shape.



Day one - Trash and treasure, then we added home baked treats and sweets – and then a sausage sizzle –

Day two – our legendary plant sale and craft – plus home baked treats and sweets and a sausage sizzle –

Day three – which was supposed to coincide with the Rodeo Markets which were cancelled – produce and books plus home baked treats and sweets.

We managed the traffic flow into the hall and exiting via the courtyard, lots of hand sanitizer – and our three markets proved a great success. Financially we exceeded our expectations raising more than \$14 500 but this meant that quite a few ladies cooked and baked considerable amounts of food on three successive weeks. Having most of the stalls either in the hall or the courtyard meant the set up and knock down were less demanding and also easier to allow for adequate social distancing throughout the venue.

In retrospect it's easy to forget the downside of this full-on schedule but as the saying goes – we're not getting any younger – and we already have some plans for next year – not quite the three day marathon – but possibly a new take on what we have planned for many, many years.

And isn't that just typical – something we've all realized throughout this year – that when we just can't do things like we've always done them – sometimes we hit on a new and better way.

Thanks again must go to our Spring Fair committee – with Alison Baistow keeping our minutes as secretary and leading home baked goods, Scott Young – most ably coordinating all the physical set up and planning, Vanessa Richards coordinating with our entertainment items, Rev May our stall holders, Mary Young leading the sweets team, Angela, Anne Coy, Gordon and John Morris on the sausage sizzles, Gordon Bratby and team on the books, John, Darell and Pam on the plants, Rev May on the Trash and Treasure, Ann-maree on the crafts and the Killarney team on the produce.

These are the leaders of these stalls – but there were many workers who came every day to help set up, cook, sew, sort sweets and books, grow plants, sort through their our homes for trash and treasure – and a huge thank you to Marg Wells and John Morris who cleared out a whole home two days before the fair. And thank you to those who made monetary donations towards our wonderful total.

Even though our planned Spring Fair became three market days, it still brought and welcomed our community into our precinct. The crowds came and enjoyed our offerings, supporting our efforts as they bought our wares. And this is yet another reason why we plan this type of event.

It won't be the same next year – but – God willing - as my mother-in-law used to say – often – we will have a similar event for 2021.

Yours in Christ's service

Sue Campbell – convener Spring Fair committee.

## 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Worship in the Warwick Sandstone Church

We wanted monthly celebrations for this momentous year, and then Covid hit and plans were curtailed.

However, we have had a faithful committee working and producing "If these stones could talk" our Anniversary book available now for \$25 a copy. We have also had a small committee organising the Book Launch (31<sup>st</sup> October) and our coming Anniversary weekend.



Please watch the Notice sheets coming out weekly for information on booking in and numbers which are bouncing from 50 to 100 to 50 again.

Please flag our Anniversary Worship Service as an event where we can cater for 100 people with 50 in the Church and 50 in Williams Hall. The theme will be moving from REMEMBER to REJOICE to RENEW. Worship will start at 10am. We will have many visitors – past ministers, and our Moderator, Rev Andrew Gunton will be delivering the message.

### Anniversary Program

#### Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November REJOICE Dinner at \$30 per head

MC David Cahill

6pm – Our evening opens with Doug Cutmore piping outside while we gather for drinks (non alcoholic) and nibblies outside

6:30 –Ansie to open with prayer - Choral Society to sing pre-recorded **Bless this House**

7pm – move into hall + courtyard per seating

Willie to say grace – meal served plated at table

Choral Society – 3 compilation screened

Alan O'Hara to speak

#### **Dessert served -**

Choral Society – sing 2<sup>nd</sup> bracket – pre-recorded

James Stephenson to speak

Jean to speak about the book/life at church

#### **Closing Prayer**

Auld Land Syne

Our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Book will be available for sale (\$25 a copy) and we will have a display of memorabilia in the Hall.

#### Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 10am Anniversary Service RENEW

Rev Andrew Gunton to preach

No morning tea served

BYO Picnic lunch – 12pm



### **Pastoral care Emergency Bushfire Pack Project.**

Over the past few weeks the members of the Pastoral Care Task Team have been investigating and preparing essential items to include in an emergency kit to be distributed to those in bushfire prone areas to assist them to “be ready” in the case of an emergency during the next bushfire season and the months following.

After the last bushfires we received significant donations, to assist those affected by the fires. Not all of these funds were used so we felt it would be prudent to enable those in the fire areas to be well equipped in the future.

Through various websites and asking the emergency services we compiled a list of those things to include in the kits and they will be packed in a cooler box. We considered various options to pack into but decided the cooler box was best as it enabled the suggested additional items to fit in as well.

These include :- thermal blanket, torch, can opener, safety glasses, heavy duty gloves, rubbish bags, toilet paper, tissues, playing cards, tweezers, crepe bandage, sanitizer, scissors, fire blanket, Band-Aids, insect repellent, waterproof matches, zip lock bags, glowsticks, a notebook and pencil.

#### **Fireproof document bag:**

Through Dianne’s diligence, fireproof document bags have been bought with the following being a list of suggestions to include -

Important documents can be scanned and saved on USB stick (provided in emergency kit)

Examples of documents:

- Insurance papers for your house and contents, cars and valuable items
  - Inventory of valuable household goods
  - House deeds / mortgage documents
  - Birth and marriage certificates
  - Wills and life insurance documents
  - Passports/ visa details
  - Stocks and bonds
  - Medicare, pension cards, immunization records
  - Bank account and credit card details
  - A back-up copy of important computer files
  - Copy of current medical scripts
  - Household emergency plan with emergency contact numbers of family or neighbors
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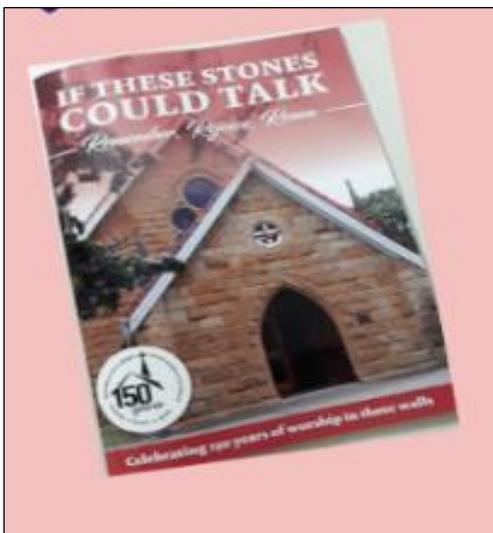
## PREACHING PLAN

	Nov 1	Nov 8	Nov 15	Nov 22	Nov 29
Killarney 8.30am		Angela			Rev May HC
Warwick 9.00	Rev Ansie	Jean	Rev Ansie	<b>150<sup>th</sup> Celebration</b> Rev Ansie HC Moderator Rev Andrew Gunton	Rev Ansie HC
Freestone 2.00pm		Rev Ansie HC			

## LECTIONARY READINGS

Date	Old Testament	Psalms	Epistle	Gospel
Nov 1	Joshua 3:7-17	Ps 107:1-7, 33-37	1 Thess.2:9-13	Mat.23:1-12
Nov 8	Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25	Ps 78:1-7	1 Thess.4:13-18	Mat.25:1-13
Nov 15	Judges 4:1-7	Ps 123	1 Thess.5:1-11	Mat.25:14-30
Nov 22	Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24	Ps 100	Eph 1:15-23	Mat.25:31-46
Nov 29	Isaiah 64:1-9	Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19	1 Corinthians 1:3-9	Mark 13:24-37

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# Anniversary Weekend

## 1870 2020

**Rejoice** Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November  
Anniversary Dinner, 6pm

**Renew** Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> November  
Worship 10am  
Picnic Lunch 12pm

<https://wkuc.org.au> for more information