



# New Horizons

Newsletter of the Warwick/Killarney Parish  
September / October 2024



## Celebrating 60 years of the Girls Brigade in Killarney



## *Pastoral Ponderings*

I greet you in the beautiful name of Jesus.

As I write this, the rain falls softly and continuously outside!

As we welcome the gentle spring rains that nourish our land, let us take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude to God for the abundant blessings given to us. The refreshing showers not only rejuvenate our gardens but also remind us of the beauty that surrounds us. Each droplet is a testament to nature's artistry, transforming our landscapes into a vibrant tapestry of colours and life. We are truly fortunate to call this breathtaking place our home.

Dreams and visions of the past few years are starting to become reality. It is with joy and thanksgiving that I can let you know that the Affordable Housing Project is finally signed, sealed, and delivered! A public announcement will be made within the next week or two. Thank you for your prayers. A special thank you to Ian and Jenny for the level of expertise and hours spent together with the support team of Synod to see this project become a reality.

The Parish is hosting the Presbytery meeting from 8-10<sup>th</sup> November. Preceding the meeting, the Moderator, Rev Bruce Moore, will conduct a convocation for Queensland Ministry Agents in Warwick. Rev Moore will preach on Sunday, November 10, in Warwick at 9:30.

We will be hosting the Rev Clarissa Suli, the President of our Assembly, on the third Sunday in November. We are truly blessed that a President of the Assembly will be taking the preaching appointment, and I want to encourage you to make every effort to turn up.

And yes, it is not the end yet! On the fourth Sunday in November, we will host the final service for the Presbytery Minister, Rev Yvonne McRostie. Yvonne has accepted a position in Brisbane back into congregation ministry and has chosen Warwick as her last preaching appointment for her tenure in the Downs Presbytery.

As you can see, our life together is full of activities and gatherings, but I trust that the business will not detract from our connections with God, the author and sustainer of our faith.

On a personal note:

- Our holiday in South Africa was life-giving and much needed. Thank you to those who filled the gaps and continued to serve Christ. We have the best people in the Uniting Church!
- Thank you to those who wrote Agape letters of love and support. Cergy received letters from their congregations on retreat, and I cried lots of tears reading some of the letters. Thank you for the treats!
- Lesego turned 23 on 23 September, has now applied for a partner visa, and has moved with her family to a home in Stanthorpe.
- Berenice is in the final weeks of her year 12 at Scots-PGC, and we are blessed to attend her Valedictory Dinner as parents. We are so pleased that she has completed the journey. Willie is grateful that Scots College has invited him to take the lead in the Valedictory Chapel service.

With a thankful heart  
Ansie Liebenberg

## **A New Life For The Support Of The Vulnerable Of Our Community.**

Around mid-2022, the Warwick-Killarney Uniting Church started to actively investigate how we as a church could use our current resources and assets to enrich our local community. During that search we came across Protea Place – as established in Toowoomba – and realised that its mission – to provide support to vulnerable women – was completely relevant and equally necessary in the Southern Downs. Through the guidance of the Protea Place parent group, we began this journey to provide a drop-in support centre for women in need in our community.

As a church we set planned major renovations of our former manse and with the extremely generous support of local businesses and a lot of work from a dedicated team of volunteer workers, by August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, Protea Place - Warwick was established and operational. Local community, school, sporting and social groups undertook a wide range of fundraising events that provided funds to cover operating costs for more than its first 12 months of operations.

Over that period the presence of this facility and the support provided by its two part-time support workers was soon acknowledged to be an extremely valuable asset for our community. However, this Warwick program was always intended as a pilot program in late June 2024 and Protea Place announced that they wished to set the Warwick centre on its own path releasing it from their oversight.

The Warwick Killarney Parish of the Uniting Church had initiated this program and supported its operations from the beginning; therefore, we were heavily invested in its continuation. Ensuring that until a committed local management team and legal structure was developed, we would shepherd the work of this centre and the two support workers. This handover has been guided by our Synod legal team and we are very grateful for their support over these negotiations.

Now the work of Protea Place continues under the banner of 'WillowTree 37' with the same operational style, connections for legal, health, housing and general well-being support that too many local women have needed in the past 12 months. It will open from 10am – 2pm – Tuesdays and Thursdays – at 37 Guy St Warwick.

Donations given for Protea Place Warwick have been transferred to the Warwick-Killarney Uniting Church's management till early 2025 when WillowTree 37 will operate independently of the church.

We are extremely pleased to announce that the two support workers will continue providing this vital service in our community. The new management team is comprised of committed local people who will help lead this group into the future. However, funds to provide for wages and general operating cost will always be a concern so please consider how your contacts and friends might be able to financially support the work of this centre.

Sue Campbell Warwick- Killarney Uniting Church.

## ***People in our Congregation***

How many do we really know? How many with whom have we had a deep conversation rather than to just swap comments about the weather?? How many need someone to care about what they are doing, or facing, while feeling a little out on the sidelines? Who do we really talk to over morning tea?

Right...let us showcase some of our congregation each month so that you can start a real conversation. My first one that most of us don't really know is Ruth Utz. So here are some of her story that will give you a starting point.

### ***Ruth Utz***

Ruth believes that she and her brother, Jack, grew within a very loving family, her father being a Uniting Church Minister and her mother a born homemaker who helped her minister husband wherever and whenever she could. Because of Dad's ministry, and later because of her own and her husband's work, she has lived in many places which has made it more difficult to make lifetime friends...places such as Milla Milla, Munduberra, Emerald, Imbil, Lowood, Crows Nest, Toowoomba and now Warwick. Ruth's Dad died 20 years ago, but her mother still lives in Toowoomba.

Ruth accepted Jesus as her Saviour when she was aged 16 and has loved her Heavenly Father ever since. If you follow Facebook, you will find much evidence of this by the special poems and sayings that she posts. She believes that she has a quiet, simple faith and loves Jesus with all her heart and soul. She attends church whenever she can, but her husband now being quite sick has made that more difficult as she doesn't drive. Recently, she has purchased a mobility scooter that she has named Buttercup which is giving her a little more independence.

Ruth was a former enrolled nurse, now retired. She worked as an enrolled nurse at St Vincents in Toowoomba for seven years and then in aged care for nine and a half years, a job which she really absolutely loved. She really enjoyed crochet work for the church's entry into Jumpers and Jazz and especially loved covering the cross with white crochet.

She loves music and often praises Jesus in music in her home. She loves having a coffee with a friend and watching a nice movie as well as going for drives. Ruth is shy and finds it difficult to mix with others at times. She has always been a quiet person who tends to keep to herself...but, when she makes friends, it is a lifetime bond.

So that's a thumbnail sketch of Ruth Utz...a person well worth talking time to sit down beside....one of our congregation to make known and welcomed!.....Shalom, Jean



## ***Food for Thought....Time Streams By***

Just recently, I attended a Warwick High School Reunion with a bit of a difference. It encompassed all those who attended the school during the 1940s, 50, and 60s. It was showcased in People and Places, but many who live here didn't know about it. The oldest who attended was Mavis Stacey aged 92 and the ages ranged from there to the biggest group coming from the 1960s.

There were only 3 of us there who were in Junior in 1955, while I found a lot of those who I taught in 1960, 61 and 62 when I started teaching at age 19. Many of those there remembered my Dad, particularly when we had a tour of the school and they remembered him taking parade on the old cement tank, saluting the flag and marching off to class. Memories flowed thick and fast of the school that today is very different from their memories. Of course, the only section that interested them was the old historic building they knew!

I had a friend stay with me overnight that day and we started to reminisce about a trip four of us took through 3 states of Australia when we were 21. I was given the job of keeping a log of our adventures and this was compiled in a couple of little books which I kept. I got them out for Helen to read, but she soon put them down. After she left, I realised the writing was almost illegible...so, I decided to transcribe into the computer and send to the other three. What a job that finished 28 pages later!

It was an eye opener to travel back in time at the end of 1961 and into 1962, 3 weeks adventure. It highlighted how much we now take for granted. We had written to caravan parks and motels for accommodation, only to discover some of the places and vans were most unsuitable, one with an earth closet and only cold water ( we hightailed it out of there fast! ) What could have been so easy with a mobile phone! In that 3 weeks, the car had to be serviced twice, the roads were often dry and dusty, so much so that when the car wouldn't start, many kind people pushed us down hills to start the engine, and then mechanics would find dirt ( and an ant) in the carburettor!

People were so kind, so willing to help and allow us into buildings in Canberra, and many other places. Caravan parks and motels were really getting organised as they found what tourists needed. The only foreign food was Chinese...and there were no dishwashers! So much we take for granted now were not there, and yet, the intervening 60 years didn't seem far away in memory.

All this made me meditate on time...minutes slip by, hours dash past, years run past, the seasons are here today and gone tomorrow. Each day begins and is over before I get even a smidgen of what I planned done. Now, I am counting 14 great grandchildren and wondering what life will be like for them in another 60 years. What should I be doing with the little time I have left...to not be forgotten by my great grandchildren as a distant ancestor, lost in the sands of time?

I think back to Wesley who said something like, *Just do all the good you can for all the days you have left for all those you meet.* Not quite a word for word quote...but you get the picture! I have to believe that God collects all the good that's done throughout the centuries and stores it in heaven waiting for us all to get there! That's my rambling for this month! I promise that there will be pearls next month! *Jean*

## *Celebration for 60 years of Killarney Girls Brigade*

Brigade in Killarney turns 60 this year. We started on 13th March 1964, with 29 girls and were commissioned on the 26th June that year.

Our first Captain was Mrs. Vi Riek, wife of our then Minister Rev R. Riek. The Rieks left Killarney the following year, leaving two leaders, Mrs Wilson and Kay Hoffman to carry on for a couple of years before the church appointed Mrs. Mackenzie as Captain, in 1967

Mrs. Mackenzie told me many years later that when approached she was a little taken back. She had 5 small children and worked their family business 5 1/2 days a week, but apparently that's why she was chosen with 5 children she was used to noise, and she was obviously a very organised person. Mrs Mackenzie stayed as Captain till the end of 1992.

I was there in 1964, the smallest girl on the end of section one, and have many fond memories growing up in Brigade, one that stands out is my first camp. I had never slept away from my mum and dad, I had never camped in the bush before, and I was very excited. Our mums dropped us off at the church and George Brunton's' cattle truck arrived, we were assured it was clean, as we walked up the cattle ramp into the cattle crate. It didn't smell very clean, I thought, and there was some cow poo the hoses missed. Any way we all sat on our bed rolls, and made the short journey to Spring Creek, and the best week end ever.

We ate, sang and prayed around the camp fire, we cleaned our teeth in the creek, we hiked the mountains and giggled all night when we were supposed to be sleeping. My tin of "something to share" was a batch of chocolate peanut crisps, that my mum had made, and they were every ones favourite, which made me feel very important, everyone wanted what I had. I enjoyed every minute of my first time in the bush and remember it like it was yesterday.

On the 22nd November 1968 was my first speech night, my mum and sister Jennifer came too, so we missed Brigade that night. While I was standing in the front of the hall with the Killarney School Choir singing " The Sounds Of Silence", a tornado struck our small town, I remember seeing the night sky when the roof lifted off the hall and settled back down again, while the floor rolled up and down under our feet like we were on the ocean.

Over at Brigade, numbers were down because of speech night, the Leaders and girls were standing around the piano singing " Silent Night," when their roof lifted off their hall, all the walls fell out taking everyone with them. One of our beautiful little girls died shortly after, Susan Joy Ballard.

The tornado rocked our whole town for a long time after that night. But everyone wanted normality to return as quickly as possible, so Girls Brigade continued, though Captain Mackenzie was forever frightened of stormy Brigade nights.

I ended my days at Brigade a few years later after completing my Silver Duke of Edinburgh award.

Many wonderful women signed up as leaders and auxiliary workers, some staying for many years, kept our little Brigade going through the decades. In 1985 Captain Mackenzie asked me back to work in Brigade, I said yes, but not yet, as I was

pregnant with my fifth baby. I started back in 87 as a Pioneer leader, and at the end of each year Captain Mackenzie would ask me to take over as Captain, and each year I would say yes, but not yet, till 1992 when she retired. I now have two Leaders with me who have worked with me for over twenty years Helen Smith, and Kerry Doolan, Helen's daughter Chloe is our newest member joining our leadership team last year.

And now we are 60, we have 24 girls on the roll and have tried to have some extra fun things planned all year with a big end of the year camp planned for October.

Girls' Brigaders from all over the Darling Downs came to Killarney on the 4th August to help us celebrate.

Cutting our cake is our Pioneer Dacia Costello, who has been in Brigade for nine years, her grandmother Margaret Grayson was a leader for many years, and her mother Marissa Costello went right through Brigade when growing up.

Our little Cadet Willow Bartz is a third generation Killarney Brigader, her Grandmother Shirley Bartz nee Bloomfield was a founding member in 1964. Willow's Auntie Juanita Bartz went right through Brigade also. And while Shirley worked for many years as an auxiliary working Willow's dad came too. Killarney longevity is due to years of devotion by many Christian ladies. Captain Mackenzie ran Killarney Brigade from 1968.

*Thank you to Wendy Lewis for a great history of the Girl's Brigade I Killarney.*

### **Warwick Uniting Church Library**

Have you noticed that our library has begun to have a facelift? It is not yet finished but is a work in progress. There are now about three shelves of Christian Fiction available for borrowing...a great way to lose yourself in an interesting story and, at the same time, allowing you to meditate on your own life story and faith journey. There is a series that take you into the story of the fledgling state of Israel, following the kind of stories of those who escaped the chaos of the holocaust and its aftermath. Through all these is the thread of the lives of the Messianic Jews. Fiction based on fact!

Another couple of shelves contain biographies and life stories of those who found faith, and the difference it made in their lives. Some are written by themselves with help, while others have written some incredible stories and adventures of people who have made a difference to others. These make for very interesting reading and encourage us to make a difference to those around us.

Another section, I have labelled "Family" which covers many topics, sometimes quite humorous only...books like those of Adrian Plaas and Barbara which are funny with a serious message. I will probably divide these up when I start again to make it easy for you to browse and find what you are looking for. Then there is a section of Children's books! It's all worth checking out.

Because this is our very own resource, there is no checking in or out. It is for you to enjoy, learn from, be amazed and encouraged and find answers to help you. It has no secular books and is unashamedly Christian...and very available. All I ask is that, when, you return what you have borrowed, that you will replace it in the right category.

Please use it...even lend to others...and just enjoy the pleasure of reading!  
I promise it will be finished this year!.....Shalom, Jean

## ***Journeying Through Grief***

Barbara and I are back in the business of helping those who have lost loved ones and finding it hard to understand the path ahead. The loss of those we love is always devastating...it's as though a part of us has also gone. Bereavement can be somewhat of a private experience where you feel no one else understands what you are experiencing, but it also has many feelings that others also undergo.

Albert Schweitzer wrote about bereavement; "Those who have learnt by experience belong together all the world over; they are united by a secret bond." Grieving is a painful experience, but, as Barbara and I have travelled with groups over at least 4 years, we have found how much joining together has helped each one individually and how sharing experiences has been cathartic for the whole group.

So, we conduct a 7 week program for between 3 and 6 participants on a Monday afternoon between 2 and 4pm, breaking for afternoon tea which is a valuable sharing time amongst the members. There are brochures available should you, or someone you know, benefit from this unbelievable sharing as they journey through the toughest times of life to discover grief never ends, but it changes. The next group is beginning on Monday, October 14 and there are still places available. Please contact either Barbara or me if you know someone who might benefit or are interested.

Barbara and I maintain that we are privileged to share in this journey as we see the difference it makes to those who join us.....Jean.

### **From the Presbytery Minister Rev Yvonne McRostie**

Hi John, Allison and Jenny

It is with a mixed heart that I let you know that at a congregational meeting of Chermiside Kedron Community Church this morning my name was presented to be their next minister from 1st January 2025 and was strongly affirmed.

It is my intention to accept this call and therefore tender my resignation as Presbytery Minister here in The Downs effective 31st December 2024.

According to the Standing Committee records I have 28 days of annual leave still owing so I need to take them before I leave which will make my conclusion date 30th November.

Could you please pass on this message to the Presbytery:





Saying goodbye is never easy. My time in this Presbytery has changed me for the better and I am truly grateful to God, each person within the Presbytery and to the wider community who has received me with grace and shared life with me. God has a way of placing you in the right place at the right time and this has been the right time.

I have appreciated so much getting to know people and being on this journey with you all, especially those who have served on Presbytery Standing Committee and Pastoral Relations Committee, Ministry Agents (Lay and Ordained), Lay Led Ministry Teams, Retired Ministers and Church Councils who have supported me and been extremely patient and kind to me. For a few months now I have felt a prompting by the Holy Spirit to return to congregational ministry, and as I have shared with you, I have recognised that my heart and calling is to minister and encourage a congregation to be faithful disciples of Jesus.

As many would know, when I came into this Presbytery, I knew little, and had a lot to learn about the unique life of the regional, rural and remote communities in The Downs. Over this five years, while still having much to learn, I have come to understand why people are so committed to living in this amazing part of the country, there is a peace, a solitude, a beauty alongside a mysterious unpredictability and harshness which is somewhat compelling.

Each person and community has taught me so much more about God, who is the Master of creation, one who remains faithful and steadfast in the hard times and who is merciful and loving when we fall and fail to live out God's mission in the world. I have been privileged to be a part of this amazing part of our Synod and have shared many stories with the rest of the Synod, stories of generosity, the distinctness of country hospitality, people who are committed to serving their local communities with grace all to the glory of God. I have worshipped with small declining and larger growing communities and in all have experienced people, who despite some difficult decision have remained resilient and faithful as they share life in Christ together.

Thank you for having me as part of the Presbytery, the gift you have given will continue to be passed on in my new role back in the congregation of Chermside Kedron Community Church and the Presbytery of Moreton Rivers, I will continue to remain a strong advocate for the bush, albeit living in the hustle and bustle of the city, the bush is in my blood now, and I will tell your story and, of course, will visit.

I will continue to pray with you and serve God with you for the next couple of months and beyond and would appreciate your prayers for the Standing Committee and the Presbytery as they discern a way forward.

Peace and blessings to you all

Thanks

Yvonne

## MARKET DAY NEWS

What a great day on the 17<sup>th</sup> of August a sunny, calm day for which we all breathed a sigh of relief.

Scott still has flashbacks to the gazebo blowing upside down on the windy day in March. However, he now has contingency plans to ensure there is no repeat of that event no matter what the weather.

All stalls were very successful as shown in the following table

Plants	\$ 1232.40
Trash and Treasure	\$ 661.60
Books	\$ 942.85
Café	\$ 596.00
Home baked	\$ 1129.90
Treat yourself	\$ 1067.55
Sausage Sizzle	\$ 391.00
Donations	\$ 90.00
Net Total	<u>\$ 6111.30</u>

Our final market day is only a fortnight away on 12<sup>th</sup> Of October.



## Market Day 12<sup>th</sup> October 2024



The feature stalls are  
**CRAFT, PRODUCE and COLLECTABLES** plus of course the **PLANTS**.

Donations of goods are valued for all stalls.

If you have goods for the Collectables, they can be left on the stage in the Williams Hall from next week. Please make sure they are boxed or wrapped and marked for the Collectables. Also similarly, those who have made Craft items. Otherwise please contact Scott or one of the Market Day team if you need goods collecting.

Gordon will have a smaller book and puzzles stall as please keep the page turners coming. As you will note from the last Market day there is still plenty of interest and demand for books not just electronic editions.

**ENTERTAINMENT** With time allowed for browsing and purchasing between items.

From 9.00 am Filipino Dancers  
East Street Singers  
Central School Choir  
SCOTS PGC Pipers – possibly the juniors.

Some stalls would appreciate helpers, please contact Scott to volunteer even if just for a short time. 0429 969 432