



NEW HORIZONS
WARWICK- KILLARNEY PARISH OF UCA
NEWSLETTER JULY 2023



VOLUNTEERING

Volunteering is intrinsic to the life and mission of our congregations. There is surely no argument with this? But do we affirm this reality for practical reasons, or because of a deeper response to the gospel?

The practical reasons are that congregations simply need volunteers. Musicians, song leaders, bible study small group leaders, Church Council leaders, Task teams, God's gardeners, mainly music, etc, all dedicate significant volunteer time and energy to ensure that a congregation will be enriched, and people encouraged in their discipleship. This level of commitment is crucial. But is there a Christian basis for volunteering?

In the Uniting Church we celebrate that: *There are diverse gifts; But it is the same spirit who gives them. There are different ways of serving God: but it is the same Lord who is served. God works through people in different ways: but it is the same God whose purpose is achieved through them all. Each one of us is given a gift by the Spirit; and there is no gift without its corresponding service. There is one ministry of Christ: and in this ministry we all share. Together we are the body of Christ: and individually members of it. (based on 1 Cor. 12: 4ff and the Basis of Union.)*

This commissioning litany provides a framework for how we can approach volunteering within and beyond the church. Openness to volunteering is not an optional extra within our understanding of Christian community. In our Parish it is intrinsic to being part of Christ's body, in which all members have a role to play. Our gifts are given to us by the grace of God and are there to be used within our community.

Let us affirm and celebrate those members of our congregation who volunteer within the wider church and community. Our volunteers can be seen in many groups within our Parish structure and also at Akooramak, KMAC, Bromley Court, Courthouse Cuppa, Grief and Loss Courtyard Coffee, caring for others at Regency Park and The Oaks and Meals on Wheels. Let's recognise the wisdom, hope, ideas, concerns, and passion that they may bring to congregational life in response to activities in wider spheres.

- Valuable** is the work that you do.
- Outstanding** is how you always come through.
- Loyal**, sincere and full of good cheer
- Untiring** in your efforts throughout the year
- Notable** are the contributions you make.
- Trustworthy** in every project you take.
- Eager** to reach your every goal.
- Effective** in the way you fulfill your goal.
- Ready** with a smile like a shining star
- Special** and wonderful – that's what you are. Eda Beck





UPDATE AND NEWS OF PROTEA PLACE WARWICK

The restoration of the former manse and previous Lighthouse Community base is almost complete.

The elves are busy transforming the outside of 37 Guy St applying the new coat of paint very diligently especially to the scalloped boards near the front entrance. No quick spray applicator for them.

The service last Sunday was an opportunity to thank the following businesses and individuals – Gayle Persehouse and Kristine Wood, Andersen's Carpets and Beaumont's Tiles, Rose City Construction, Bunnings and Dulux, Glengallan Rd Gas Fitting, Tradelink, Advanced Metal Products, Hayman's' Electrical, Warwick Sandstone, Barry Ross Allstruct Pty Ltd, Border Refrigeration, Pauline Pickering- Globe Accounting, Enchanted Nursery, Warwick Sand and Gravel Supplies, Siniat PlastaMasta Toowoomba, South West Parcel Express, Betta Electrical Warwick, R&O Communications, Rowan and Melissa Dickfos, Lighthouse Community, Southern Downs Concrete, Luke's Excavation, Saturn Electrical Ian and Jo McNally, Southern Downs Regional Council, Orange Sky.

Their donations include sliding doors, delivery of goods, 2nd hand refrigerators, floor coverings kitchen and bathroom, asbestos removal and dumping, all paint, plumbing work, plumbing components, stainless steel splashbacks, electrical work, electrical components and lighting, 2nd hand dishwasher, oven cooktop, rangehood, garden seating and sandstone, air conditioners, garden soil and plants, plasterboard linings, ceiling and cornice, security cameras and data installation, washers and dryers.

This is a formidable list which demonstrates the significant task carried out by the local Committee to ensure a satisfactory outcome as the building is handed over to the Protea Place Warwick group as they now begin to prepare for the opening and commencement of operation on 31st July 2023.

A list of items to enable the building to be transformed into a welcoming sanctuary and Women's Support Centre providing support, dignity and safety to vulnerable women so they believe they matter has been circulated. Many goods have been received, however the following shows what is still needed.

QUALITY FURNITURE AND ITEMS TO PREPARE PROTEA PLACE FOR USE.

Book shelves, hall buffet, 3 Lamps and occasional tables, laundry baskets, saucepan set, knife set, baking trays, kitchen utensils, cutlery sets, miscellaneous kitchen appliances, office and stationery supplies, large clothes airer, toiletry supplies, cleaning products, nonperishable grocery items to stock pantry, handbags and toiletry bags. Items should be new or in excellent condition.

Goods may be delivered from 16th July 2023

Please contact Amanda :- ceo@protea.org.au or contact@protea.org.au

Phone 4613 1378.

Locally ask any of the Committee (see photo next page).



Local Committee



Kitchen Before



Kitchen Restored

PIE AND PUDDING NIGHT.

Good food, good company, an opportunity to share with long time and new members of the Parish. Hard to get the workers out of the kitchen!

A very pleasant night.



Choices - Choices



Followed By



I'm not coming out of the Kitchen.



Our PNG Friends

Farewell one of God's saints. VALE Bernice Peterson.

On Tuesday 28th June, the family, friends, community of Killarney and her extended church family celebrated the life of Bernice Peterson at her funeral service.

The following is the eulogy given by Carolyn Vardy. It is my privilege to speak on behalf of the Warwick Killarney Freestone Uniting Church of which Bernice has been an active member all her life and was also our oldest member.



I have conducted a small survey of church members and asked them to describe Bernice in a few words, - the result – unconditional Love, generous hospitality, quiet wisdom, welcoming, gracious, humble, always a lady, so very kind, compassionate, gentle, loved, great sense of humour, always ready with a meal, beautiful, lovely lady, and from Ivan “they don’t come any better”. Thank you, Ivan.

As the eldest in her family, she first loved and cared for her siblings, then her husband, children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren as well as neighbours in need and the whole church community. After her marriage and move to The Head she showed great hospitality to the visiting ministers who serviced the small Presbyterian church that was situated there, serving them scrumptious food and often billeting them. Church services were held once a month and Bernice and Doug would travel around to all the residents to inform them of upcoming services as most of them didn’t have telephones. Neil & Sandra, together with their cousins Geoff & Max formed a small choir for the services – I guess Bernice had something to do with that.

Bernice had always wanted to be involved in the Adult Fellowship of the Church (Ladies Guild), but this was difficult as she didn’t drive and needed to be at home to man the telephone exchange. Upon her move to Killarney after the death of her beloved Doug, she quickly became involved in the Adult Fellowship, becoming an important member of the group. She was always there to help at functions, cooking, serving and cleaning up (her sausage rolls, shortbread and caramel fudge were famous). It was her self-appointed task to do the washing up, and we just couldn’t take the job from her. She would always jump up from the table and head to the kitchen. It was only in her 90’s that we could convince her that she had done her share of the work and she could take a well-deserved rest.



It was at this time (95yrs) that Nancy suggested we should nominate her for the Moderator’s Medal for her service and generosity to the people of the parish. This we did and she was awarded the medal by the then moderator Rev David Baker, at a beautiful service and luncheon in this church in 2018. We were also honoured to host her 100th birthday celebrations here in 2021.

We all consider Bernice a mother figure in our church community, always caring, cooking and helping others. When Rev Ansie and Rev Willie arrived in our parish from South Africa

in 2016, Bernice cared for them as though they were her own children, sending cooking home with Rev Ansie – sometimes the caramel never made it back to Warwick.

When our mother, Bernice's sister died 12 years ago, Bernice felt the need to look out for all of us, always ringing on our birthdays and checking up on us. We were honoured that she joined us for our sibling get togethers each year before Christmas for a number of years.

I would often pick her up and bring her to church. She loved to come to worship her Lord and has seen many ministers come and go from the parish. She showed Rev Ansie a list of past ministers and the dates they were here etc and said that she had been scratching off all their names.

Bernice would often tell me that Love is what matters most in this life and you should always have love in your heart and share it. She lived her own life by the two greatest commandments – Love God and Love your neighbour.

Thank you, Bernice, we will miss you. It has been a privilege to have you as church member, an aunt and a friend and I can't help but think of the last verse of one of my favourite hymns - Because He Lives –

*And then one day I'll cross the river, I'll fight life's final war with pain.
And then as death gives way to victory, I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He lives.*

Bernice has fought her final war with pain and is now basking in the glorious eternal light.

God bless you, Bernice. Carolyn

Food for Thought.... Age and Wisdom.

Our Bible Study group SELAH held on Wednesday afternoon, struggled with the book of Job, then continued on into Proverbs. Some of it was hard going! Then, while I was away, the decision was made to move on into Ecclesiastes. I groaned! But this book and its study guide has produced the most prolific and thoughtful discussions of them all. It has made us really delve into what we believe and how we live.



We met head on questions like *What is an area of life in which you struggle to exercise good judgment? Explain!* and *How can you enjoy life in the face of death?* and *what is the difference between knowledge and wisdom?* It all comes straight out of what is the view of life described in Ecclesiastes. Is it all meaningless!

We do have a wealth of wisdom across our group and honest and real experiences and stories were coming thick and fast...so much so that we have to take two weeks to cover one study. Our afternoon starts at 3pm with afternoon tea and a catch-up chat until 3.30 when we move into a half hour of Prayer. The study section starts at 4 and ends at 5pm. So, you are welcome to join us for any... or all of it.

I read about Leo Tolstoy and was going to use it here, but I can't now find it...senior moments! He reported about how desperately he wanted to find answers about the meaning of life and death, sorrow and grief and what happens when we die...but none of his friends wanted to discuss such issues with him, finally someone did, and his life underwent a huge change.

But I have a reason for this other than to share what we do. We are not getting any younger and some were lamenting having to give up what had been important and worthwhile services and activities that were their contributions as disciples of Christ. It comes to us all! Pearl Buck at age 84 said, *I have reached an honourable position in life because I am old. I am a more useful person than I was fifty years ago. I have learned so much since I was seventy.*

Mischa Elman was a Russian born violinist whose career spanned his whole life. He began performing when unusually young and continued into old age. Someone once asked him if he could tell any difference in audience reaction through all those years. "Not really," he replied. "When I was a boy, audiences would exclaim *Imagine playing a violin like that at his age!* Now they're beginning to say the same thing again!"

A reporter, interviewing an old man on his 100th birthday, asked, "What are you most proud of?" He pondered a while and said, "Well I don't have an enemy in the world." That's wonderful," said the reporter. "Yep" added the centenarian, "I've outlived every last one of them!"

Now, quite a few years ago, there were oldies in the congregation who felt a little pushed aside because of their age. At this time, the then Visioning Committee thought it would be a great idea to interview them and so showcase their life's work within the church. These interviews were published in the revamped New Horizons so that the younger members of the congregation could realise what a legacy they have left for us as we take the baton of active service from them.

This we did until we had covered these saints of our congregation until we were moving into the active retirees. So, we stopped! However, the years relentlessly move onwards and many of us have reached that place of relinquishment while others come into the church to take our places. As we become frail and move into our twilight years, it is good for the younger members to know some of the work, wisdom and tireless effort that carried on the work of Christ's church here in our corner of God's world.

With all this in mind, I will undertake one interview each month. With so many years to cover, it will perforce only be a snapshot of what was done in faith and love of Christ. Our first recipient is Darell Fletcher!Shalom, Jean

Showcasing our First Octogenarian - Darell Fletcher.

Darell was born at Woodford in 1941, his early schooldays were enjoyed at Bellthorpe and Stanmore. The family moved to St George where they attended the Presbyterian Church, and so there the first stirrings of faith began.

To further his education, Darell moved to Gatton College where he was awarded a Diploma of Agriculture which led to a career in the Horticultural Branch of the DPI... starting at Biloela for twelve months and finally being posted to the Warwick Hermitage where he looks back with satisfaction on the worldwide acceptance of a breeding program for sorghum. He retired from paid employment in 2002.



A wedding in 1962, four children later, a farm, and a belonging place in the Warwick Methodist Church meant life was more than satisfactory; it was a faith filled sense of God's blessings.

Darell feels that his faith was continually nurtured and matured through church camps and the missionary focus of WEC and the people from Kingswood Camping as well as his church family. Through the Methodist Church, he found avenues for service as the leader of the OK's, teaching and leading Sunday School and a member of the Management Committee.

Along came the move into the establishment of the Uniting Church and it was here that my knowledge of Darell began. In the year before the merger of the two churches was to happen, here in Warwick we started to plan ahead. Darell and I became joint Superintendents of the then rather large Sunday School and, under the guidance of the Youth worker, Anne Harley, we forged ahead to start a Uniting Church Youth Group with four leaders, one of whom was Darell.

Christian Education was one of his top priorities. The Sunday School flourished so well that we had to hold classes at both churches to fit in all the groups. The Junior school and Years 7 and 8 from Scots added to the numbers. Darell and I went to many Seminars to gather new ideas and, at one of them, we became enthused with the use of puppets. Together we bought a group of animal puppets and Darell constructed a rather clever Puppet Theatre that has served us well.

Many Youth Group camps (one at Fletchers farm at Mt Sturt where it teemed rain and we had to get all the blankets they had to keep the 25 or so campers dry and warm!), a couple of Sunday School musicals, a special High school Sunday school group becoming Darrell's speciality, classes of Religious Education at the schools, a member of The Christian Education Committee....all gave him a chance to quietly and sincerely share his faith and make a difference to lots of young people.

Faith and knowledge are never static. They continue to change and be nurtured so that we keep on growing in our faith journey. Over the years he took part in both a home study group and in some intensive and extensive courses such as Kerigma, two years of Disciple, Alpha, A marriage Enrichment weekend, Contagious Christianity, various Pastoral Care courses and so many others. As computers became more widespread, Darell attempted to design a comprehensive membership data base. All before there was significant software.



He was an elder, later, a church leader. He helped to swell the church finances with his Australian Native plant sales. A member of the Australian Society for Growing Australian Plants starting a Warwick Branch. Another avenue of service was as the computer man for our services at Akooramak and it was here that the people arrived early to see all the flowers that Darell had snapped over the years and hear his explanations.

There is so much more that Darell has done as a disciple of Christ.... but this can only be a snapshot of this one man's faith and service to God. As he aged, he battled various health problems, and his failing health meant the difficult decision to be made as to handing over the baton to those coming behind him. It is never easy to do this as you want to still offer all you have to your Lord and Saviour.

But Darell had the last word. He said, "At 82, I am so grateful that I have been able to serve my God.".....Darell, we thank you for all you've done and for who you are!.....Shalom, Jean

CHURCH COUNCIL CHATTER

Church Council meetings are not all about business and in fact the business or oversight of our Task Teams is sandwiched between team building and learning for those of us making these decisions, and a pastoral care section where we look at the needs of all our church members.

Public Liability Insurance: we are no longer covered to provide public liability insurance for those hiring the property for a private function. People will need to arrange their own insurance. This will not affect any of our Church activities or groups.

Baptisms: we have welcomed the following families:

- Emmett and Nicole with baby Ethan (December 22)
- Emma and Ethan Cussens with daughter Gabby
- Sam and Franzi Lane with son William.

We have been creating Baptism photobooks as reminders for these families. We are trialling printing 3 books. Obviously, there is a time delay between baptism and book so:

1. One from the previous baptism goes to the current baptism family as a preview of what they will receive.
2. One goes to the family from the previous baptism who have been invited back to receive it as part of the baptism. The families get to meet each other.
3. The minister keeps one for her records.

It may sound complicated, but we are hoping to develop rapport between these young families in the church setting.

The big weekend – 24th & 25th June!

- Pie and Pudding Night – this was a great time to get to know new members and thank some of our hard workers.

By the way ...

- We started calling the workers renovating the old manse 'Ray's Roustabouts'
- Ansie calls her helpers 'disciples'.
- We call Ansie 'Minister' – our hardest worker of all.
- A huge thank you to our cooks and trivia organisers.

Charles sharing his sacred music was a lovely gift on the night.



Leave for Ansie: Church Council has endorsed Ansie have 6th to 10th July for some much-needed rest and time with family.

Each Church Councillor has responsibility for the pastoral care of a small number of Parish members. In small groups we discussed the effectiveness of contact and the relationship between councillor and those on their list. Feedback was given and the Pastoral Care Team will review the lists and make changes. The small groups spent a time in prayer for the members of the pastoral care lists sharing confidential news of those in need.

**God is before me; He will be my guide,
God is behind me; no ill can betide,
God is beside me, to comfort and to cheer,
God is around me so why should I fear.**

Jumpers and Jazz Week – 22nd to 30th July



Come along and be surprised.

- We start with our usual hearty breakfast with a guest jazz singer Sharny Russell appearing through the morning.
- We offer a place of quiet to meditate on the pathways of life with our labyrinth.
- We offer a place of joy and learning with our Church display on the life of Christ.
- We offer a place of fun, quirkiness and laughter with our Courtyard Coffee and pop up stalls.
 - And we are close to all the action in the main street!

22nd July: Jazzy Breakfast – 7:30am-10am.

- *a full hearty breakfast from cereal and juice to sizzling hot sausages, eggs, bacon, tomatoes plus tea and coffee.*
- Entertainer: Sharny Russell

23rd July: Sunday Worship with musical focus guest: Sharny Russell

24th July – 29th July: 9:30am-11:30am

- Church Open with displays on life of Jesus plus information on windows and our activities.
- Courtyard Coffee open with entrance through the Church.
 - Popup shops

30th July: Sunday Worship with musical focus

MARKET DAY - SATURDAY 12TH AUGUST.

NATIVE PLANTS & MORE, BOOKS, SOUTHERN DOWNS ARK,

STALLS: - Home-made Cakes & Biscuits; Sweets and Healthy Treats.

Sausage Sizzle; Courtyard Café; Drinks

Entertainment: Central School Choir; Scots Junior Pipers.

The 'Melomaniac' Singers; Ellie's Line Dancers

How can you help? Setting up; Donate books – help organise and sort;
Offer to help on a stall.

Cook sweets, healthy treats, cakes, biscuits, slices etc.

– Contact Alison Baistow (4661 5173 for cakes etc) or Michelle Wixted (0478 690 199) for sweets if you can help. Donate ingredients.

- Please **contact** David Angell (0400 433 910) for further information.
Scott & David, for the Market Day Team.

Planning meeting July 13th 7.00pm Wesley Room All Welcome.