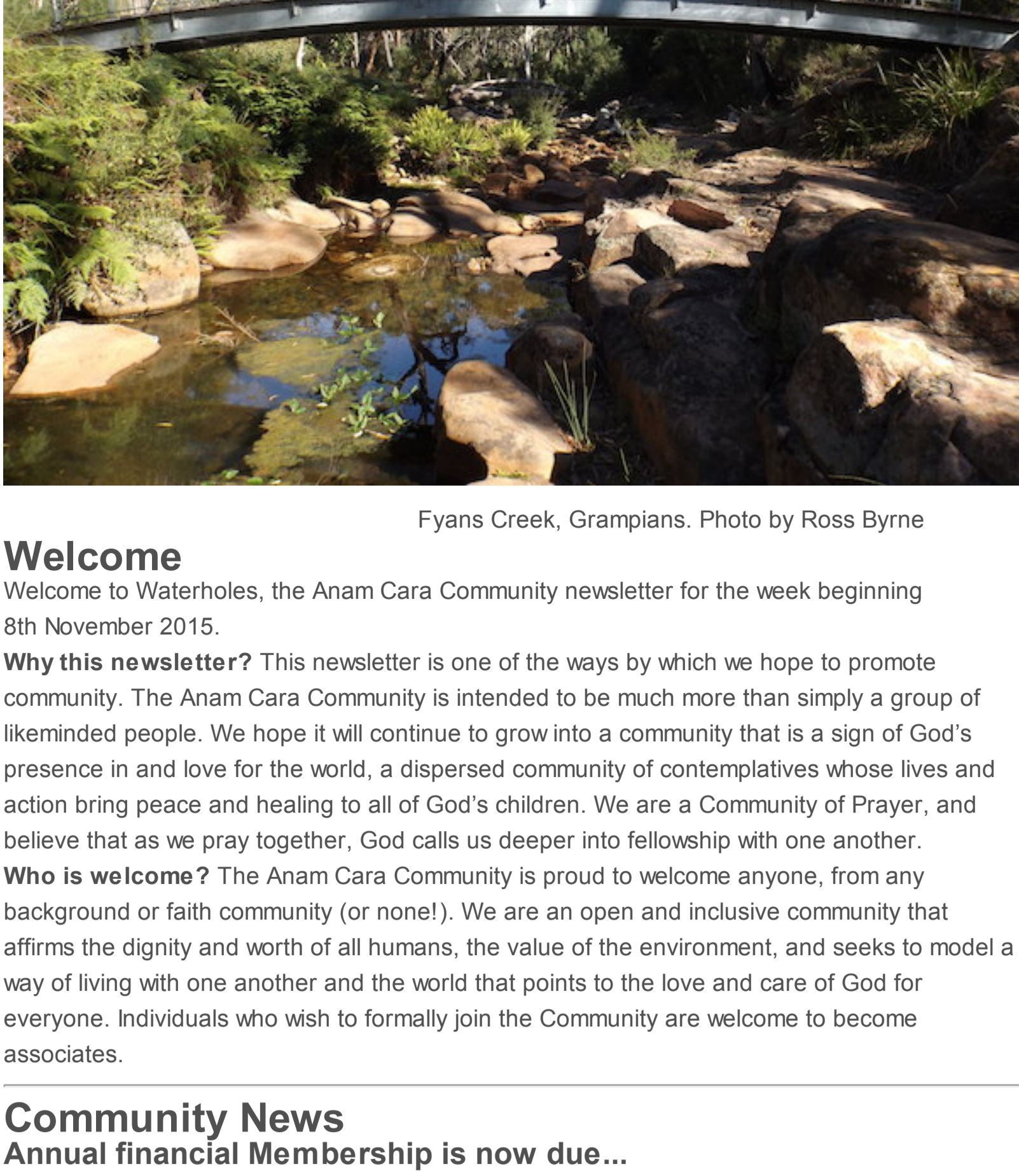


# Anam Cara Community



## Waterholes: 7 November 2015



Fyans Creek, Grampians. Photo by Ross Byrne

### Welcome

Welcome to Waterholes, the Anam Cara Community newsletter for the week beginning 7th November 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.

### Community News

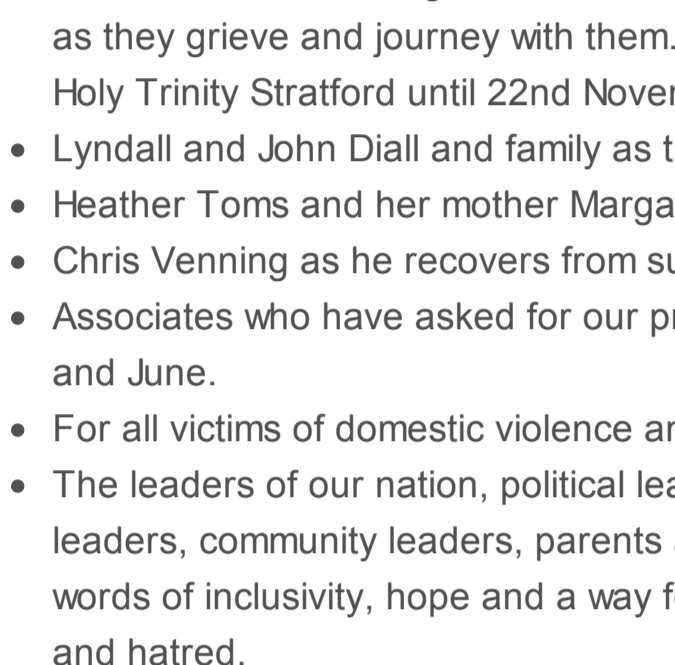
#### Annual financial Membership is now due...

**Thank you** to those Associates who have posted their subscriptions or renewed using the option of direct debit to the Anglican Diocese of Gippsland. Being a financial member of the Community is an encouragement for us in our ministry and we pray it is also an encouragement for you as we continue to pray together and continue to grow into a community that we pray is a sign of God's presence in and love for the world.

We trust that the Waterholes continues to be a life-giving addition to your inbox each fortnight!

### Coming Events

You are invited to attend the



#### Annual Thanksgiving Service

Of: **The Anam Cara Community**  
at: **St Mary's Anglican Church Morwell**  
on: **Saturday 21st November 2015**

- Service at 11.00am
- Everyone is welcome, especially Associates and their friends.
- The Rev'd David Head, Rector of Morwell will lead a Reflection during the Service.
- Reaffirmation by all Associates.
- A simple lunch will be provided after the Service and all are welcome to stay.
- RSVP to Jane ([jemaqueen@gmail.com](mailto:jemaqueen@gmail.com) - 0411 316 346) or Val ([vglawrence1@dodo.com.au](mailto:vglawrence1@dodo.com.au))

### 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 [jemaqueen@gmail.com](mailto:jemaqueen@gmail.com)) who will add them to the prayer list, and ensure they are included in our roster of prayers.

At present, your prayers are asked for:

- The parishes of Wonthaggi/Inverloch, Yarram and the Cathedral Parish of Sale.
- Bishop Kay and Jeri for refreshment as they take annual leave.
- Diocesan registry staff Brian, Annette, Danielle and Kellie.
- Brian and Anne Turner for peace, wisdom, and strength as he lives with mesothelioma. for Anne as she manages care for Brian with care for herself. For their family and friends as they grieve and journey with them. For Brian as he leads worship and celebrates at Holy Trinity Stratford until 22nd November which will be his final service.
- Lyndall and John Diall and family as they grieve following Larissa's death.
- Heather Toms and her mother Margaret as Margaret receives palliative care.
- Chris Venning as he recovers from surgery.
- Associates who have asked for our prayers: Val Lawrence, Sue Hopkins, Norma and June.
- For all victims of domestic violence and those who care for them.
- The leaders of our nation, political leaders, leaders of the Muslim community, church leaders, community leaders, parents and teachers. That all may work together to find words of inclusivity, hope and a way forward for our nation that does not include violence and hatred.
- For all grieving the loss of loved ones in the Russian plane crash.
- The leaders of all European nations to work together to find solutions for the refugee crisis.
- For all who are planning for the resettlement of refugees in our own and other countries. For wisdom and open hearts.
- For the refugees themselves in their desperation and distress as weather conditions and conditions in the camps deteriorate.
- For all who live with the trauma of war in their homeland.
- For the people of Israel and Palestine, their leaders, all who feel driven to violence.
- For the people of Japan, Nepal, Vanuatu, Mexico and Myanmar struggling to recover from the devastation of natural disasters.
- All families around the world touched by tragedy as a result of the inhumane actions of others, all suffering following the terrorist attacks around the world. The people of Syria, Yemen, Pakistan, Nigeria, Iraq, Afghanistan, hostages and prisoners and those suffering who are known only to God.

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.

#### A prayer of remembrance for Remembrance Day 11th November.

Lord God, help us this day to remember the sacrifice  
of those caught up in war, and the generations of  
men, women and children who have died  
in the cause of liberty and peace.

Help us to remember those who still bear the physical  
and mental scars and disabilities of their service.  
Help us to remember the widows,  
girlfriends, parents and orphans  
and all those who waited in vain  
for the return of a loved one.

Help us to remember the mateship,  
agony, courage and compassion of war service,  
but save us from ever glorifying  
the horror and tragedy of war.

Lord God, help us to remember. Amen.

#### Prayer of the Day.

O God,  
whose blessed Son came into the world  
that he might destroy the works of evil  
and make us your children and heirs of eternal life:  
grant that, having this hope,  
we may purify ourselves as he is pure;  
that, when he comes again with power and great glory,  
we may be made like him in his eternal  
and glorious kingdom;  
where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

### Reflection

#### 24th Sunday after Pentecost

The Rev'd Trish Byrne Associate Priest, St Augustine's Anglican Church, Mentone.

**Ruth 3: 1-5, 4: 13-17.**

We are soon to begin the journey of Advent, a time when we wait and prepare for remembering again the joy that Christ's birth brought to the earth. But we are constantly on a journey towards spiritual wholeness and growth in our knowledge and love of God.

Over the last couple of months I, as I guess most of you, have been quite distressed by the daily shots of hundreds of people, men women children, mostly carrying a few possessions, streaming across borders, flooding into European countries. This is a desperate journey seeking peace and rest.

Day after day we see images of people, in ones and twos, whole families, bringing what they can carry and desperate to find a place of refuge, a place where they can have shelter, safety, water, food and dignity. We also see documentation of their reception. Sometimes they are welcomed, often turned away to continue their search for a place to rest.

It is impossible for me to comprehend what that sort of dislocation might be like. When thinking about it, I felt that this was some kind of phenomenon that was new. But in reality it has been a part of human life for ever.

- Think during and post world wars.
- During times of revolution and coups
- Times of famine
- Moses and his people 40 years in the wilderness.
- Jacob sent his sons to Egypt in time of famine.

Our story today from the book of Ruth has an Israelite family, from Bethlehem, Elimelech, wife Naomi and their two sons, who went to Moab to escape famine. These lands were often at war but at this time they were living peacefully. They apparently were welcomed there and settled down, the sons married local women.

The lovely book of Ruth is quite short and you might like to read it in one sitting some time this week. At first hearing it seems a quaint tale with nothing much of relevance to Australian life in 2015. But there is quite a story in these few verses which bears exploring.

If you read the whole book it begins with a time of displacement and movement. There was famine, in order to provide for his family Elimelech trekked from Bethlehem to Moab. The book doesn't flesh out their story but we can imagine life was hard for that migrant family, perhaps living on the very margins of society. We only have to engage with the internet, the television, the papers to have a stark picture of something of how that might feel.

After some time Elimelech died, then by the time they had been there ten years both sons, Mahlon and Chillion had also died. In this culture and at this time woman had no status. They needed the protection and authority of a male. For many of today's refugees from Middle Eastern countries the situation is similar. With Elimelech, Mahlon and Chillion all dead, Naomi and her daughters-in-law, Orpah and Ruth were at risk and vulnerable.

What to do? Naomi decided that her best chance was to return to Judah where there would be some family to help her. She advised the two daughters-in-law to return to their birth families. But Ruth decided to stick with her. Maybe out of a sense of duty to her mother-in-law or maybe she had no family to turn back to. We don't know but Ruth decided to go with Naomi even though she had no family in Bethlehem and couldn't know how she would be treated. She was stepping into the unknown.

But she says to Naomi,  
*'where you go, I will go, ... your people shall be my people, and your God my God...'*  
Naomi did find a relative of her husband's and he, Boaz, did welcome them and allow Ruth to work in his fields. He praised Ruth for her faithfulness to her mother-in-law and promised her safety under the wings of the God of Israel.

Boaz and Ruth were married and she bore him a son named him Obed. The core of this book is at the end of this story of Ruth when his lineage is revealed.

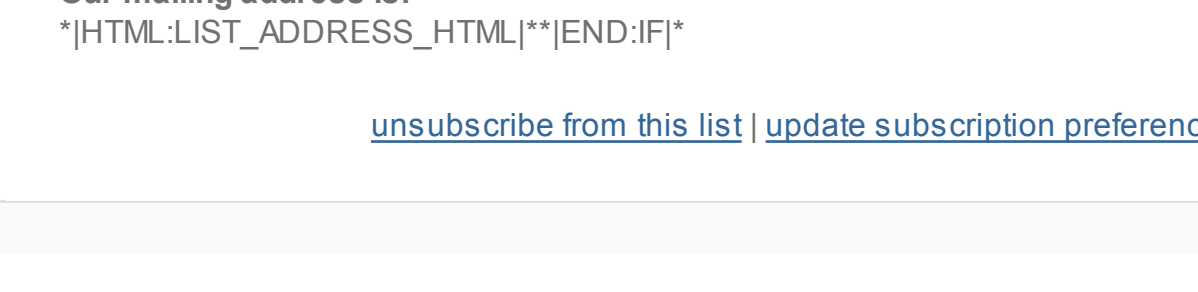
Obed is the son of Boaz, he is father of Jesse who is the father of David from whom Jesus' descent is linked. Ruth is the great grandmother of David.

What this offers to us is a clear indication that each of us, God's children, are part of a greater plan which will never be fully known to us. In our bible readings we see the big names, the big players, Abraham, Moses, John the Baptist, and feel invisible in their shadow. But if we are truly the body of Christ then we all have a part to play. Ruth was not a woman of influence, not a celebrity. She was a widow, a foreigner dependent on charity to survive, but she was called by God to be part of this chain of events culminating in Jesus' incarnation.

This is how we too are called to do God's work here wherever we are. We can't wait until we have the right qualifications or the time or whatever else we tell ourselves we must do first. No, we have to come today, empty hands outstretched, asking God to fill them and to bless us to do the work needed here to make his name known. At the beginning I mentioned the hundreds of thousands of God's children who are right now displaced, unwanted and desolate.

We cannot solve the world's problems overnight but the sooner we get started the sooner there will be some impact on the problem. Old saying, how do you eat an elephant? Answer one bite at a time. Our baby steps might be to talk to a neighbour, to smile at that stranger walking their dog, to get to know our neighbourhood. When we engage with those around us with interest and compassion we will always find something that we can do now. How to get the message of Jesus out into the neighbourhood? Remember the song, *'From little things big things grow.'* We can be the agents of change, we can welcome people into God's kingdom here and now and work to fulfil God's plan. One pebble in the pond and only God knows where the ripples will reach. Let us reach out in faith and trust to start those ripples moving. May God bless you and keep you.

### Photo Reflection



Ripples of welcome... my friend Elizabeth and my goddaughter Adhieu on the occasion of her baptism. Photo Jane



Adhieu and her siblings... welcomed and loved... let's keep taking baby steps together.

### The A Frame 50 Years

The Anglican Diocese of Gippsland  
invites you to a

#### HIGH TEA

to mark the

A Frame's first 50 years of service and to look forward to the future

**Saturday 14th November 2015.**

#### Official Celebrations and High Tea commence at 2pm

The Abbey, A'Beckett Park  
1-25 First Parade  
Raymond Island  
Cost per person \$20  
Please RSVP 9 November to Anna, at The Abbey  
(03) 51566580, [info@theabbey.org.au](mailto:info@theabbey.org.au)  
[www.theabbey.org.au](http://www.theabbey.org.au)

### 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](http://www.anamcaragippsland.org)
- To subscribe to or unsubscribe from the mailing list contact Jane
- Soul carer (Community Leader): Jane ([0411 316 346](tel:0411316346) or [jemaqueen@gmail.com](mailto:jemaqueen@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](mailto:cherylr@gippsanglican.org.au)

Love and prayers

Jane Macqueen  
On behalf of the Servant Leaders

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