



## The Sapphire Coast Uniting Churches "Mouse"

December

*Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.*

**Luke 2:14**

Here we are, another year almost over. I personally have never felt a year go by so quickly. It seems the older you get the faster time goes. We have settled into having David with us full time and it is so much easier for all concerned. Rev. David can actually call Merimbula home. It must be so much better having his home in one place. He now has a shed in the back yard which will give him storage space for his bike and surplus belongings.

Church members are looking forward to welcoming the visitors who will be attending the services over the Christmas period. I'm sure we will be seeing some familiar faces returning to holiday in our beautiful surrounds. Lord help us survive the parking situation in Merimbula over the holidays.

### **Easy 3 Ingredient Christmas Cake:**

1 kg mixed dried fruit, 600 mls . iced coffee, 2 cups SR flour

**Method:** Preheat oven to 180\*

Tip the fruit into a large bowl and add the iced coffee. Leave to soak over night.

Stir in the self-raising flour.

Pour the mixture into a greased cake tin and bake in a moderate oven for roughly an hour or until the cake springs back in the middle.

Orange juice or iced chocolate may be used instead of coffee. Add a little brandy if liked.



**From home to home and heart to heart, from one place to another, the warmth and joy of Christmas brings us closer to each other.**

.....  
**Faith makes all things possible, Hope makes all things work, Love makes all things beautiful, May you have all three this Christmas. MERRY CHRISTMAS!**



### **Op Shop News**

*Corinne (Coordinating Manager)*

The Op shop has been doing extremely well over the last few months. The last few weeks we have received huge amounts of donations, I think because Vinnies has been closed for weeks for renovations and we are getting things that would perhaps have gone to them. We are overflowing with goods, in fact, bursting at the seams. The Management committee decided that as of Friday 8<sup>th</sup> we will not be accepting electrical goods. Bob Ross has decided not to continue testing electrical because of lack of space. This does not mean that they will not be left at our door however. We will either have to pass them on to someone else or throw them out. Thank you to Bob for his years of tireless work.

We recently donated approx. \$2,000 worth of clothing, kitchen wares and other surplus stock to a couple from Bungendore, Brian and Ann Lamont, who take a full ute and trailer loaded with goods (around 1500 kgs) to Alice springs and Hermannsburg. From there the goods are distributed to the very far outlying communities who have nothing. Most needed items are men's suits and white shirts, ladies black skirts and white blouses for funerals and floral arrangements to put on the graves because of the high rate of suicides caused by hopelessness, drugs and lack of esteem. We will be sending another load in February. Brian and Ann were most appreciative of our donation.

The staff enjoyed a very delicious Christmas luncheon at the RSL club, to thank them in some small way for the wonderful job they do at the op shop. They give their time so willingly. We have 3 new volunteers starting in the New Year. Unfortunately we are going to lose Irene as she and her husband are moving up north. She will be sadly missed. We hope she will be very happy in her new home. Our thoughts at this time are especially with Howard and his family, also with those staff who are having medical problems at the moment.

All the best in the months ahead. *Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year to all the staff.*



### **Council Clips**

The Annual General meeting of church council was held in November. Colin Manley was again elected Chairperson, Jeff Haynes Treasurer and with the resignation of Paul Dawson as Secretary, John Osborne was elected to that position. John and his wife Jeanette (my niece) have been regular attenders at church since moving to Mirador last September. Thank you to those three men for stepping up to those positions. We wish them many blessings in the year ahead as they carry out the church business. All other coordinating positions stayed the same. Thanks must go to those people as well, because these are the ones who help to keep the church running smoothly.



### **Community Visitors Scheme**      *Susie Morrison*

All had a gorgeous Christmas lunch at the Wharf this year. I will be retiring June 2018 and have a terrific replacement lined up. Greg Wollaston has been working the past few years for CVS and is keen to take over.

Our last Committee meeting was held at the Rockpool and we enjoyed the lunch for Christmas.

Our love goes to Shirley as she faces Peter's loss and our prayers are with her at this time.

Merry Christmas to all!      *Susie*

**Saturday 23rd December 2017**



**A COMBINED CHURCHES SERVICE**

**Of Carols and readings**

**IMLAY House**

**Pambula**

**Afternoon Tea will be served**

**PLEASE JOIN WITH REPRESENTATIVES  
FROM LOCAL CHURCHES**

**at**

**IMLAY House**

**Pambula**

**Afternoon Tea will be served**

**PLEASE JOIN WITH REPRESENTATIVES  
FROM LOCAL CHURCHES**

**&**

**THE RESIDENTS & STAFF  
OF IMLAY HOUSE**

**IN CELEBRATING  
THE JOYFUL CHRISTMAS  
SEASON**

## IMLAY HOUSE

Older people have so much to offer and we can learn so much from them ..... but we do need to take the time to sit and talk with them and listen to their wisdom

*The services at IMLAY HOUSE are being held at 2pm on the first Saturday of each month.*

These services continue to be well attended and appreciated by the residents and the staff at IMLAY have been wonderfully supportive.

**Audrey** has become an “unofficial” Chaplain at IMLAY where she is able to visit the residents as & when they most need it. Audrey in this most important Pastoral Care task with the residents and their families.

We are glad that **Iris & Libby** have responded to the call for people to help with our monthly Service at IMLAY. It is great to have this help. If anyone else is able to help, please let David know as you would be very welcome to join in this very rewarding ministry.

**Susie's** Mother **Meron** has now moved from Melbourne to IMLAY and is beginning to settle in to Caris Unit. We pray for her and all other new Residents of IMLAY as they move into their new situation.

**The weekly Prayer Group** meets at IMLAY every **Wednesday at 10.30am in the small Chapel**. Residents are made aware of this gathering & are warmly encouraged & welcome to attend.

**It would be great if other members of the Congregation could come and join the regulars once in a while too.**

Of course, the other important part of the Ministry at IMLAY is the people who visit residents there as part of the **CVS Programme**, which provides a vital connection for both residents and visitors. We could always use new people who are prepared to volunteer time to this important work, so if you or someone you know is interested in this sort of Ministry then please speak with our **CVS Coordinator – Susie Morrison**.



Ladies Fellowship

*Corinne Nicolson*

There were only 3 ladies in attendance at the November meeting as it was pouring rain. David was to speak to us about his time in Arnhem Land, but we quickly phoned him and cancelled. We will arrange this for another date. The ladies along with their gents enjoyed a lovely Christmas lunch at Comfort Inn again this year.. Again the hosts were very nice to us and it is so good because we have the restaurant to ourselves. There is a new chef there and he was very happy to please us. They open especially for group luncheons.

The next meeting will be held in February when we will again meet for lunch, venue undecided as yet.



### Merimbula Mutterings

A short note from Tony: We are extremely proud of our granddaughter, **Aislin Jones**. Aislin who lives in Lakes Entrance became interested in clay target shooting at the age of 12 years while watching her father shoot

She quickly demonstrated an excellent ability in the sport and very soon was out- shooting her father and winning junior and then senior state titles all over Australia. Her specific discipline is skeet shooting. Last year at age of 16 she became the youngest shooter to represent Australia at the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, where she finished in the middle of the 'pack'. She has represented Australia at events in Germany, Italy, Mexico, Russia, India and Azerbaijan.

She has recently finished on top of qualifiers in her discipline for the Commonwealth Games to be held in Queensland next year. Needless to say we have got our tickets.

Despite all her training and travelling in Australia and overseas she has done very well at school and has received several academic awards. She has just finished Year 11 and was able to do two Year 12 subjects at the same time. Interestingly, her younger sister has recently taken up the sport and a month ago won the Victorian Junior School title

**Congratulations Aislin**



**Joan and Royce** are also very proud of their niece who recently won the coveted Garryowen held at the Melbourne showground as part of the Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria Horses in Action Program. Their niece is **Catherine Neill** and she has won the most prestigious award in equestrian in Australia. The horse was well known as a difficult horse but with Catherine's care, he is now a most placid and well behaved horse.

The Garryowen was first held in 1934 and is named in honour of Mrs. Violet Murrell who at the age of 29 tragically died in a fire trying to save her much loved champion Garryowen.

#### **Congratulations Catherine**



All of our church family have arrived home safely from their various holidays, many soon to be travelling away again to join families for Christmas. You will have noticed the change of the setting of the church pews. The church is looking very festive. Some of our church members spent Thursday afternoon packing the Christmas hampers ready to go out to the needy. We have more on our list this year, mostly found through the Op Shop. Many thanks to all who donated goods for the hampers. Our needy folk will really appreciate your generosity. There are so many needing help, but we can't help everyone. We can only hope that our small effort will bring joy to someone's heart this Christmas.



#### *Lyn Scrymgeour*

The Wyndham Singers have been busy in recent weeks performing for Bimbimbie, Imlay House and the Panorama Club.

#### **WYNDHAM CHRISTMAS CAROLS**

2.30 pm Sunday 17 December

Come and meet our Town Crier on the steps of Wyndham Store

Then sing Christmas Carols with us  
as we journey to Wyndham Uniting Church for a  
TRADITIONAL CAROL SERVICE

Organised by the combined Churches of Wyndham)

**Christmas Blessings to all!**



#### **MINISTER'S BITS & PIECES**

**December 2017**

(from my Report to the last Church Council Meeting)

##### **A New vision of Elders**

It is my belief that Elders might become a group which works & prays with me to develop new approaches to Ministry going forward as well as being a group that cares for the membership of our community and ensures that no one "slips through the gaps" and that new members are welcomed and encouraged to find a 'home' within this community.

##### **Establishment of a weekly bible study groups**

- 40 copies of the "**Advent: A Calendar of Devotion**" have been purchased and will be available on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November.
- I will be leading an **Advent Study Series on Saturday evenings from 6-7pm on Saturday evenings** starting on 2 December. The venue for these studies will be at the Church.

In the 2018 I will begin a **study group that will meet fortnightly in the Manse**. I hope that through these gatherings people will get the opportunity to gather together beyond Sunday mornings to develop our "faith community".

### Provision of consistent spiritual input & teaching

- From Sunday 3rd December Shirley McLennan has been leading a

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- **new" preparation for worship" in Merimbula.** Everyone is invited to participate in a short period of centering exercises & meditation from about 9.40am in the room
- between the Hall & the Church and to then move into the Worship space quietly and prepare quietly for the Service. Whilst this won't be for everyone it will nevertheless be an important addition to our shared worship.
- I will be holding a **"Week of Mediations" leading up to Christmas every evening from Monday 18th – Saturday 23rd December for a period of 30-40 minutes starting at 7.00pm in the Church** This will be a chance to meditate on the meaning of Christmas and to enable us to clear our hearts and spirits from the hustle & bustle that is our "modern western celebration of Xmas
- Starting in 2018 and over time there will be "stylistic" changes with some Sundays being given over to exploring different ways of worshipping.

### Help in training the current Lay Leaders in leading worship

In 2018 I hope that there will be some interest in people gathering for a "worship planning & lectionary discussion group" on a fortnightly or monthly basis to enable our worship to have a greater sense of ownership and participation

### Social Justice

- **The Social Justice Advocates Group** is an ecumenical group which does a great deal about dealing with issues at a local level. I encourage our members to get involved with this group. A good start would be to volunteer some time to work in the annual 'pop-up' Samaritan Shop which runs from December through January at the Masonic Hall in Pambula.
- I hope that in 2018 we might **begin to develop a better understanding of and some closer working relationships with our local indigenous community.** I hope that this might lead to our Congregations "Covenanting" with our local first peoples.

### WHERE TO FROM HERE .....?

During Worship on 30<sup>th</sup> July I posed the following questions:

1. **Why do we do what we do as a Church?**
2. **What will this church look like in the next 3-5 years? Will we be the same or similar to the way we are today?**
3. **What 2 or 3 things would we like to see changed? Do we want change at all - or more of the same?**
4. **What dreams, hopes & expectations do we have for this congregation?**

I previously raised some possible "ministries" to be explored:

1. "Healing Holidays"
2. "Mindful walking tours"
3. "Ministry to lonely hearts"
4. "Blue Waters conference Centre"
5. "Sapphire Arts Ministry"

The question that **WE (not just me)** need to consider is **what COULD we do** and **where MIGHT we go** from here. This is **OUR** ministry together and we need to listen for & discern the leading of our God as we move forward.

David

***My commitment over the next 3 years will be to focus on developing a strong and growing community of faith here & to lead the community of faith here in the SCUCs to a position where there is a sustainable future & a thriving Ministry that is able to go beyond this three year placement.***





Isaiah 9:6-7

6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.



You do know what would have happened if it had been three wise WOMEN instead of men, don't you? They would have asked for directions, arrived on time, helped deliver the baby, cleaned the stable, made a casserole, and brought disposable diapers as gifts.

