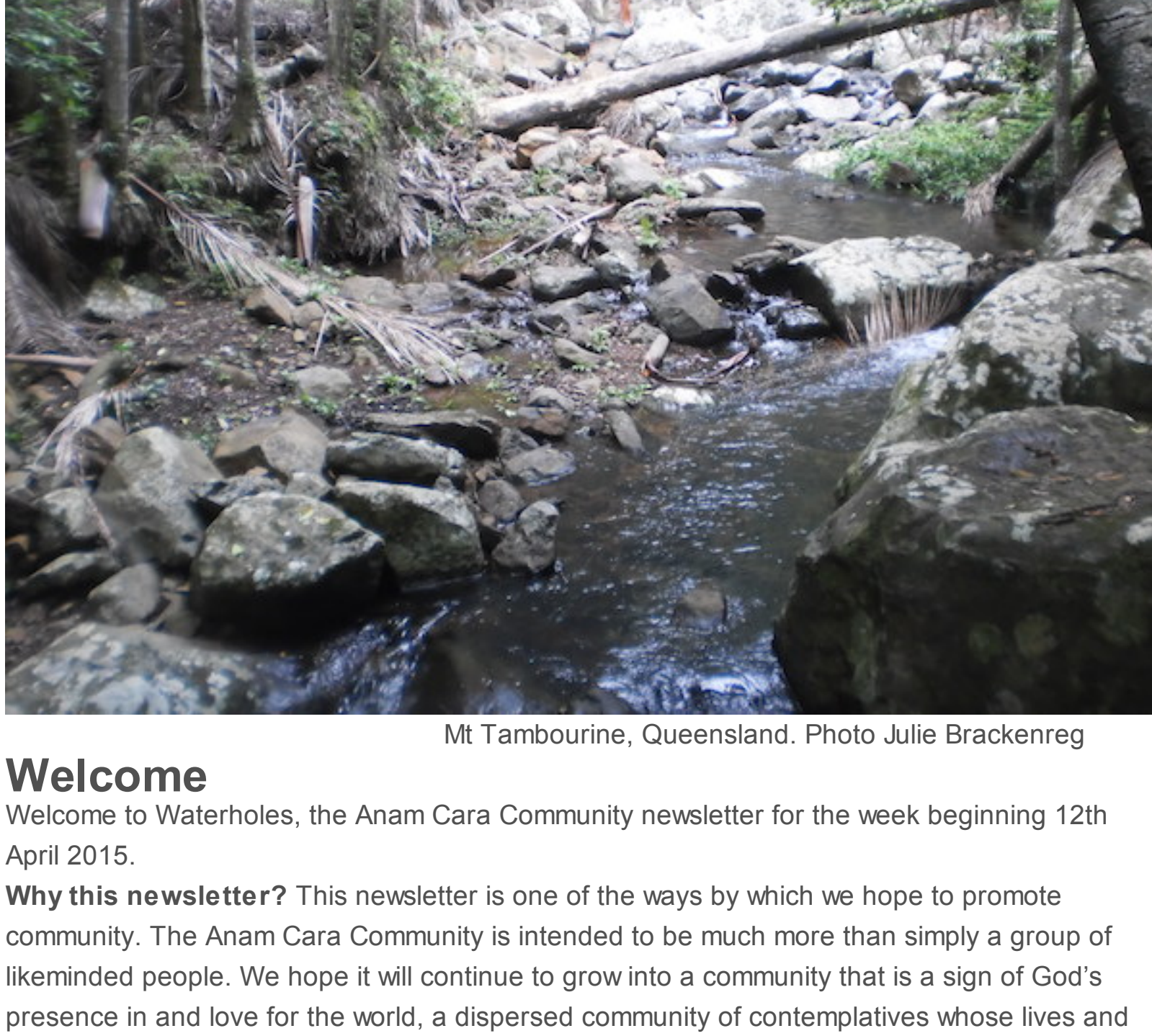


God is LOVE

Anam Cara Community



Waterholes: 11th April 2015



Mt Tambourine, Queensland. Photo Julie Brackenreg

Welcome

Welcome to Waterholes, the Anam Cara Community newsletter for the week beginning 12th April 2015.

Why this newsletter? This newsletter is one of the ways by which we hope to promote community. The Anam Cara Community is intended to be much more than simply a group of likeminded people. We hope it will continue to grow into a community that is a sign of God's presence in and love for the world, a dispersed community of contemplatives whose lives and action bring peace and healing to all of God's children. We are a Community of Prayer, and believe that as we pray together, God calls us deeper into fellowship with one another.

Who is welcome? The Anam Cara Community is proud to welcome anyone, from any background or faith community (or none!). We are an open and inclusive community that affirms the dignity and worth of all humans, the value of the environment, and seeks to model a way of living with one another and the world that points to the love and care of God for everyone. Individuals who wish to formally join the Community are welcome to become associates.

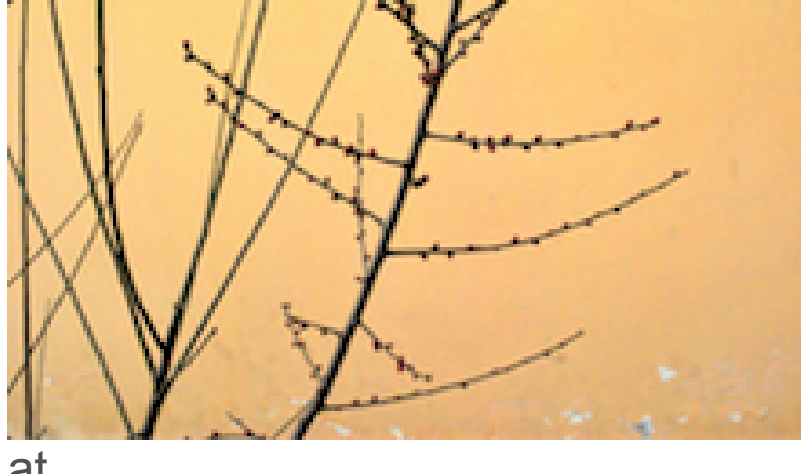
Coming Community Events

1. Quiet Day... NEXT SATURDAY... 18th April 2015

'Growing into God - embracing the mystery'

A time to discern God's voice and call in our lives.

Led by Kate Campbell and Val Lawrence



at
St Mary's Anglican Church Morwell

on

Saturday 18 April 2015 9.30am – 3.30pm

Cost Nil - \$15 depending on means

BYO lunch: tea/coffee/provided

More information?

Contact Kate 0402 514 829 khcampbell55@gmail.com

vglawrence1@dodo.com

Please RSVP to Kate or Val to help with our planning, thank you.

2. Quiet Day - Saturday 20th June 2015

For your prayers

Part of the joy of the Anam Cara Community is the gift of being called to pray for others. If you would like the Community to pray for you, or for someone else, please email or call Jane ([0411 316 346](tel:0411316346) or jemacqueen@gmail.com) who will add them to the prayer list, and ensure they are included in our roster of prayers.

At present, our prayers are asked for:

- An end to the fighting in Yarmouk refugee camp in Syria, safe passages for refugees and access to humanitarian aid.
- The Sudanese community around Wyndham as they support family members following the tragic death of three young children. For 5 year old Awel recovering in hospital.
- The family of murder victim Stephanie Scott, fiancé Aaron and the Leeton community.
- Thanksgiving for the rescue and recovery of Luke Shambrook.
- For the efforts of all who work for mercy and an end to the capital punishment around the world.
- All individuals and families around the world touched by tragedy as a result of the inhumane actions of others, the people of Yemen, Pakistan, Nigeria, Syria, Iraq, hostages and prisoners and those suffering who are known only to God.
- Refugees and asylum seekers. For just and compassionate policies particularly in our own country.
- Bishop elect The Rev'd Chris McLeod who will be consecrated today at St Peter's Cathedral, Adelaide. As an Aboriginal Bishop Chris McLeod will be responsible for developing and overseeing ministry among Aboriginal people.
- Bishop Kay Goldsworthy and the Registry Staff.
- Kate Campbell and Val Lawrence in their final preparations for the Quiet Day next Saturday.
- Associates who are unwell and have asked for our prayers: Barb Logan, Sue Hopkins, Kate Bristow, Norma and June.

Some of our Associates are in a place where we are privileged to offer ongoing prayers for them:

- Anne Turner as she faithfully continues her ministries of soul care and prayer and journeys with her deteriorating body.
- Larissa Dial and her family as Larissa continues to struggle with relapsed ovarian cancer and receives palliative chemo.

A number of parishes in our Diocese are seeking new incumbents. I include this prayer to encourage us in our prayers for the diocese and for wisdom and discernment for all clergy appointments advisory boards.

A prayer at the time of choosing an Incumbent.

Bountiful God,

give to these parishes faithful pastors

who will faithfully speak your word

and minister your sacraments;

an encourager who will equip your people for ministry

and enable us to fulfil our calling.

Give to those who will choose, wisdom, discernment and patience,

and to us give warm and generous hearts,

for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

The Prayer of the Day.

Risen Christ,

whose absence leaves us in despair

but whose presence is overwhelming:

breathe on us with your abundant life,

that where we cannot see

we may have courage to believe

that we may be raised with you. Amen.

Scripture Reflection

Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 4.32-37; Ps 133; 1 John 1.1 – 2.2; John 20.19-31

Reflection: The Rev'd Marilyn Obersby, Associate Priest St James Traralgon.

So here we are, a week after the turbulent events of Holy Week and Easter Day. Over 2000 years after those events, we live with the benefits of hindsight denied those first disciples. Yet we also live a long time after the eyewitnesses to those events, and so our faith is crucial to our journey with Jesus.

It is well that Jesus said to Thomas a week after the resurrection: 'Blessed are those who have not seen me, yet believe,' for that is the category into which all of us fit. For those first followers of Jesus the resurrection and Jesus' true identity was a difficult concept to grasp, and they had spent years with Jesus on the road, observing firsthand his miracles, hearing his teaching and being his confidantes. We rely on faith and the leading of the Holy Spirit to lead us on our earthly pilgrimage.

Jesus lived in turbulent times in the Middle East, with tribal wars and the might of the Roman Empire overshadowing everyone's lives. We live in no less turbulent times ourselves. The Middle East is still a hotbed of ferment, Israel is still contentious and now we have ISIS to contend with worldwide.

In most Western countries Christianity is increasingly irrelevant to people's lives and beliefs. Most see no need for a God at all. Yet we see young people being radicalised and going off to join what can only be described as a violent, criminal group, using God's name, as so many have done throughout history, as the excuse for their actions.

Why is this happening now? Is it because there is an increasing vacuum of meaning in people's lives? Do people need a cause to live for, and in the absence of a worthy cause, turn to something that seems to offer them meaning?

What are the values of God's rule being lived out and modelled? Have we, as Western Christians, become complacent and flaccid in living out Christ's commission to us and failed to hand on the traditions of our faith so that it is meaningful to our children and their children?

In Kenya this week, three young women kneeling before the gunmen on their university campus invoked Jesus' name, and were immediately shot and killed. They were three among about one hundred and fifty young Christian students targeted and killed by the gunmen. These are just the latest in a large number of people being killed by ISIS and their sympathisers because they are Christian.

When we hear of the seemingly unstoppable rampaging of ISIS through several regions, it is hard to remain positive sometimes and to trust that there will be an end to their power and violence. Many have felt the same at different times in human history, yet eventually evil is always overcome.

Jesus' death and resurrection were cosmic events, reconciling all creation to God. More than anything, Jesus showed us that God is love and that to turn to Christ brings hope and peace. It's a message our world and its peoples desperately need to hear right now. Let us bring our prayers to God for an end to this present evil, and pray that the great news of Good Friday and Easter may once again become relevant to our society and bring meaning and redemption and renewal to people's lives.

Photo Reflection

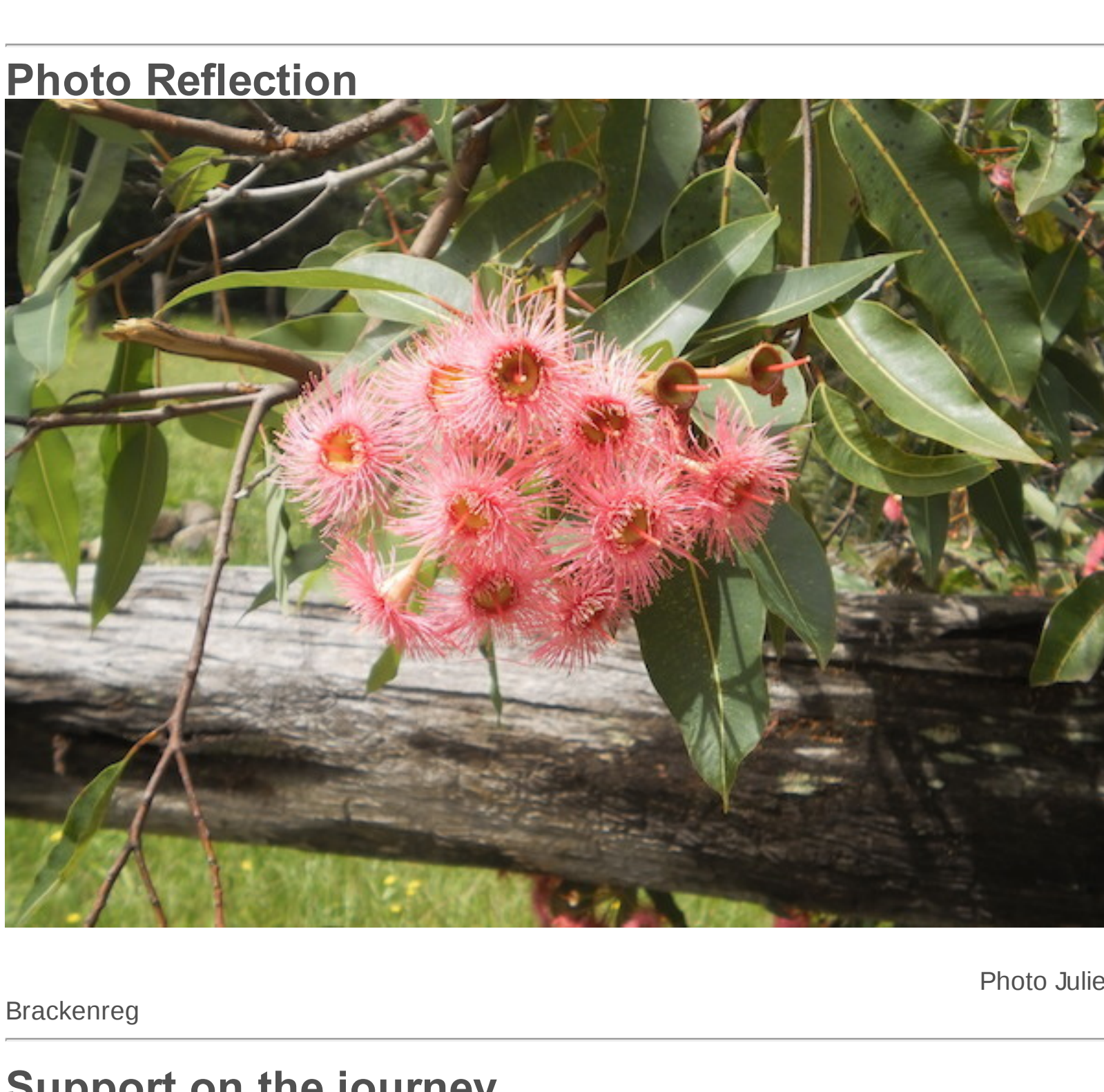


Photo Julie

Brackenreg

Support on the journey

The Anam Cara Community's ministry is to be a support to those who are on the inner journey into God. Each person's journey is different, and we recognise that there are some for whom the Christian tradition is difficult or not supportive. We're committed to finding ways to hear the needs of each Associate, and support them as we can.

Contacts:

- **Website:** www.anamcaragippsland.org
- **Soul carer (or Community Leader):** Jane ([0411 316 346](tel:0411316346) or jemacqueen@gmail.com)
- **Secretary / Librarian:** Sue [03 5182 5542](tel:0351825542)
- **Treasurer:** Kate
- **Postal mail:** Anam Cara Community, PO Box 708, Sale, VIC 3850
- **Diocesan Director of Professional Standards (to make complaints or express concerns about our ministries):** Ms Cheryl Russell [0407 563 313](tel:0407563313), cherylr@gippsanglican.org.au

Love and prayers

Jane Macqueen

On behalf of the Servant Leaders

APBA & NRSV portions, Tis hymns 'Reprinted with permission.'

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