

HERE AND NOW



December 2017

Contributions to this Newsletter are very welcome and can be made by e-mailing them to rosieclark@sa.chariot.net.au or to penelgreg@bigpond.com Next issue April 2018

This Newsletter comes to you from the Anglican Parish of Port Lincoln in the Diocese of Willochra



St Thomas' Port Lincoln



St Matthew's Poonindie



St Matthias' Wangary

HERE AND NOW

If you would prefer to receive the HERE AND NOW electronically by e-mail, all you have to do is send a request to the e-mail address on the front cover: rosieclark@sa.chariot.net.au And a bonus—it will be in colour! Alternatively, it is now available on our web site at www.anglicanportlincoln.com.au

From the Reverend Peter Linn...

In considering my life and my ministry, I believe that one of the things I do well is hospitality. This is also reflected in the feedback from the recent Parish meeting with Bishop John Stead where hospitality is one of the things our congregations consider is done well - but always with room for improvement.

Do you sometimes, like me, reflect back over your day and realise that there have been times when you could have done more? Visited someone? Phoned someone? Kept someone in your prayers?

Recently I found a beautiful Thank You card that had been left for us on the altar at St Thomas, expressing deep gratitude for the Open Church, enabling people to come in regularly whenever they are able to light a candle, to sit, to reflect, to pray. Thanking the parishioners, too, who pop into the Church and always have a kind word of welcome and encouragement. This Thank You was expressed on behalf of a large number of people who make up an "unseen congregation".

On a recent Sunday morning in Port Lincoln, two people came in before the 9.00am Service needing help, and I was able to point them in the right direction to access assistance.

We are a welcoming and hospitable community, but we can always be mindful of the question - is there more that we could be doing?

Blessings, Peter

The Season of Advent



*'We must prepare a way.
Try to straighten paths made crooked
by our selfishness and compulsions.
We have forgotten the grace-filled room,
the angel's message, 'Do not fear.'
We fear the very joy he promised.*

*We are afraid of the journey,
the hard road, the bitter cold
and the doors slammed in our faces.*

We are terrified of giving birth.

*Yet within us there is such a thirst for
innocence.*

*We must enter our heart's dark stable,
clear away the dirty straw of resent-
ment and pride, soil our hands and
make some effort to find a fresher,
sweeter hay of welcome, light a candle
of hope, as we humbly await the birth of
Wonder.'*

Mary Harrahan

KNOWING OUR CHURCH'S HISTORY

Continuing the story...

From the Here and Now

September 1996

Part 33

This instalment of the Church's History relates to the formation of the Willochra Diocese and to how its name was decided on.

In the course of researching the matter I was intrigued to find an article on the subject, which appeared in the Parish magazine of Our Lady and St Thomas of Canterbury, in far away Manchester. The interesting detail related therein is quoted as follows:-

"It is not quite a century since the Bishopric of Australia was founded, just one year before the accession of Queen Victoria, and since that day, sub-division into more manageable dioceses has been, and is still going on.

One of the earliest formed was the Diocese of Adelaide, in 1847, and it consisted of West and South Australia. This was sub-divided in 1856 when the province of West Australia was detached. From 1894 on, the impossibility of supervising so huge a diocese adequately was felt by the successive Bishops of Adelaide and they began bring plans before Synod to discuss how best to solve the problem.

There were two ways. One was by the sub-division of the dioceses, and the second, the appointment of a co-adjutor to the Bishop. The whole matter was studied carefully by able committees, and they, after much deliberation, wisely decided to take a long view, and as the Diocese was already one of the largest in Australia, it must, of necessity, be divided some time, the financial problem had better be faced at once and the new diocese formed."

In view of our interest in this new diocese, which eventually came into being in 1915, it is well to look at the reasons urged against its birth. "It was said that the proposed diocese was, at present, by all practical tests, financially very weak; that the conditions were such that it would be difficult to obtain and keep good men; that there were few openings to attract men of power; few lighter places for those who had borne the burden and heat of the day, and that there might be a danger of the standard of ordination being

lowered to meet emergencies."

It was the age-old problem of men and money, but the church in Australia had the courage to meet the challenge. Committees proceeded to discuss the constitution of the diocese and its financial sufficiency.

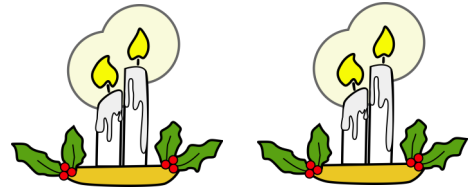
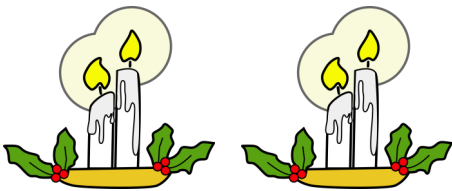
There also arose the question of its name. In England, sees are usually named after the largest town or the town containing the cathedral, but in South Australia there are obvious difficulties about calling such a large area after a single town in it. It is much better to name it even after a mountain or a river, and though the name was first drafted as the diocese of Petersburg, (a town renamed Peterborough after the war), it was changed the last to the diocese of Flinders, Flinders being a mountain range which runs for 100 miles through this part of South Australia. In Synod, however, the name was rejected, one rector pointing out that the parish of Streaky Bay was called the Flinders Mission, and that Eyre Peninsula was electorally the District of Flinders.

Many suggestions were made, but none could be agreed upon and the matter was postponed until the following Friday.

On Thursday evening, three members of Synod were dining in a cafe and discussing the matter, when one remembered that the Adelaide Steamship Company had named three of its new boats the Wanilla, the Willochra and the Wandilla. The second sounded attractive as it was also the name of a river flowing through the new diocese. One of the group, Archdeacon Bussell, volunteered to research the meaning of the word that night just to make sure of its suitability. He was rewarded by his research, as he found that "Willochra" was the native name for the green shoots of the Polygonum plant which makes excellent food and abounds on the banks of the Willochra River.

All went well the next day when Synod agreed to the Archdeacon's proposal that "Willochra" be the name of the new diocese. †

Eric O'Connor



PARISH PRAYER FOR PORT LINCOLN

Father help us to be a Church that is a welcoming, caring, and meaningful community. A community which enjoys the celebration of the sacraments and has a passion to proclaim the Gospel of Christ. A community which reaches out to others, sharing the love of God with them. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

OP SHOP ON FRIDAYS

VOLUNTEERS ALWAYS NEEDED

- TO HELP SET UP
- TO HELP AT THE SHOP FROM 9.00AM TO 12.00 NOON OR FROM 12 TO 3.00PM
- TO HELP PACK AWAY

PLEASE LET THE OFFICE KNOW IF YOU CAN HELP AND YOUR NAME CAN BE PUT ON THE ROSTER

**DONATIONS OF GOODS
ARE ALWAYS WELCOME**

Acknowledgement

We believe that all humanity is made in the image of God.

We acknowledge and show our respect to the traditional custodians of this land on which we worship.

As well, we acknowledge and respect all those from various races who travelled here to make their home.

KNOWING OUR CHURCH'S HISTORY

Continuing the story...

From the Here and Now

October 1996

Part 34

In an earlier chapter I made brief mention of Octavius Hammond, St Thomas' first incumbent. Since that time, I have been fortunate in learning more of this versatile man's activities and, in doing so, feel that it would be remiss not to record some of them in this profile of church history.

Octavius was born on 1 April 1810 at the Penhurst Rectory in Kent, and came from a family of eight boys and one girl. He had the misfortune to lose both of his parents when quite young, and was brought up by an uncle who apprenticed him for five years, at the age of 15, to a surgeon named Edwin Cottingham, 'to learn his art'. He then studied at St Bartholomew's Hospital, London.

These studies were very rewarding for Octavius, as he gained both his LSA (Licentiate Society of Apothecaries), his MRCS (Member of the Royal College of Surgeons), to be followed by a Diploma in Midwifery. The qualification of MCRS was the highest granted in those days.

In October 1835, Octavius married Elizabeth Hemsted in Speen Church, Berks and there were five children from the marriage. The family unit life was short lived, however, as Elizabeth died at Andover some eleven years later in April 1846. In September the following year, he took unto himself another wife, a Miss Ann Dobson of Appleshaw of Hants. A family of ten children resulted from this union, only one of which was born before the family came to Australia. Little seems to be known of the doctor's professional activities from the time he qualified until his coming to this country, but it is assumed that he had a private practice. A report in the "London Times" relative to evidence he gave in the Andover Workhouse enquiry praised him for his honesty, intelligence and humanity.

There is further evidence of Octavius' ability and the high regard in which he was held by all who knew him. It is shown in testimonials he submitted with his application for an official position as doctor on the emigration ship "Duke of Welling-

ton", which he came to Australia on in 1849. One such testimony stated – "In my capacity of Chairman of a Board of Governors, I have known him for a period of 14 years and I can bear testimony not only of his professional skills and abilities, which I really believe to be very considerable and very much above ordinary standard, but also for his high tone of moral feeling, his undeviating humanity and zeal towards the sick and poor. I do not think it possible to over-rate his value in this respect. I do not think we shall readily repair his absence."

A similarly worded reference came from the Vicar of Andover.

Octavius and his family arrived at Port Adelaide in the "Duke of Wellington" on 8 November, 1849. A further Hammond child was born at sea on 4 September during the voyage out and they named her Elizabeth Ann Miller, after Captain Miller, master of the vessel. A notation of the birth at sea and the Hammond's arrival appeared in "The SA Register" Shipping Intelligence Column of Saturday 10 November and read – "Octavius Hammond Esq Surgeon –Superintendent, Lady and three children and one daughter born 4 September in cabin." Two of their children had died before the family left England, whilst one boy, Arthur, stayed on until he finished schooling. He joined the family later, but was tragically lost in 1859, when working with a survey party in the Port Augusta area. His remains were never found.

It is of interest to know that in later years, Elizabeth Anne Miller Hammond married Joseph K Bishop, who was closely associated with St Thomas' Church. †

Eric O'Connor



St Matthew's, Poonindie 24th of December 6pm

St Thomas, Port Lincoln 24th of December 8pm

25th of December 8am

St Matthias 'Lake Wangary. 25th of December 10am

St Margaret's Tumby Bay 24th of December 6pm

St Simon & St Jude's Cummins 24th of December 8pm



STRAWBERRY FAIR 2017



Strawberries and Ice-cream in the Hall

The Parish of Port Lincoln annual Strawberry Fair was held at St Thomas on Saturday November 4th. The Parish extends a huge thankyou to Meredith Dobbins who again coordinated a wonderful event in the life of the Parish. The Fair raised \$7000 to go towards the needs of the Parish. Thank you to all who helped in any way.



Tea, Coffee, Cakes



The plant stall was run by Rhonda Carr's daughters with many helpers. Their efforts were a wonderful tribute to Rhonda, who passed away this year.



The ever popular face painting

Sonja Nugent looking after the bookstall. Sonja was ordained this year.



Hot Food



The Clowns and the Jumping Castle



The fairy stall



STRAWBERRY FAIR 2017



Children's activities



The boys on the BBQ



Ryan helps with the children



A IS FOR ANGLICAN –Answers to the Quiz in last Issue

ANSWERS to QUIZ in last issue.

1. After we confess our sins, we share the greeting of peace. Why?
 - b. As a symbol that we are at peace with our neighbours and all people
2. Legally the priest (and/or deacon) are employed by
 - e. God (ouch! Who got that one right?)
3. The Anglican Church (previously the Church of England) is often known as
 - a. The Via Media (The Middle Road)

One more question for the year:

Who was the first Archbishop of Canterbury, in 597?

- a. Gregory
- b. Lawrence
- c. Augustine
- d. Paul

The answer to this one can be found on Page 9

Nel Taylor

A BIT OF A GIGGLE!

A Sunday school teacher asked her children as they were on the way to church service, "And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?" One bright little girl replied, "Because people are sleeping."

Six-year-old Angie and her four-year-old brother, Joel, were sitting together in church. Joel giggled, sang, and talked out loud. Finally, his big sister had had enough.

"You're not supposed to talk out loud in church."

"Why? Who's going to stop me?" Joel asked.

Angie pointed to the back of the church and said, "See those two men standing by the door?"

They're hushers."

A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin 5, and Ryan 3. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson. "If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, 'Let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait.'"

Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, "Ryan, you be Jesus!"

IF YOU
LAUGH
A LOT,
WHEN YOU GET OLDER
YOUR WRINKLES WILL BE
IN THE RIGHT PLACES.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SONJA NUGENT



Congratulations to Sonja Nugent for her Ordination as Deacon in November.

Sonja, together with Joseph Johns, was ordained as Deacon in the Cathedral Church of Saints Peter and Paul at Port Pirie on Saturday November 25th 2017.

We pray for Sonja as she takes up her role as a Deacon in her Ministry on Eyre Peninsula, including Cummins and the Coastal Cluster once a month.

Sonja is pictured here with her husband, Scott, her Godmother Jean Button of Booborowie, and with Bishop John Stead and Joseph Johns.



MU

Anglican Mothers' Union.

Faith in Action

As I write this in the second week of Advent, the prayer in our Families Worldwide prayer and resource book for Sunday is: "Let's approach Christmas with an expectant hush, rather than a last minute rush. Lord, in the midst of busyness help us to keep the holiness of the moment."

The richness of the worldwide Mothers' Union community goes largely unnoticed in the hustle of life as we know it in the so-called West. The extent of its influence however is probably only truly known by God, and, like all God's work, is something to marvel at.

I decided to share some tiny snippets of this richness with you by quoting from members who have shared their wisdom with us in our various publications this year.

Lynette Pole, Willochran President

"We can get bogged down in just seeing the bad things that are around but in the midst of those there are so many good things happening and often we will hear of Mother's Union helping out."

Lynne Tembey, Worldwide President

"I never tire of hearing about the amazing outreach work in which members worldwide are involved. I especially enjoy meeting members whose lives have been transformed because of an action by Mother's Union members."

Rev. Flo Walters, Social Issues and Action, Willochra.

"Since 1945 more than 7 and a half million people have come from other countries to live in Australia.Think about Joseph. If we placed him in the here and now he would have been stopped at the Egyptian border and sent back to Jerusalem, with the inevitable result being the death of the baby Jesus at the hands of Herod. Let us strive to look, listen and reach out to migrants and refugees with the eyes, ears and heart of Christ."

Roz Rowett, Prayer & Spirituality, Willochra.

"Just as a good cook allows a stew to simmer in order to bring out all the flavours, we need to 'marinate' our minds in Scripture and allow it to become part of us. When that happens we'll start to see things change in our prayer lives because the Spirit's intercession is tied to His Word."

I feel extremely blessed to be part of such a wonderful organisation. Next year I hope to hold one or two events that will try to show some of what we do to the wider community. There is much more that we could do in our own community if we had more members. Membership is not for everyone, and requires a vow of commitment, but if you are reading this I would encourage you to think about whether you would be interested in finding out more, and perhaps coming along to one of our services or events next year.

MU St Thomas' wish you all a blessed Christmas season.

Nel Taylor

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2018 AND BEYOND IN THE PARISH OF PORT LINCOLN...
LETTER FROM BISHOP JOHN STEAD RE THE CONVERSATION IN OCTOBER



The Rev'd Peter Linn
The Wardens
Anglican Parish of Port Lincoln

17th October 2017

Dear Peter and Wardens,

I meet with 16 representatives of the Parish of Port Lincoln on Saturday 14th October from 10:00am – 2:30pm. The results of our conversation are attached.

I have forwarded the results to those of you who have an email address.

It is important that these results are discussed at a Parish Council meeting. If possible, I will make the time to participate in that meeting. The next steps are to:

- Determine who will be responsible for implementation of the actions or goals

- Communicate to the Parish what the Parish Council has decided to do and keep them informed about progress on a regular basis

- Plan how to implement the action or goal

- Set a time frame for the achievement of the action or goal

- Determine how you will measure the achievement of the action or goal. What will have changed or be different now?

- Report back to Parish Council on a regular basis how the implementation of each action or goal is going

There may be other actions that need to occur between now and July of 2018 to ensure that the Parish Nominators can act with integrity when requesting that the upcoming vacancy be filled.

While recognising that the Rev'd Peter Linn will be taking Long Service Leave (13 weeks) and Leave (two weeks) in 2018, which means that the Parish is not actually vacant until about mid November 2018, it is my intention to hold a Vacancy Consultation shortly after July. The Vacancy Consultation will identify the qualities that the Parish would like in the next incumbent and the process of searching for the right person to fill the vacancy will commence shortly afterward. A Locum Tenens will most likely be appointed in July to cover the vacancy; the Long Service Leave Board will cover the cost associated with this at the Nominal Clergy Stipend for the period of Long Service Leave.

Please let me know as soon as practicable when the Parish council will meet.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me.

Peace & Joy,

Bishop of Willochra

Please turn over for the Bishop's summary of the results of the conversation.....

Results of the Conversation on Saturday 14th October 2017

Anglican Parish of Port Lincoln

There were 16 participants, together with Bishop John Stead

We reviewed the *Part One: Celebrating Our History & Two: Celebrating Our Now Story* from *Imagine Us* which had been undertaken on the 20th November 2016. The results of that review, indicating additions is below, *additions are in italics*:

IMAGINE US – a process of appreciative inquiry

Part One – Celebrating our History

Remembering our past, we value and celebrate

Growing through the stages of life together and seeing our children grow

Sharing our Faith journey

Seeing visible evidence that God's care and protection has been with us

We are a caring community – we value that more than buildings

Those who have established Mission, Ministry and Outreach that supports us and others to this day – MTSF, MU, Guild (Op Shop and Hospitality)

The location of our church. We are in the middle of the 'village green'

Our historic building – one of the oldest churches on Eyre Peninsula

All that has been contributed by people of the past.

The many unknown stories of faith that are 'carried' by our building

Part Two – Celebrating our Now Story

What we value and celebrate that has happened recently or is happening now

The 'couch' that has been built on our grounds. It is an attraction for so many people

The volunteers that support MTSF – some from wider community

Joyce and her team who make beanies for the seafarers

Our Op Shop which meets needs of customers as well as raises money

Our Op Shop volunteers who do so much work that is loving service.

Our Guild and their generosity with their funds

Our Christian Meditation Group – people from other churches participate

There are more cruise ships coming into Lincoln. Opportunities for Op Shop and to visit the church.

Our Church is now open daily. Lots of people come to light a candle.

Peter's ministry to RSL

Outreach to service organisations in town.

Connections with the other mainline churches

Clergy from all denominations working together

Ecumenical Services

Possibility of working more closely with the Lutherans on Eyre Peninsula (*identified some fluidity regarding this*)

Possibility of working as a team with Eyre Ministry District. (*identified some fluidity regarding this*)

We have stronger links with the Diocese through ministry of MDO

Lenten and Advent Study groups. (*Some fluidity*)

Our clergy – it is good that women clergy are now fully accepted

We have lots of initiatives and social gatherings

We have pastoral opportunities in weddings, baptisms and funerals

We have good coffee and nice china cups – we do hospitality well *but could do better*

Nel looks after Pastoral Care and organises visiting *moving to a team approach*

Older people are offered transport to church.

Strawberry Fair – involves a group of volunteers from beyond the church

Blessing of the Fleece

"Hera and Now" and Weekly Leaflet (Communication)

Parish supports a Pastoral Support Worker at the High School

Mothers Union

Poonindie Evensong

Meditation Group

Prison Meditation Groups

Sports Chaplaincy

Police Chaplaincy

Results of the Conversation on Saturday 14th October 2017

Anglican Parish of Port Lincolncontinued from page 8

The group then undertook a process to identify ACTIONS or GOALS to be achieved by July 2018. The list of ACTIONS or GOALS is listed below in rank order according to the weighting that the participants gave to each of them. The score is recorded next to each of the ACTIONS or GOALS. It should be noted that:

ACTIONS (GOALS) should:

Motivate

Be:

Specific
Measurable
Attainable
Relevant
Time Bound

Be in Writing

Have an 'Action Plan'

Be stuck at (Perseverance)

ACTIONS or GOALS

- 68 Improve all communication including with the wider community, e.g. The Times, The Link, etc. Editor: Judy. Upgrade publications, website and Facebook. *N.B. two items have been amalgamated*
- 55 Identifying optimum fundraising project and implement
- 50 Social Gathering (Open Hospitality) – progressive dinner, Parish Dinner, Picnic (simply does it) *N.B. two items have been amalgamated*
- 33 Parish Centre open one day a week with Priest available, with a roster of helpers.
- 24 Encourage pastoral visiting team
- 17 Cover Peter's connections within the community and thus ensure continuity
- 15 Important to listen, pray and think and then maybe to act
- 12 Prayer Group for both outgoing and incoming incumbent.
- 11 Poonindie (surrounding region and the whole Parish) – 'Old Fashioned Sunday School Picnic/Sports Day. Visit to the School about the history of the community. *N.B. Could be incorporated into #2*
- 2 Attending Morning Prayer weekly

It is now up to the Parish Council to oversight the implementation of these actions or goals alongside the Parish Priest, the Rev'd Peter Linn.

Each action or goal that the Parish Council decides to pursue should be allocated to a person to see that it is implemented on behalf of the Parish Council. Implementation may require planning a series of actions which will see the goal achieved within a desired time frame (time bound). The five criteria listed above under **ACTIONS or GOALS** should be followed in planning the implementation of the actions or goals which have been identified.

ALARM! ALARM! ALARM!

There have been an increasing number of problems with the security alarm systems in St Thomas Church, the Parish Centre and the Parish Hall/Supper Room.

PLEASE switch the alarm ON and OFF as required at the point of entry.
Remember that each area has a separate alarm and a different code.

A Thinkspot given by Judy Pearce at Unity Hill, Port Lincoln 2017

In Anglican Parish terms, the three churches at Sheringa, Elliston and Colton along the road to Streaky are known as The Coastal Cluster. When my best friend Ruth Buxton joined the Willochran clergy ranks as an Honorary Anglican priest some years ago, she became pastor and friend to many Eyre Peninsula folk who keep the faith in those scattered parts.

In her previous Adelaide professional life in music education long ago, Ruth travelled to most State schools visiting teachers, so she had already covered a lot of Eyre Peninsula territory. She loves driving, and fortunately for me, I got the chance to be her travelling companion on the road, plus an occasional turn on a little country organ, as she was welcomed into the lives of the folk who have kept the real significance of these historic churches. Their registers contain archives of Births, Marriages and Deaths of many pioneer families throughout the West Coast, some descendants of these still among the diminishing congregations.

If only the stones could speak - those miles of limestone rocks, dry stone walls and hidden ruins of little settlements along the way. We learned so much history on our adventures through her ministry to those people. 'Variations on a theme' apart from regular Anglican worship services, sometimes came when Rev Ruth was invited to be part of notable community events - often in places and situations where a less daring person might hesitate to go.

In March 2012, in the absence of a Greek Orthodox priest, Ruth was invited to preside at the Colton cemetery for the unveiling of a historic plaque recording the arrival in 1842 of the first Greek man in SA - Giorgas Tramountanas - who settled on Eyre Peninsula, and soon changed his name to George North, for clarity. There is a compatible understanding between Anglicans and the Greek Orthodox church community, so Ruth did her research into Greek traditions. We set out early from Port Lincoln, to wait on the silent deserted road opposite the former Colton bakery. At the appointed time, cars appeared from nowhere it seemed, and as if in a pilgrimage dozens of people walked up the olive tree-lined hill to the memorial site where a newly engraved, story-telling marble slab was waiting to be blessed. The man swinging the censer had difficulty lighting the incense in the afternoon breeze, but the gentle scent wafted over several generations, many descendants and Greek friends of this significant man from a distant culture.

It's worth a stop and a walk. The olive trees have grown and clearly mark the cemetery on the hill overlooking Colton church.

Another Colton event was a Sunday Bush Christening. The new parents wanted their baby boy baptised in the same font as his forbears. Again, we arrived early after a long drive, and were delighted as cars converged bringing happy folk, enough to nearly fill the church. Great Grandma had brought the key to enter, plus two large flasks of water, one slightly warm for the ceremony and the other for drinking. Rev Ruth gowned up, everyone gathered around to begin the service, the godparents assembled, the water was poured into the old fontand as we watched, it swirled around the perished plug and gurgled right away during the preliminaries, before the vows even began. Ruth is always ready for the unexpected. "Let's have the other water, quickly, we'll wet the baby's head and do the vows afterwards". Everyone laughed, the baptism candle was lit and I played the baptismal hymn on my Swanee whistle, because the little organ had had the mice in ! It was a service to remember, now recorded for history in the Colton church register.

As most country weddings these days are not held inside church buildings, Ruth has conducted a few in remote settings, occasionally requiring steering over rough places. One in recent times was at a secret location, known only to the groom, far westward into the hinterland from Karkoo. Escorted by the grandparents ahead, we drove adventurously over 4-wheel drive tracks for more than half an hour to a place once known as Cooladie Station, among old homestead ruins and dry stone walls from long ago. Celebrating his ancestral pastoral background, the groom had set up a little natural clearing decorated with specially constructed planter boxes and tables decorated with the family woolshed brand, and rows of seats from the old Mount Hope hall once donated by his grandfather. It was a hot day, but there were some sheltered spots under a few obliging shady gums, and tubs of chilled water bottles awaiting the guests who arrived after a magical mystery bus tour. Even a Portaloo had been transported out there. The bride arrived with her attendants and walked a slow walk down the dusty aisle through gum leaves and twigs, and everyone was charmed. Ruth's service and their vows were delivered with the aid of a portable microphone. Sips of cold water refreshed, before everyone wended their way back to the Karkoo Hall where a magnificent feast awaited. These country affairs demonstrate much thought, effort and attention to detail.

Ruth's connections with the Coastal Cluster also brought involvement with funerals. One young man had died on a farm in a vehicle accident, and his burial took place in the Talia cemetery, the smallest, loneliest graveyard I have ever visited. Beyond Colton, we followed the hearse off the main road.... up, up, up, a hill, along a fence line with only paddocks around us. The track was so bumpy and full of bulldust that we could hardly see, and dust swirled into every crevice of the car and our

clothing. Dozens of cars slowly streamed in.. Once again, they came from everywhere – and nowhere. In that tiny burial ground, there was just one small tree guarding a few graves, with a panoramic far-distant view of the coast. The mood was somewhat depressing because of a needless death, but it was a gathering of respect. Funerals as well as football matches bring country communities together.

A request came from the family of a deceased lady who desired to be returned to the farm of her childhood. The scattering of her ashes was to be at 'Tarragon', Mount Damper, somewhere between Wudinna and Talia, miles inland west from the central highway. Luckily Ruth has a good sense of direction. We travelled for a long time on a deserted dirt road. But once again, uncannily at the appointed time on a Saturday afternoon, cars appeared from all directions and we proceeded in convoy to the destination, a small clearing in the scrub, close to, but out of sight from an occupied farmhouse. Four generations of the family, about 30 of them, gathered around on folding chairs. Ruth blessed the occasion, while the custodian of the Urn tried to prise the lid off. Then one by one round the circle, each family member including very young ones, used a little bowl to scatter the ashes onto the ground, many of them with heartfelt words about their mum, sister, aunty, or grandma. There was a fresh breeze blowing and some ash swirled around as it was being poured, but the crowning moment for me was the arrival of a plump farm hen, on her rounds as a free ranger, pecking curiously at the 'natural shellgrit' on the ground among the legs of the bystanders before disappearing into the bushes. For the moment, a special To-tem had appeared for the departed one.

We had another memorable drive to Point Drummond where Ruth had been invited to a special commemorative ceremony. It took longer than expected because she

left behind an important mud map showing the right way through several forks in the road, so we got hopelessly lost behind distant sandhills. It was a fairly hair-raising 'backtrack' against the clock over more dirt roads, but right on time, we pulled up at the spectacular cliff site among the waiting crowd. Ruth stepped out of the car with aplomb, and donned her clergy clobber to celebrate thanksgiving for the ancestors who had been named on the interpretive plaque unveiled by some of the proud descendants.

Back in 1844, two teenage lads Sam Harris and Joseph Cummings jumped ship from a whaling vessel at Fowlers Bay and trekked for weeks 500 kms along the coast. Only Edward John Eyre had been through before them, but using their wits, they reached Point Drummond where they happened to be picked up by a trading boat to be taken back to Adelaide.

They were detained by the authorities but their knowledge of the unmapped Eyre Peninsula was so valuable that they were released, and one of them, Joseph Cummings, returned to found an EP farming dynasty. What a story...no wonder the families enjoyed re-creating the historic trek that weekend.

I know Ruth has greatly valued this involvement with the EP communities and their church-centred history in each community, as I have felt privileged to share some of it too. Now that she is no longer travelling such distances, we both miss the adventure and the colour, but the memories linger. The buildings are monuments to another age, but faith does not live in stone.

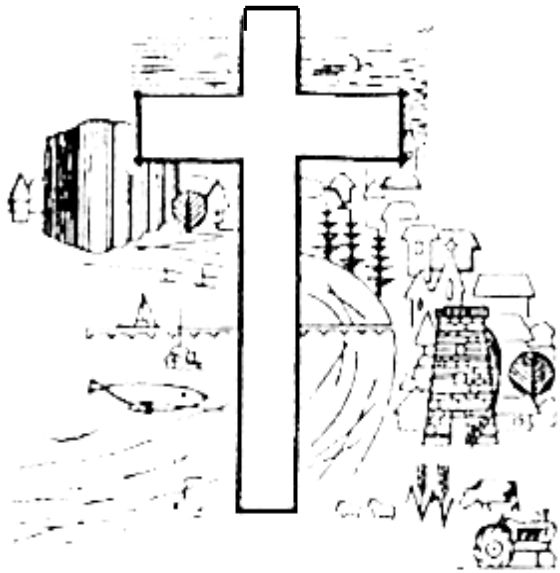
Bless you all who have offered friendship to both of us during Ruth's ministry within the Eyre District and beyond.

Judy Pearce

DEFENCE SUNDAY



A special service was conducted by Rev Peter Linn on Sunday November 12th to celebrate the Defence Forces. We were privileged to have the Army and Navy cadets of Port Lincoln attend the service at St Thomas' Church. Bishop John Stead was visiting that day and participated in the liturgy and delivered the sermon.



This newsletter comes to you from the Anglican Parish of Port Lincoln in the Diocese of Willochra.

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HERE AND NOW

Published by;
THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF PORT LINCOLN
PO BOX 73, PORT LINCOLN SA 5606
Print Post Publication Number: PP540656/00004

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**OP SHOP IN PARISH
HALL**

FRIDAYS 9AM-3PM

*Fresh fruit and vegetables
are welcome early in the
day. Clean shopping bags,
clean clothes and house-
hold utensils, knick knacks
etc welcome. Nothing elec-
trical, thank you.*

