

## *Annual Report*

*Annual General Meeting  
Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> August 2023*

# 2023

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# Introduction

*'How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!' -Psalm 133:1*

How good is it?

*'It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron's beard, down on the collar of his robes. It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion. For there the Lord bestows his blessing, even life for evermore.' -Psalm 133:2-3*

As we see our western culture hellbent on division, unity is much more important for Jesus' Church. But we often take this unity for granted. Because Christ Jesus has offered us forgiveness, and has given us his Holy Spirit, Godly patience, forgiveness, & unity becomes the 'air we breathe'.

So, sometimes, it's helpful to look outside our own context. Wherever else you look; forgiveness, kindness, unity are not the norm. Other groups are often founded on common ideas or interests, but once those interests are no longer aligned, unity quickly evaporates.

Praise God that His church is not like that! Sure, we have the potential to bring our own sinfulness (unforgiveness, pettiness and selfishness) into the church, but the church is actually built on only one thing: Christ Jesus himself, and under His Banner (because of what He has done, and what he has called us to) we have wonderful unity.

As I look at our church community I am thankful that we enjoy a healthy unity, and so I am grateful to God for each one of you - I do not take this for granted, and I hope you do not either. These reports and our Annual General Meeting give us such an opportunity to keep our eyes open to what God has done amongst us, and to prayerfully look forward to the next year or so that he gives us together.

I hope you also realise that unity is not just a 'nice ideal' for our little community, but is God's design and purpose for the whole world:

*"He has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth." (Ephesians 1:9-10)*

We unify around and under Jesus Christ. He is our reason for our unity, and our reason to work hard at unity, and to never take it for granted. Christ himself is our treasure, and by his work through us, Lord willing, he will bring others into his family, as we keep proclaiming him as Lord to ourselves, our congregations and to our increasingly disjointed and hurting world:

*"By this, all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:35)*

The Lord bless you, and his own work in you, as together we keep the Lord Jesus as the cause, purpose and goal of our unity.



Rev. Steve Cimarosti

# Agenda.

1. Prayer
2. Appointment of Minutes' Secretary
3. Declaration of a Quorum, Attendance & Apologies (Quorum = 7)
4. Declaration of General Business and Confirmation of Agenda
5. Declaration of Vacancies (and appreciation to retiring councillors)
6. Reports for Tabling & Adoption:
  - Vicar's Report
  - Churchwardens' Report
  - Treasurer's Report
7. Adoption of budget for 2023-24
8. Adoption of mission organisations to be supported in 2023-24
9. Other reports to be tabled and/or read:
  - SRE Report
  - Junior Jiver's Report
  - Mission Report
  - Safe Ministry Report
10. Elections:
  - 2 Parish Warden,
  - 4 Parish Councillors,
11. Appointment of Honorary Auditor/Auditor
12. General Business:
  
13. Appointment of AGM minutes' approval and signing
14. Close

Note: Positions of Parish Secretary, Treasurer & Mission Secretary are elected at the first meeting of the newly elected Parish Council.



# *2023 Reports*



*'May Morning' © 2023 Ardina Jackson. Used with permission.*

# Vicar's Report.

## *The year in Brief*

Well, it's been a big year for us at church - thankfully all the pressure we received during the Covid-years are well and truly passed from a legislative point of view. People still struggle with ongoing health issues, but it is wonderful that we have been able to keep our doors and our hearts open! Last year, I wrote that we may be living with the 'scars of this virus' but it really hasn't been the case - Praise the Lord!

There are so many other things to Praise the Lord for in these reports. But before I mention any of these areas, I want to give God great thanks for you our whole parish, our wardens and parish councillors and those who work tirelessly to look after things around church.

I would also be remiss to not deeply and publicly thank my family: Louise, August, Marcus & Bethany - you guys have been incredibly patient with me through the busyness of this year. Thank you for your love, forgiveness & faithfulness to Myself, and to our church, as we keep doing ministry together as a family, and as you pick up the pieces at home when I'm out or away on parish or diocese business.

## *Sunday Services - Warialda*

Sunday Services continue to be a joy as we keep meeting together under God's word. I haven't changed much of the forms we use at church to ensure that church strikes a balance of familiarity and flexibility. But the best thing about the form of liturgy that we use is that it is deeply Biblical.

Quality-wise, it has been encouraging to see people meet week-in week-out to worship God together, listen to him, pray for our world, and to serve one another. More people have stepped up to serve in various ways within our services, and this is a very healthy thing - Sundays where it's just 'talking Steve' in my view are sub-optimal.

Regarding Sunday preaching, I feel we have had a varied diet of God's word, whilst we have

methodically worked our way through:

- ✦ 2 Corinthians
- ✦ Genesis 25-35 (Jacob's early years)
- ✦ four 'hymns of Christmas',
- ✦ Psalms 12-16,
- ✦ The 7 words from the cross (at Easter)
- ✦ Acts 1-6
- ✦ Genesis 37-45 (the Joseph story)

I have been greatly encouraged by our lay preachers stepping up and also ministering the word to our congregations, and often covering for me when I've been called away from the parish.

I'm not the greatest preacher, but it's always great to have significant conversations with people over morning-tea and throughout the week, as we have wrestled with what God has revealed to us about who he is, and how we are to respond to him.

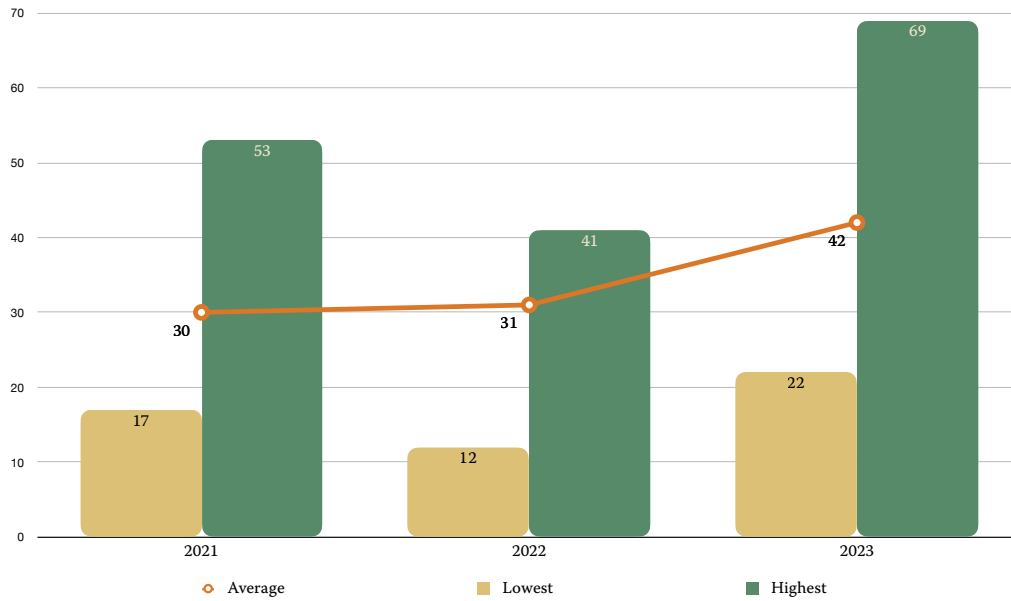
My favourite week over this period, was being able to baptise my three children in October - to be reminded of God's faithfulness in saving and cleansing us from sin, through no effort of our own, and to entrust our children to him was a significant moment in mine and Louise's life, as I hope it was significant for our church family, and for our kids, themselves.



As we have grown in number, we have kept loving and caring for people in different age groups, this has been done through particular teaching for young and old, and in reaching a point where we can start a dedicated Kids Church on Sundays.

Whilst these qualitative elements are much more important regarding the health of a church, it's also encouraging to see that our attendance numbers have increased over this year - which testifies to the fact that we are happily growing together as a church, but even more-so that God is faithful in gathering his people weekly.

Sunday Attendance Trends 2021-2023



Here are the attendance records for the whole year (July 2022 to June 2023), as well as a graph above, of the trends over the last 3 years (for those visual learners amongst us).

**Sunday Attendance:**

Highest weekend attendance: 69 (41)  
 Lowest weekend attendance: 22 (12)  
 Average weekly attendance: 42 (31)  
*(Last year's figures in brackets)*

**Easter/Christmas Attendance:**

Christmas Eve - 6pm Family: 45 (33)  
 Christmas Eve - 11pm trad: 14 (25)  
 Christmas Day: 22 (10)  
  
 Good Friday Morning service: 32 (15)  
 Good Friday Evening service : 21 (22)  
 Easter Sunday: 84 (65)  
*(Last year's figures in brackets)*

***Branch Church Services - Coolatai***

We hold a Holy Communion service at Coolatai at on the First Sunday of the month. Coolatai continues to be an important part of our Parish - attendance has dropped from last year, but every individual who attends are important to the Lord, and each of them require the hope, peace and rest that Christ offers.

Our biggest threat for Coolatai is that the church

building requires a lot of maintenance (see warden's report for greater discussion). Without significant repairs, it's not inconceivable that the building will be unsafe for use within a few years, if not sooner. This of course could provide an opportunity for us, as good Gospel ministry does not require a building.

Once again, the highlight for me at Coolatai was our Christmas Carols service we held in the Coolatai Hall. About 30 adults and children attended - even a paraglider from Manilla dropped in! Everyone had a wonderful time, and were very thankful.

**Attendance:**

Highest attendance: 10 (13)  
 Lowest attendance: 4 (8)  
 Average attendance: 7 (11)  
*(Last year's figures in brackets)*

***Bible Studies***

Bible Studies are the 'engine room' for growing as deep disciples of Christ. It's great to meet on Sundays to hear a sermon, but Bible Study is where we get to discuss and digest, to ask questions, and deeply explore God's word together.

This year, not much has changed on the Bible Study front: 2 groups meet weekly, and I am very grateful to Janelle and Garth for running these two groups. I would love more people to have a 'lively faith' by taking the opportunity to read and study the Bible together and so I commend them to you.



## *Morning Prayer*

Our mid-week Morning Prayer meetings have continued this year. We meet on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 9:00 am at the church, and still occurs when I am out of the parish.

We follow the rhythm of the Book of Common Prayer, as we read some passages from the Bible, think about them briefly, and then pray together.

Only a few people attend these prayer meetings, but we have found them an incredibly helpful rhythm to actively commit the day to the Lord, and ask him to help us be his faithful disciples through all the 'changes and chances' of the day. I will continue to be praying for more souls to meet with us on a regular basis. Perhaps you might consider joining us.

## *Parish Hall*

Last year, I wrote that our Parish Hall was a big factor that lead to ministries being in a holding-pattern - We simply didn't have a multi-purpose space to run events and groups.

Praise God that this building project is finished, and we have already seen many good ministry opportunities come to fruition through it.



I'll refer you to the warden's report for a comprehensive list of how the hall was finished towards the end of 2022, but I mention it here to remind us all that the stewardship of our buildings and grounds is incredibly important for ministry. We want to keep our facilities open and flexible for different ways to share Jesus' love in word and action.

## *Aged Care Ministry - Naroo*

Whilst my ministry to Naroo has not been as regular as previous years, there has still been good significant ministry happening there - Chapel services have been held roughly on a monthly basis, and more frequently toward the end of the year. We usually have about 10-12 residents attend.

A few palliative patients have asked for pastoral care, and a few funerals were picked up from Naroo residents. And ongoing pastoral conversations with the staff at Naroo have been thankfully received.

This year, I also have tried to be more available to administer communion to those residents who have not been able to attend church due to their health - One such time saw 4 residents thankfully receive communion. And I wish to be more active on this front in the coming year.

Over the year, Covid or other viral lock-downs have hindered my access to Naroo, however these have only lasted for short periods, and I have found that the Naroo staff are then very grateful for me to come back into the facility - they have not seen these lockdowns as excuses to stop ministry altogether.

## *Hospital/Emergency Chaplaincy*

Our Local Health Advisory Committee (LHAC) lost its chair early this year, as the Hospital Service Manager moved over to Moree. In her absence, the board appointed me as its chair. It has been a tremendous privilege to serve in this manner, and has given good connection between our parish and the hospital, and opened more opportunities for pastoral and palliative care to acute and long-term patients in the MPS.

We started Chapel services at the MPS at the end of 2022, sharing them between Naroo and the Hospital. And this has been well received by all.

The Hospital committee allowed me to provide some complementary copies of a book called 'hope beyond cure' by Dave McDonald to put into the Palliative care room, and all 7 copies have been taken. I am in the middle of ordering more books.



Ongoing (unofficial) chaplaincy conversations and relationship are continuing with the Ambulance station staff, and the local policemen, and I am very grateful to God that he has given us a few new young Paramedics in our town, particularly Peter and Chloe who are committed Christians, and have hooked in at church.

Please keep praying for all our medical and emergency staff, as they fulfil their roles, and that God would be meeting them with his Gospel of Grace!

### *Occasional Services*

This last year, I had my first wedding in the parish (two in fact). One was in someone's backyard (for a couple in town), and the other was on a farm near Inverell, for a couple who live further afield - These commitments required ongoing marriage preparation, as well as government documentation, and preparation of the wedding services proper. And I am hopeful that our time together won't have just prepared them for marriage, but also commended the faith to each of these couples.

Three baptisms were performed (for my own children) in October 2022, which have been the first for (x) years. We also celebrate with Amie and Jamie who baptised their daughter Tessa in Tenterfield parish. A few other families from town inquired about baptism, but none have followed through as yet.

There were 8 funerals for the year (July 2022 to June 2023), held either at the church, or for a simple graveside in Warialda. The Funeral home have been incredibly helpful with each funeral and we maintain a good rapport with them.

### *Other community events & organisations*

Being a Christian in a small community gives us all different opportunities to be involved in other community organisations. And we are often equipped quite well to fulfil these roles. I encourage you to keep doing things that you enjoy, and to share Jesus in word and action in those contexts.

For example: our family has continued to be involved in RSL events, Australia Day, Warialda Show, Toy Library, Community Preschool (Lou is

on P&C), Primary School (I'm on P&C),

There are many other parishioners representing Christ in other groups: CWA, Men's Shed, Hospital Auxiliary, Naroo etc (too many to name, and I'm bound to have forgotten some). Keep up the good work, and ask for God to use these efforts for his purposes in our community.

### *Evangelism and Outreach*

At the beginning of this year, we held another Christianity Explored course - This was relatively well attended again, but I think the ratio of Christians to non-Christians was a bit out of kilter. I would love to run the course again soon, but if you're a Christian who has already done the course, I would ask you to invite a non-Christian friend along, if you are planning on joining this course again.

If you are just checking out Christianity, or would like to learn (or re-learn the basics of the Christian faith, I would commend this course to you - It's a wonderful time to regularly think about the meaning of life, and how Jesus fits in to it all.

It has been a joy to see our parish hall used to invite people into Community dinners, and evangelistic events like the men's BBQ. I hope that these will continue and grow in momentum.

### *Port Mac Student Mission Team*

In November 2022, the Port Macquarie Students came to town for a week of Mission. This was rescheduled after we cut the mission team in the previous year due to covid. During this week, the team ran Christmas scripture assemblies for Warialda and Gravesend Public Schools. They also door-knocked and letter-box dropped the whole town with Christmas flyers. They were involved with the Ginger-bread Making event, an evangelistic BBQ dinner at the McIntosh's farm, and visiting a farmer in Croppa Creek. At the end of the week, the Port Macquarie team ran our Sunday Church service. I have heard that the team were as blessed by the visit, as we were by them. They asked to come to us again for mission, but I encouraged the staff-worker to try somewhere else, so that the students get a broad range of experiences. Perhaps we will try for a different team in subsequent years.

## *Pastoral Care & Visitation*

Pastoral care is all of our jobs (not just the vicar) - Whilst I have been able to visit some people in their homes, the reality is that I cannot visit everyone, particularly as God seems to be growing our congregation.

Over this year, through the parish, we have cared for a few people in our community (and passing through) who have been dealing with homelessness, mental and physical health issues, court cases, and DV. We have been able to give food and vouchers, pastoral, spiritual and physical support to people doing it tough.

I am so encouraged to see and hear of many people around the parish caring for others in their day to day lives - meeting in homes and in town, cooking meals for others, reading the Bible and praying with each other. This is all part and parcel of our life together as God's people. Be encouraged! And keep it up!



Our family at the kids' baptism, with their Godparents & families.

## *Kids & Youth Ministry*

God has granted us lots of young children and youth over the last year. Which has given us a good problem to solve - how do we love and care for these little ones in a way that's helpful for them.

I am so grateful to the parish for exploring a regular Kids Church, and I am particularly thankful to Margaret Haug, Wendy Johnston & Louise who have put their hands up to run our first version of Kids Church (starting August 2023).

Church, this is something we have all been praying for regularly, so do thank God with me for his answer to prayer in this way! Please be praying that we can sustain this ministry, and grow it along with the children and young families that God grants us.

Youth ministry is a bit more hap-hazard within the parish. We have made use of various diocesan youth events to encourage the youth of our parish (eg. 'Youth Muster', 'Baraba Bash', 'Future Focussed'), and I would hope that as we gain more young adults and youth, we might be able to start a regular way to encourage these young ones in their faith - either by a regular bible study group, or more formal youth group.

Louise started Junior jivers in 2023, and I'll refer you to her report for more details.

## *Parish Administration & finances*

Cecile, our Treasurer has provided a report regarding our financial position, along with the reviewed financials from our 'honorary auditor'. I know the wardens have done so, but I wish to also thank Cecile (and Alison Allen our assistant treasurer) for all the hard work they have done with our finances over this year.

We have a wonderfully generous parish! Last year we were looking at a possible \$21,000 deficit. With some peculiar features in the accounting, it looked like a real-world deficit of \$6,000. After all is said and done, we only had a \$4,988 deficit (much better than the 'paper' and 'real-world' deficit). And this is all with receiving 11% more than budgeted in regular offertories, releasing \$2,000 more than what we budgeted for external mission, and seeing our Parish Hall Building Project done and dusted! And none of that takes into account the ways each one of us is generous to mission organisations, our neighbours, or other organisations outside of the parish books.

As we look at the financial year ahead, there are some challenges with rising costs and interest rates. The Parish Council have proposed a budget for approval, with an increase of offertory income of 7.8% to try and meet this shortfall. Even with this increase, we are looking at a deficit budget of \$13,643, which is not sustainable in the long-run.

Can I encourage you to consider how you might prayerfully and faithfully meet these needs, so that good ministry can keep going in our parish and town. Online direct deposit may be helpful to this end.

Our Diocesan Development Fund also has savings accounts which can direct 'bonus interest' to our parish, which could greatly help as another stream of income for us. If you have cash savings, you might consider putting it in such an account, to put your money to work for our parish (as well as attracting interest for yourself). You can find more information about this on the diocese website: [www.armidaleanglicandiocese.com](http://www.armidaleanglicandiocese.com)

### *Tech & Website*

We have kept our finger on the pulse regarding technology around church - Most notably, we upgraded our church computer and its connection to the projector in the church building.

For some time, our website was down, and so we organised to build a new website, which commends Jesus and his church to those in our community, visiting and moving to town. Whilst I don't expect our website to replace other forms of communication, I'm also hopeful that this updated website will enable us to organise events and host important parish information (like rosters, event info and forms etc) so that it's easily accessible for us all from a centralised location.

### *Supervision*

At last Synod, an ordinance was passed to require Professional supervision for all the clergy - This took effect in February 2023, and so I am now required to do 8 sessions of professional supervision per year with an accredited supervisor. The cost for this is borne 50/50 by the Parish and by the Diocese.

August 2023

These sessions have been helpful to a point, although I am still not sure whether they are worth the time and Financial cost.

In addition to this novel requirement, there are many other avenues of ministry support and accountability within our Anglican structures, and I am in constant personal contact with other clergy across our Diocese, in other Dioceses and overseas. I am grateful for all these structures, and thankfully do not feel isolated or unsupported in the ministry.

### *Parish Council*

Finally, I must also thank our Parish Council for their wealth of experience and knowledge, and their willingness to meet together to look after our parish.

Our Parish Council has been very similar over the last few years, and have worked very well together. I have expressed to our outgoing parish council, that I would be very happy to accept their nominations again, but that does not mean that fresh blood is not welcome.

In speaking with Rod Smith, he has also expressed his intention to stand as a warden for only one more year, and

so we need to think about who might replace him in the coming years also.

### *Please pray.*

PHEW! You made it through my report! Why not take a minute, and commit some of these things to the Lord - it's only according to His plans that we have the ability to do any of these good things that he places before us!

By Christ's grace alone,

Rev. Steve Cimarosti  
Vicar



# Churchwardens' Report

## *"An Encouraging Year"*

### Our Parish Hall

Our official re-opening was on Saturday 8th October, which was attended by parishioners, local dignitaries and BCA nomads. So far we have seen the hall being used for:

- + Port Macquarie students' visit
- + Gingerbread making event
- + Junior Jivers
- + Thursday afternoon Art Group
- + Ukulele Group (Tuesday afternoons)
- + Kids' Church on Sunday mornings
- + Men's BBQ
- + Pot-luck dinner and a progressive lunch

### Community health

Covid and influenza were still active, but less serious than in previous years.

## *Worship*

### Out-centres

Worship services continue to be held in Coolatai on the first Sunday of each month. The attendance at each meeting has been disappointing, with Coolatai attendees, on some occasions being outnumbered 9-1 by Warialda attendees.

The condition of the Coolatai building continues to deteriorate, and if this trend continues, it is possible that the venue could be declared non-compliant with Workplace Health and safety regulations and be too hazardous to host our monthly services.

A local builder has assessed the building's viability and put forward a list of actions that need to be effected to get the building brought up to scratch, but there seems to be little interest amongst the Coolatai population to take action on these issues.

This year, we have also been servicing the Yetman community on the first Sunday each month. It has been a slow start, but we are hopeful that interest in this new venture will increase as the year rolls on.

### Bible Study

There are presently two bible study groups meeting on Wednesday afternoon. We encourage you to join one of these groups and to do so, contact Janelle (0417 372 891) or Garth (0475 142 560).

## *Maintenance/Repairs*

### Parish Hall

Once again, it has been a HUGE year for church building and maintenance.

We entered this financial year with a considerable amount of work remaining ahead of us to complete the hall renovations. Thankfully, the M.M.M. (Mobile Mission Maintenance ) people returned in July (after the Covid outbreak in May caused their retreat). Some of them returned to complete painting inside, concreting the path in front of the office and meeting room, replacing the last of the rotted stumps and painting and attaching the skirt boards to the W. and N. side of the hall. The deck was also sanded and recoated with decking oil.

Over the following months, air conditioning, carpets and blinds were fitted to the office and meeting room and the office furniture set up.

A second-hand "smart board" provided by the Primary School was set up in the meeting room. Storm water drainage, with extra downpipes was fitted to the guttering on the Northern side of the building.

The hall internal floor was repaired, sanded and varnished; shelving was set up in the pantry and restocked with catering equipment; a large second hand glass fronted refrigerator was purchased and installed. A row of bushes were planted along the top of the rock wall with temporary bunting erected to hopefully stop children from hurting themselves.

At the official "reopening" of the hall and office complex on the 8th October about 80 people were in attendance for a bbq lunch. Steve addressed the crowd and said the thank you's. Mark Coulton and Adam Marshall also spoke briefly.



## **Storage Shed**

During March this year we began preparations for the erection of a storage shed adjacent to the western boundary and a convenient distance from the hall deck. This was truly a community effort. We are very grateful to the Rose family for providing a load of Cranky Rock gravel and sand for preparing the site; to the Gwydir Shire Council for carrying out the levelling and forming of the base for concreting; and Mark Brice for providing and setting up the formwork and doing the actual concreting with help from the men of the church on Saturday, 29th July, 2023. We used leftover concrete to form an extra section of path in the vicarage yard. The shed should be completed in mid-August.

There has been a great deal of work carried out at the vicarage, hall and church and we know it must be ongoing. We are very thankful to all who give their time and effort to our Lord in this way.

We were able to secure a grant of \$11,000 through Mark Coulton's Office for some air conditioning for the hall. Installation should be finished by the end of August 2023.

## ***Mission & Outreach***

### **Gillian Law (CMS)**

Gillian works in Rome for GBU (Gruppi Biblici Universitari), a student-based movement which unites students, and organises events focused on God's Word in universities up and down the country. GBU was established in 1950. GBU is the Italian branch of an international student movement called IFES (International Fellowship of Evangelical Students) which operates in more than 150 countries worldwide. Gillian corresponds with us regularly via her newsletters.

### **CMS Mission Encounter**

CMS Mission Encounter was held on August 4-5 August 2023 in Tamworth to learn more about God's saving work in the world, and how we can be involved. The main speaker was Peter Rodgers, former CMS Australia International Director. Peter spoke on the book of Habakkuk. The Cimarosti family attended the weekend.

## **Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF)**

MAF have been in contact with our church and as a result of this, Bill McIntosh organised a successful fundraiser (Jerry Cans for Aviation) for this organisation.

## ***Men's and Women's Ministry***

### **Men's Barbecue**

We were privileged to have Dr James White as guest speaker at our annual men's barbecue.

Our Parish Hall was filled to capacity on a very cold Autumn night to hear James tell of his experiences as a Christian GP in the bush. James immediately connected with his audience and generated a great deal of interest in his Christian experiences. James and his family stayed overnight and joined us for church next day.

### **Women's Dinner**

A women's dinner was held on 6th August 2022. Wendy Smith from Anglicare shared evangelistically from her personal testimony and from some Bible passages. Approximately 60 women from our town were in attendance.

### **Men@Glen**

This diocesan men's event was held in March this year at the Glen Innes Showground. It was well attended, with approximately 300 men participating. The main speaker was the Rev Greg Harris, the National Director of Bush Church Aid, speaking on the topic "What is Jesus doing now?". Dr Warwick Stiller, the Research Leader of the CSIRO cotton breeding team, gave his personal testimony. We had 8 Adults & youth attend from our parish.

## ***Other outreach***

### **Christmas Carols**

Our Carols Service in December last year was held at Captain Cook Park. It was an excellent night, with a good mixture of traditional carols modern Christian songs and lively kids' activities. Louise Cimarosti delivered a great Christmas message, using a large Christmas cracker, containing elements which reminded the audience of Christ's birth.

### **Town Christmas Party**

Our church was, once again, a visible presence in the community, with a shady tent-site as a refuge from the summer heat, and a place where adults and children alike could avail themselves of refreshments and a craft activity, painting small flat rocks that had been collected by our church members. Thanks go to the Bomford family for organising this kids' activity.

### ***Other News***

#### **Weekly Bulletin**

Thanks to Margaret for taking on this most important task. Your efficiency in getting the finished product onto the email system each week is very much appreciated.

#### **Work Health and Safety**

Work Health and Safety issues are reviewed regularly as a part of our Parish Council meetings, and are rectified where identified.

#### **Synod**

The 2023 Synod will be held on 22-24 September at the Armidale Town Hall, and our Parish will be represented by Rev. Steve Cimarosti, Bill McIntosh, and Rod Smith.

#### **Financial Stewardship**

We are grateful to two special people in our congregation – our Treasurer, Cecile Egan, and our Assistant Treasurer, Alison Allen, for the work that they have done during this last year.

Being the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer is a time-consuming, and at times extremely stressful job.

Rolling out Xero has been necessary for our church to remain compliant with the ATO's rigorous record-keeping expectations. This software has made it possible for Cecile to provide Parish Council with comprehensive, detailed and informative monthly reports.

Cecile has worked tirelessly to keep our financial records up to date, and to produce a budget to guide us through our next year. Alison has conscientiously checked and banked our finances weekly. We thank them both for their faithful stewardship of our finances. Our thanks also go to Tanya Stevens in Coolatai for assistance and guidance that she gives Cecile during the year, and to Melissa Landers for taking on the role of Honorary Auditor.

Weekly giving via direct deposit online transactions have helped maintain a constant income stream, even during times when church attendance is down due to school holidays and long weekends etc.

In Christian love

Rod and Garth



Parish Hall Open Day, 8<sup>th</sup> October 2023

# SRE Report

In 2022-23, SRE (Special Religious Education) has continued to be taught at Warialda Public School (WPS) by myself. It has been a joy to enter WPS every Friday morning and teach SRE.

We have more students enrolled in 2023, than the previous year - sitting at a little shy of 110 students. These students are split across 4 separate classes: Kindy, yrs 1-2, yrs 3-4 and yrs 5-6.

I am allowed 30 minutes of teaching time with each class and attempt to teach them a story from the Bible in an interactive way, teach them to pray, learn a memory verse and a sing a song. It's a huge undertaking requiring over 2 hours of prep time before I even step foot on the school grounds.

I am slowly getting to know the students better, helped a lot by August beginning school this year.

One initiative I have begun this year is a "Borrow Bible" system. Three kids from each class are allowed to borrow a "Jesus Storybook Bible" for a week. They can take it home and enjoy it as a family before returning it the following week for another student to enjoy. One girl was so enjoying it she asked me to note down the page she was up to so that when she had her turn again she could remember her place. I am hopeful this system will be providing opportunities for whole families to be reading the bible together.

As I mentioned last year, the teaching load I have is significant. If you have a passion for teaching the Bible to children and would like to be involved in this ministry, please let me know. There are requirements placed upon us by the Government and education system, but our church would love to train up others to be in the school. All the training is provided, and all you need is a heart that is willing to learn and serve.

Thanks,

Louise Cimarosti



Whilst we teach kids SRE in school, we see them all around town, and have many opportunities to love and care for them in Jesus' name.

# Junior Jivers Report

Junior Jivers is a music-based play group which began in February of 2023. The program is held every Wednesday morning during the term in the Parish Hall. Our target audience is children aged 0-5 with their parents/carers.

The main goal of the program is to provide a fun and engaging environment for children and adults, in the hopes that through song, story and conversation they might come to know and love Jesus. We only started in term 2, 2023, and what a joy it has been to watch God at work through this program already - in particular it has been wonderful to see a few Junior Jivers families come to church already.

## *Team*

The Junior Jivers team is currently made up of five volunteers: Raelene Jones, Eddie Ladmore, Wendy Johnston, Marian Lannon and Louise Cimarosti. Without these beautiful helpers, Junior Jivers would not be able to run and I am so thankful for their love and sacrifice for this ministry.



## *Attendance*

The program has 6 families who are committed to coming most weeks. The highest attendance was 15 children, and the lowest attendance was 2 children. We have seen a great up-tick in attendance since Term 3 began and look forward with anticipation to how God will use this time together.

## *Finances*

We ask families to pay \$2 per session to cover the ongoing costs of the ministry. These costs include things like craft materials, musical instruments and morning tea supplies. At the end of the 2022-23 financial year we had banked \$112.80 through the parish books.

If you would like to support the ministry of Junior Jivers, we have a few resources we'd like to purchase (musical instruments and play equipment) which would enhance the program. Please feel free to speak with me about a financial donation towards their purchase.

It would be safe to say that Junior Jivers has been a success in its first 6 months. Every week we see God working in both large and small ways through this ministry. The team and I are very grateful for the support of the church and the community. Please keep praying for this ministry: We're excited to see how God will use this time together to further his kingdom.

Louise Cimarosti



# Safe Ministry Report

Safe Ministry is an important system in place within our whole diocese to ensure that we maintain a safe environment and our duty of care for all people associated with our parish (volunteers, parishioners, visitors, and staff).

Whilst Safe Ministry Training is a requirement for Wardens, Parish Councillors, and Children's Volunteers within the parish, my ongoing encouragement is that every parishioner does the Safe Ministry Training course, so that we all can have our eyes open to care for each other well.

The Training course covers things like:

- ✦ Identifying and appointing appropriate leaders for Christian ministry,
- ✦ Safe practices to protect vulnerable people,
- ✦ Recognising and reporting abuse,
- ✦ Providing a safe physical & social environment within a church context.

This year, we had the Bishop's Assistant, the Rev. Ian Millican, run face-to-face training at our church, for those within the parish, and a few others across the diocese - We expect that this will become a common feature in the coming years, as it is much more accessible and a better learning experience than the same training online.

Our Parish continued to use the Safe Ministry Records Online (SaMRO), a secure online system, to record all our Safe Ministry data. Volunteers will get an email and/or SMS notification as their Working With Children Checks or Safe Ministry Training are close to expiry.

In the system, we have 20 people trained in the Safe Ministry Training (SMT) course as well as NSW Working With Children Check (WWCC) accredited. (This number is up from 13 last year).

As part of our Safe Ministry responsibilities, our parish has a Safe Ministry Representative. The Safe Ministry Representative ensures that we comply with Safe Ministry Protocols, and is the first point of contact for our parish, for any questions or concerns in this area.

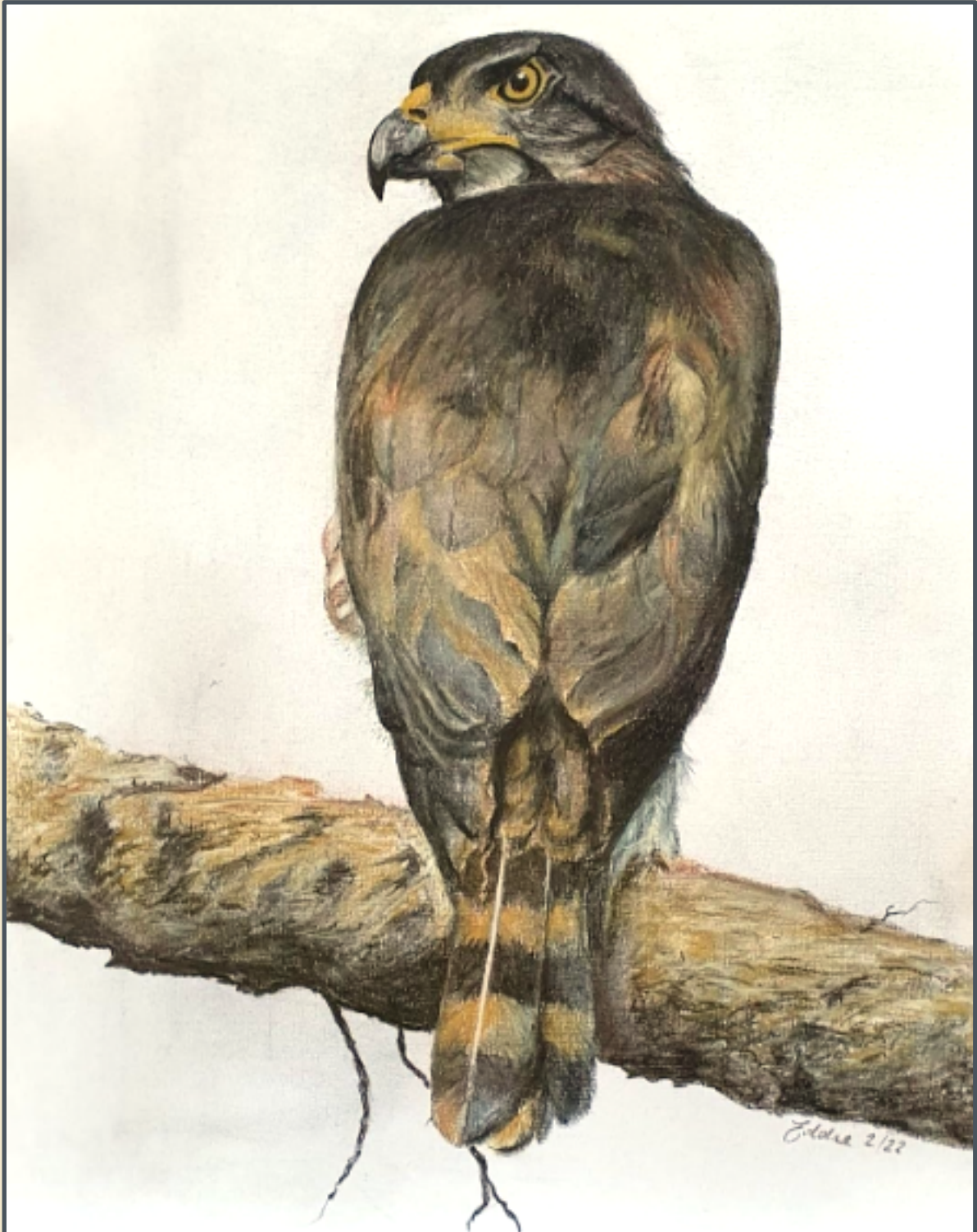
***Rev. Steve Cimarosti is our Safe Ministry Representative.***

For all Safe Ministry questions or concerns within the parish, please contact Steve on the parish phone number: (02) 6729 1501.

If the Safe Ministry concerns are related to Steve's personal conduct, then the next level of contact would be the Diocesan Registry Office at (02) 6772 4491.

Further information about Safe Ministry Policies, and our Diocesan code of conduct: "Faithfulness in Service" can be found on the Diocese website: [www.armidaleanglicandiocese.com](http://www.armidaleanglicandiocese.com)

# *Financial Reports*



*'Regalia' © 2022 Eddie Ladmore. Used with permission.*

# Balance Sheet

*St Simon's & St Jude's Anglican Church, Warialda*

*As at 30 June 2023*

## Assets

### Bank

Warialda Anglican Church Building Fund	5,649
Warialda Anglican Church General Fund S3	39,967
<b>Total Bank</b>	<b>45,616</b>

### Non-current Assets

Youth Ministry Seed Fund (AIDF)	2,141
<b>Total Non-current Assets</b>	<b>2,141</b>

**Total Assets** 47,757

## Liabilities

### Current Liabilities

GST	(3,383)
PAYG Withholdings Payable	828
Superannuation Payable	-
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>(2,554)</b>

### Non-current Liabilities

Loan-Armidale Diocese	25,870
<b>Total Non-current Liabilities</b>	<b>25,870</b>

**Total Liabilities** 23,315

**Net Assets** 24,442

## Equity

Current Year Earnings	(4,988)
Retained Earnings	29,430
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>24,442</b>

# Income Statement

*St Simon's & St Jude's Anglican Church, Warialda*

*For the year ended 30 June 2023*

## Income

<b>Offertories</b>	
Direct Deposit	59,742
Warialda	38,199
Coolatai	689
<b>Total Offertories</b>	<b>98,630</b>
<b>External Mission Giving</b>	
External Mission Giving	6,292
B CA Boxes Giving	652
<b>Total External Mission Giving</b>	<b>6,944</b>
<b>Other Income</b>	
Funerals/Occasional Services	1,950
Interest Income - Unrestricted	69
Miscellaneous	2,302
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>4,321</b>
Grant Income	10,000
Building Fund Giving	12,118
Mission MAF	330
Mission Ukraine	40
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>132,384</b>
<b>Gross Income</b>	<b>132,384</b>

## Expenditure

<b>Staffing Expenses</b>	
Stipend (inc. PAYG)	33,997
<b>Stipend Sacrifice &amp; Ministry Expenses</b>	
Stipend Sacrifice	21,945
<b>Ministry Expenses</b>	
Motor Vehicle Allowance	9,900
Mileage	2,199
Book & Tech. Allowance	1,000
Entertainment for the Parish	1,040
GST Reimbursement	405
<b>Total Ministry Expenses</b>	<b>14,139</b>
<b>Total Stipend Sacrifice &amp; Ministry Expenses</b>	<b>36,489</b>
Superannuation	9,632
Clergy Accident & Sickness Insurance (CASI)	567
Long Service Leave	1,626
Professional Development	608
<b>Total Staffing Expenses</b>	<b>82,919</b>



<b>Running Expenses</b>	
Church Services	347
Office & Administration	1,867
<b>Total Running Expenses</b>	<b>2,214</b>
<b>Electricity</b>	
Vicarage	1,562
Church Building	1,487
Parish Hall	936
<b>Total Electricity</b>	<b>3,985</b>
Diocesan Quota	10,488
Insurance	5,842
Outreach	1,636
Telephone & Internet	982
Water Rates	559
Vicarage Heating	299
<b>Property Expenses</b>	
Building Maintenance	4,756
Interest on Vicarage Renovation Loan	1,402
Parish Hall Renovation	9,960
<b>Total Property Expenses</b>	<b>16,117</b>
<b>External Mission Giving</b>	
CMS - Law G	2,084
Pioneers - G & R Appleby	2,034
North Kigesi Diocese in Uganda	2,035
BCA Boxes	652
<b>Total External Mission Giving</b>	<b>6,805</b>
SRE Materials	155
Volunteer Grant Redemption	5,000
Mission Ukraine - Open the Bible	40
Mission MAF- Jerrycan Father's Day	330
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>137,372</b>
<b>Deficit</b>	<b>(4,988)</b>

# Warialda Anglican Church

## Proposed Budget for Financial Year 2023-24

### - Expenditure

	BUDGET 2022-2023	ACTUAL 2022-2023	BUDGET 2023-2024
<b>STAFFING EXPENSES</b>			
Stipend (inc. PAYG)	\$ 33,997	\$ 33,997	\$ 35,629
Stipend Sacrifice & Ministry Expenses	\$ 36,000	\$ 36,490	\$ 38,300
Superannuation	\$ 9,633	\$ 9,632	\$ 10,095
Clergy Accident & Sickness Insurance (CASI)	\$ 567	\$ 567	\$ 594
Long Service Leave	\$ 1,596	\$ 1,626	\$ 1,656
Professional Development	\$ 1,000	\$ 608	\$ 600
<b>Category Total</b>	<b>\$ 82,793</b>	<b>\$ 82,920</b>	<b>\$ 86,874</b>
<b>RUNNING EXPENSES</b>			
Church Services	\$ 400	\$ 347	\$ 400
Kids Church Supplies			\$ 200
Outreach	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,636	\$ 2,000
Office & Administration	\$ 1,600	\$ 1,867	\$ 1,800
Electricity:			
Vicarage	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,562	\$ 1,500
Church Building	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,487	\$ 1,500
Parish Hall	\$ 1,200	\$ 936	\$ 1,200
Vicarage Heating	\$ 400	\$ 299	\$ 450
Water Rates	\$ 500	\$ 559	\$ 550
Diocesan Quota	\$ 10,488	\$ 10,488	\$ 10,632
Diocesan Events (Synod, clergy conf. etc.)			\$ 700
Insurance	\$ 6,714	\$ 5,842	\$ 7,000
Telephone & Internet	\$ 920	\$ 982	\$ 920
SRE Materials <sup>1</sup>	\$ -	\$ 155	\$ -
<b>Category Total</b>	<b>\$ 26,222</b>	<b>\$ 26,160</b>	<b>\$ 28,852</b>
<b>PROPERTY EXPENSES</b>			
Building Maintenance	\$ 3,000	\$ 4,755	\$ 3,000
Interest on Vicarage Renovation Loan	\$ 1,350	\$ 1,402	\$ 1,578
<i>Vicarage Renovation Loan Principal<sup>2</sup></i>	\$ 1,650		\$ 2,622
Parish Hall Renovation	\$ 5,000	\$ 9,960	\$ 1,000
Government Grant Redemption	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 11,000
<b>Category Total</b>	<b>\$ 16,000</b>	<b>\$ 21,117</b>	<b>\$ 19,200</b>
<b>EXTERNAL MISSION GIVING</b>			
	<b>\$ 5,000</b>	<b>\$ 7,175</b>	<b>\$ 5,000</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>			
	<b>\$ 130,015</b>	<b>\$ 137,372</b>	<b>\$ 139,926</b>

# Warialda Anglican Church

## Proposed Budget for Financial Year 2023-24

### - Income

	BUDGET 2022-2023	ACTUAL 2022-2023	BUDGET 2023-2024
<b>OFFERTORIES</b>			
Direct Deposit	\$ 55,000	\$ 59,742	\$ 60,000
Warialda	\$ 33,000	\$ 38,199	\$ 35,000
Coolatai	\$ 800	\$ 689	\$ 800
<b>Category Total</b>	<b>\$ 88,800</b>	<b>\$ 98,630</b>	<b>\$ 95,800</b>
<b>EXTERNAL MISSION GIVING</b>			
	<b>\$ 5,000</b>	<b>\$ 7,314</b>	<b>\$ 5,000</b>
<b>BUILDING FUND GIVING</b>			
	<b>\$ 11,000</b>	<b>\$ 12,118</b>	<b>\$ 8,000</b>
<b>OTHER INCOME</b>			
Funerals/Occasional Services	\$ 1,250	\$ 1,950	\$ 1,500
Grant Income <sup>3</sup>	\$ 1,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 11,000
Interest Income	\$ -	\$ 70	\$ -
Hall Hire <sup>4</sup>			\$ -
Clergy Supply (Yetman Parish)			\$ 500
ATO GST Refund <sup>5</sup>	\$ 1,900		\$ 3,383
Miscellaneous	\$ -	\$ 2,302	\$ 1,107
<b>Category Total</b>	<b>\$ 4,150</b>	<b>\$ 14,322</b>	<b>\$ 17,490</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>			
	<b>\$ 108,950</b>	<b>\$ 132,384</b>	<b>\$ 126,290</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE (From opposite)</b>			
	<b>\$ 130,015</b>	<b>\$ 137,372</b>	<b>\$ 139,926</b>
<b>SURPLUS/DEFICIT</b>			
	<b>\$ (21,065)</b>	<b>\$ (4,988)</b>	<b>\$ (13,643)</b>

#### Explanatory footnotes

1. There is currently \$1,568 in reserves for SRE materials, although no figure is budgeted in the annual budget.
2. This is not technically an 'actual expense', so not included in last year's actuals, but is considered an expense for budgeting purposes. Currently, the parish is attempting to pay slightly more principal than required, so as to pay off the loan quicker.
3. A \$11,000 government grant has been received to cover the purchase and install of air conditioning units in the Parish Hall. This corresponds to a \$11,000 Government Grant Redemption expense.
4. This is a new budget category, as we are now able to hire out the parish hall to individuals and/or groups, however we do yet know how many such events we expect for the 2023-24 financial year.
5. GST Refund is not technically 'income', so not included in last year's actuals, but is considered as income for budgeting purposes. We are owed \$3,383 of GST refund from ministry purchases in 2022-23.

Melissa Landers  
5 Holden Street  
WARIALDA NSW 2402  
0408 582 085  
dmlanders@bigpond.com

26<sup>th</sup> July 2023

**St Simon's & St Jude's Anglican Church Warialda**

**Review of year ending 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

I have reviewed a selection of the transactions and supporting documentation made available of St Simon's and St Jude's Anglican Church Warialda for the year ended 30 June 2023.

In my opinion, based on the information supplied, the Balance Sheet and accompanying Income Statement are properly drawn up as to give you a true and fair view of the St Simon's and St Jude's Anglican Church Warialda affairs and the operations of for the year ended 30 June 2023.

I take no responsibility for the correctness of the church's accounting system but believe it to be correct at the time of this review.



**Melissa Landers**



# 2022 AGM *Minutes*



*'In Kay's Garden' © 2023 Janelle Smith. Used with permission.*

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting  
Sts Simon and Jude Anglican Church Warialda  
Sunday, 14th August, 2022**

**1. Welcome:** Meeting opened 11.00 am with prayer

**2. Secretary for the Meeting appointed/elected**

Moved Garth, seconded Janelle: Margaret be elected as Secretary. **Carried.**

**3. Declaration of a Quorum, Attendance and Apologies**

(Quorum = 7) Quorum declared.

*Present:* See attached sign-on sheets

*Apologies:* Heather Gilmour, Bill McIntosh, Amy McIntosh, Noeline Warby, John Tumbridge

**4. Call for items of General Business (to be included for discussion)**

No further items for discussion.

**Motion from the Chair:** List of items for General Business to be closed and agenda accepted with amendments (point 11 – 3 Parish Councillors and 3 Parish Nominators). **Carried**

**5. Declaration of Vacancies**

The Chair declared all positions (wardens, parish councillors, parish nominators) vacant.

**6. Reports for Tabling and Adoption**

**Motion from the Chair:** To receive all reports as read. **Carried**

a) The Vicar's Report was tabled as read and questions and comments from the floor were dealt with. Steve spoke again about attendance at services and noted that service numbers have remained stable while attendance at Easter and Christmas services has increased considerably. Louise has revamped the kid's corner at the back of the church with new furniture. Steve also noted that Louise would like to start a Mums and Bubs music group in the new hall. Steve is also hoping to set up a youth group when the hall is open. Steve offered a thank you to Cecile Egan for her time and effort put into maintaining and operating our church finances. Dr Di Coote thanked Steve for establishing church services at the hospital and Naroo. Question from the floor about other parishioners attending those services. Steve said he has company occasionally but would welcome others to attend with him on a regular basis. Moved from the chair: that the Vicar's Report be received. **Carried**

b) The Warden's Report was tabled as read and questions and comments from the floor were dealt with. Rod spoke to the report and offered his thanks to Steve, Louise, parish councillors and others for the work that has gone on in the past year. Garth spoke to the report and added his thanks. He amended the subtitle 'Women's Barbeque' to 'Women's Dinner'. He noted there were 69 attendees in total and that a great evening was had by all. Rod and Garth moved the report be accepted. **Carried**

c) The Audited Financial Statements for Financial Year 1 July, 2021- 30 June, 2022 were tabled. Cecile reflected on God's faithfulness for meeting both our spiritual and financial needs. She thanked the parishioners for the sacrificial generosity given to the church. Cecile then shared a verse from scripture as we work together for God's glory – Philippians 1:6, *being confident of this, That He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.* Cecile noted that giving by parishioners and income from other sources have again enabled the church to grow and we were able to pay the stipend and ministry expenses of the vicar, pay for the running costs of

the church, pay for building maintenance, parish hall renovation and the loan amortisation. All these commitments were paid on time. The church has supported our mission partners both through prayer and generous giving.

Overall, our financial position has improved compared to the previous year. Last year it was a net loss of \$6,382 and this year it was a net profit of \$9,457. The consolidated bank balance in the financial year 2021 was \$40,728 and in the financial year 2022 was \$53,569 \_ up 31.5%.

Cecile thanked Alison Allen for the marvellous job she has done again as assistant treasurer and that they work well in tandem on the church finances.

Moved: Cecile, seconded Janelle: that the Treasurer's Report be adopted. **Carried**

### **7. Adoption of Budget for 2022-2023**

This budget was prepared in consultation with Steve and Alison and based on the actual expenditure and income for the year just concluded, and other relevant information.

Since preparing the budget there has been an additional \$5,000 funding received in June and further \$10,000 grant from the Armidale diocese, therefore the deficit should only be \$6,065.

Moved Cecile seconded Alison: that the budget for 2022-2023 be adopted as written. **Carried**

### **8. Adoption of mission organisations to be supported in 2022-2023**

Motion moved Janelle Smith, seconded Dr Di Coote: to split mission monies received by the parish equally between our mission partners CMS, Pioneers and the North Kigezi Diocese. **Carried**

The Chair formally moved a vote of thanks to Cecile and Alison. **Carried with acclamation**

### **9. Other reports to be tabled and/or read**

*The following reports were adopted as read and questions were dealt with.*

a) SRE

Garth Skinner moved a vote of thanks to Louise for her work with SRE. Second Robyn Burge.

**Carried**

b) Safe Ministry

### **10. Appreciation of retiring Councillors**

The chair expressed thanks to the out-going wardens, councillors and nominators.

### **11. Election Nominations**

Nominations received met numbers required without need for a vote.

**Motion from Chair:** the candidates be elected unopposed for the positions of parish wardens, councillors and nominators. **Carried**

Rod Smith – Warden

Garth Skinner – Vicar's Warden

Helen Rose, Alison Allen, Margaret Haug – Parish Councillors

Bill McIntosh, Janelle Smith, Garth Skinner – Parish Nominators

### **12. Appointment of Honorary Auditor for 2022-2023**

Moved Rod Smith, seconded Robyn Burge: to appoint Melissa Landers as honorary auditor for 2022-2023. **Carried**

### **13. Items of General Business**

There were no items of general business.

### **14. Appointment of AGM minutes' approval and signing**

**Motion from the Chair,** seconded Louise Cimarosti: that the minutes of the AGM be read at next Parish Council General Meeting and signed as an accurate record at that meeting. **Carried**

### **15. Close** Meeting closed at 11:50 am with prayer





*[www.warialdaanglican.org.au](http://www.warialdaanglican.org.au)*

Front Image: "Versaille. The roofs of the city" Zinaida Serebriakova (1924), Public Domain  
Back Image: "Still life with Bible", Vincent Van Gogh (c. 1885), Public Domain

