



To the People



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

May 2026

In this edition you will find pictures from Good Friday at Cranbrook, Easter at Living Water, ANZAC and Padre White Day from Albany and our Anglican Schools, the Cathedral floor makeover, Good Shepherd Sunday at Chamingup Farm, Receptions to the Anglican Church and a Confirmation, the Commissioning of Scott and Eilidh Thomson at Augusta/Margaret-River Parish, a reminder from the MU of **DV Sunday tomorrow on 3 May**, an article by our sustainable Living Working Group, Albany Port's Open Day and the Mission to Seafarers, not one but two families from Kojonup Parish featured on ABC's Landline, and Revd Justine Richmond's Mum and Di Gillett from Dunsborough reaching for the skies in a vintage plane.

Housing and War – confronting issues - reflections from our first house in Coventry

Anne and I were just able to purchase a “3up 2down” tiny, terraced house in Coventry some 46 years ago for roughly \$25,000. I still remember receiving the Building Society mortgage cheque and thinking this was an enormous sum I had never handled before. Looking back now it seems tiny in comparison with today's prices for property in the UK and Australia. At this time of the year Anglicare Australia publish their annual rental affordability snapshot. Year by year they demonstrate how difficult it is for young people not only to be able to buy a house but also afford rent. This year they also found that older Australians on Aged Pension are being locked out of the rental market. Of 49,000 listings only 0.2% were affordable for a single person on the Age Pension, and 0.7% for a couple. Moreover, most of these listings were in share houses and therefore not necessarily suitable for long term housing. The other significant difficulty for older as well as younger tenants is security of tenure. These factors affect many of the people we see for Emergency Relief but also more widely, including members of our congregations. They also bear heavily on older single women, especially those who may have fled domestic violence.

Our Coventry pre-war built terraced house was in a road with a number of different houses. This was because this road was on the bombing run to the factories making Spitfire engines and tanks in the 2nd WW. The original houses had been so damaged they had been demolished and rebuilt. Our surviving terraced house still had cracks and unusual wall angles from the shock effects of those bombs. More significantly, our elderly next-door neighbour had lived through the blitz in Coventry, scene of some of the heaviest aerial bombardment in Britain, and still, some 40 years later, cowered under her bed during thunderstorms because of the trauma she and many others had suffered. It is always moving and a privilege to attend the ANZAC Day services. This year I was with Canon Karen Cave at Albany, whilst Dean Darryl kindly stood in for me at Bunbury. (I did not make the Albany Dawn Service for which Canon Karen had been up at 3am and where there were 5500 people on Mount Clarence – a substantial logistical feat). Large numbers had turned out in Albany and Bunbury and there was a sense that people were particularly conscious of the extensive human costs of war and of not glorifying it. As one veteran commented sadly, he had been taught to kill before he learned to drive. The practice of reading letters at ANZAC services from the 1st WW troops to their parents and loved ones is extremely sobering as they detail the reality and horror of war. One older resident at Juniper House told me about an uncle who came back from the War but spoke little to anyone, lived on his own in a separate building on a family farm but would never go inside until it was dark. The famous passage from Isaiah 2 about beating swords into ploughshares begins: “let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, ... that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.”

Good Friday Combined Service at St Oswald's Cranbrook and some other Easter events in Southern Ranges

Revd Dr Genevieve Milnes with photos of the combined Good Friday service at Cranbrook, as well as a blessing of the roads and an Aged Care service. Revd Dave Bardesley also prayed for safety on the roads at a public event in Bridgetown.



Living Water on Easter Sunday



Living Water again made use of their Marquee on Easter Day. They had to hire an extra 50 chairs and had over 360 people attend the services. A number of other parishes reported numbers for Easter were up on last year, including some ecumenical services, during Holy Week

Please find this bulletin from Wendy Mabey, who is now the Vice President of MU Australia:



ANGLICAN
MOTHERS UNION
AUSTRALIA

**ENCOURAGING
FAMILIES
THROUGH
FAITH IN ACTION**

1. Lamenting the Violence

Commitment One:
Our church
acknowledges and
laments the violence
which has been suffered
by some of our members
and repents of the part
we have played in
allowing an environment
where violence went
unaddressed.

Ten Commitments for
Prevention and Response
to Domestic and Family
Violence in the Anglican
Church of Australia.

*'Changing attitudes
and behaviours is
long-term work, and
we sadly won't see a
reduction overnight.'*
Helen Bolton, CEO Respect
Ballarat

**CELEBRATING
150 YEARS OF
MOTHERS'
UNION**

**Join Us, Join In!
Lighting the way for
Generations to Come**

DOMESTIC & FAMILY VIOLENCE PORTFOLIO

April 2026 Bulletin

✉ vicepresidentdv@muaustralia.org.au

🌐 www.muaustralia.org.au

► DID YOU KNOW?

In a weekend news bulletin published by the ABC on the Respect Ballarat program, it was stated 'almost two years ago, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese declared that violence against women was a national crisis' and that 'Last year, the number of family and domestic violence offenders processed by police in Australia rose by 8 per cent – the highest recorded rate since national family and domestic data was first published in 2019'.

► DV Aware Sunday – Sunday, 3 May 2026

Anglican Parishes across Australia are encouraged to observe DV Aware Sunday to highlight God's concern for those experiencing harm.

How are we as MU going to respond to this call? Are we going to join with our parish on this Sunday to promote awareness that DV has no place in our homes, our relationships and our churches? Are we going to have a DV awareness raising focus to one of diocesan or branch gatherings?

There are resources that can help in our endeavours, including a DV Aware Sunday resource kit which gives examples of how we can raise awareness, whether we only have a few minutes, 10 -20 minutes, or a whole worship service. You can find this, and other resources which will shortly include a 2 minute video to play, at: <https://www.tencommitments.org.au/dvsunday>



3 MAY 2026

Port of Albany's 200th Birthday Celebrations and Mission to Seafarers

Revd Gaerlan Baguil saved the day for the Albany Mission to Seafarers in coming down specially from Mandurah and Bunbury with his wife Rosina to person a stall at the Albany Port's 200th Birthday and Open Day about the important work the Mission fulfills.



Scott and Dr Eilidh Thomson's Commissioning at Augusta on Friday 24 April

Augusta/Margaret River Parish were so excited about this important event. Scott is commencing as a Lay Minister and due to be ordained on 27 June. This is a joint appointment with Bush Church Aid



Left: Scott and James, flanked by Canon Greg Harris and Revd Shane Marques



Right: Welcome screen

Below: Justine chatting with Ann Rowe, one of the Augusta Wardens



Left: Handknitted dinosaur and teddy bear for Anna and James



ANZAC Day Albany



Large crowds, many school children and local and national dignitaries attended both services in Albany

Padre White Sunday at St John's Albany



Padre White Sunday is held at the Church each year on the Sunday before Anzac Day. A special service is held at 6.00 am in the Church and then parishioners walk or take a bus to the summit of Mt Clarence. Here a memorial service is held and a wreath also laid out to sea. Parishioners all return for breakfast or morning tea in the Church hall. Padre White, who was the Priest in Charge of St. John's, Albany, is credited with starting the national practice of the ANZAC Dawn Service.

ANZAC Day in our Anglican Schools



Reception and Confirmation at St George's Dunsborough and St. Mary's, Kojonup

Alison Brown, a long-time member of St. George's, Dunsborough, pictured below left, who plays their keyboard week by week, was received into the Anglican Church on 12 April. On 26 April, in the Shearing shed (see page 8), Henry Forman was also received and his wife Heather confirmed.



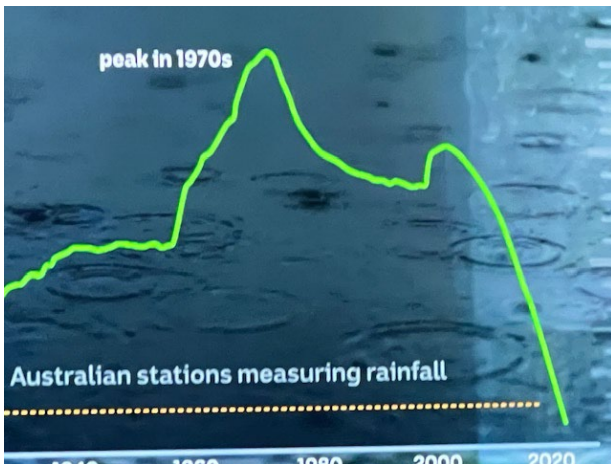
Keeping Daily Notes

Revd John Abraham (pictured right), who lives in Albany, is in his 95th year. Nevertheless, he still makes use of the daily office and reads all the appointed Lectionary Readings. More than that, he makes careful notes on each one, as you may be able to see (especially if you have a magnifying glass!).

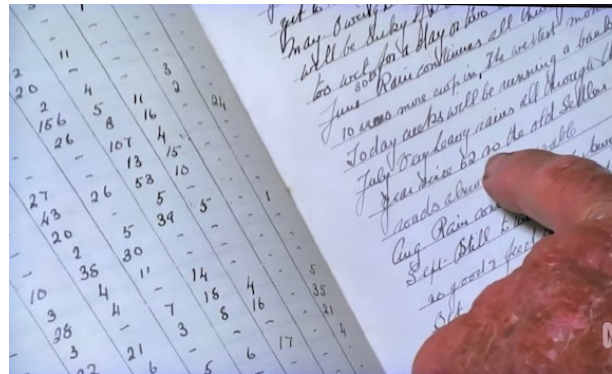
Revd John was the first clergyperson to become an official celebrant for marriages in WA and treasures his licence which is: "W1"



Keeping careful records of a different kind



This graph charts the disappearance of amateur meteorologists in Australia. A few of those remaining were featured on ABC's **Landline** Sunday week ago. Not only were they both in our diocese but also in the same parish of Kojonup. They are Frank Pritchard and Tim and Tricia Webb.



Frank was a longtime Synod member. Now aged 90, he still checks the rain gauge daily and records this figure and other weather indices meticulously.



Tim and Tricia Webb were the other two featured. They succeeded Tim's parents and grandparents on their sheep farm so their records go back for over a century. Please see over...



The Webb's sheep farm, just before the rain came. The countryside in the diocese has been transformed by some rain. The farmers need us to pray for more rain for seeding.



Above: Tim Webb being interviewed by the Landline reporter. **Below:** Tricia Webb who also plays the organ for church

The Lord is my Shepherd

As it happened, the following Sunday, after Landline went out, Revd Neale Sommersby and the parish of Kojonup held a Confirmation and Reception service in the Shearing shed at the Webb's farm.

Two of the Lectionary Readings for this Easter 4 were Psalm 23 and John 10.1-10, for which we could not have been in a more appropriate setting.



Correction from last month's *To the People!*

In last month's *To the People* I incorrectly identified a Palm Sunday service setting as St. Elizabeth's, Carey Park, when in fact the church pictured was St. George's, Dunsborough, as you may notice if you look at the photo of Alison Brown above. If you get the opportunity to visit St. Elizabeth's, there is a resemblance between the two sanctuaries, I think!

Some additional photos from Kojonup

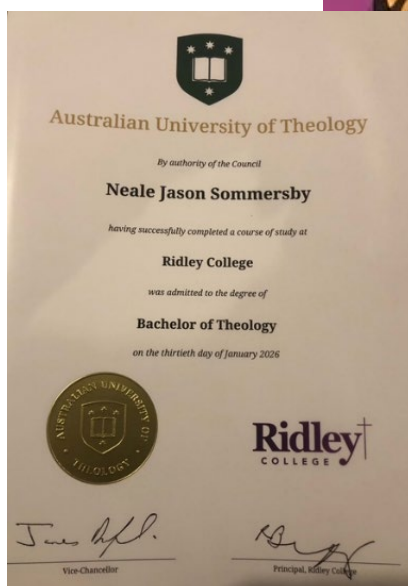
Below left: Frank Pritchard and his wife, Zanna.

Below right: Tim Webb and one of his dogs



Revd Neale Sommersby

Revd Neale has persevered with studying for his BA in Theology, in addition to his work in two parishes and other duties. This was Neale graduating at Ridley College in Melbourne on 18 April with a record 105 other graduates. He was presented with his degree certificate by his Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley, who is a dear Christian.



Cathedral floor makeover

Dean Darryl and the Cathedral Parish Council embarked on an ambitious plan to sand the entire wooden parquet flooring in the Cathedral. They removed all the pews to the carpeted and tiled areas and one tradie worked solidly to sand the floor and produce an entirely different and lighter colour and then varnish it. The results speak for themselves. This may have been the first time since the Cathedral was built, over 60 years ago. The Dean now has plans to clean the tiles at the back and the carpeted areas. In order for the floor to dry thoroughly they held last Sunday's service in the Cathedral Hall which proved a very enjoyable alternative venue.



From the Sustainable Living Working Group.

Did you know that the United Nations has designated the 20th of May each year as World Bee Day?

By observing World Bee Day each year, we can raise awareness on the essential role bees and other pollinators play in keeping people and the planet healthy, and on the many challenges they face today.

Today bees, pollinators, and many other insects are declining in abundance. This day provides an opportunity for all of us – whether we work for governments, organizations or civil society or are concerned citizens – to promote actions that will protect and enhance pollinators and their habitats, improve their abundance and diversity, and support the sustainable development of beekeeping.



This year's theme "*Bee Together for People and the Planet - A partnership that sustains us all*" aims to stress the strong and long-lasting partnership between humans and pollinators.

For millennia, bees and people have shared a close and evolving connection, shaped by the ways communities across the world have relied on bees for food and livelihoods, with bees often becoming part of their cultural identity. From honey hunting to a large variety of beekeeping systems, this relationship has continually adapted to different environments, technologies, and socio-cultural needs.

Ways that we can protect and enhance bees and other pollinators in our ecosystem:

- Plant pollinator friendly flowers
- Establish bee houses for solitary bees
- Opt for organic, sustainable food choices.
- Buy honey and bee products locally.
- Avoid harmful chemicals and pesticides.
- Leave nesting sites for ground-nesting bees.
- Plant hedgerows.
- Leave water out for bees – use shallow containers and add some pebbles to give them a safe place to stand.

Bees are a small but important part of God's creation – after all 75% of the world's food crops depend on pollination. Let's look at how we are encouraging and caring for them in our parishes and homes – and spread the word about International Bee Day!

For more information, please check the website: <https://www.fao.org/world-bee-day/en>

Rev'd Justine Richmond.

Reaching for the skies!

Revd Justine Richmond's Mum and Di Gillett, both from St. George's, Dunsborough, were the first paying customers to brave flying in this vintage biplane. Indeed I unknowingly spotted one of their flights as they flew along Back Beach in Bunbury at about 600 feet. Revd Justine's caption in her accompanying email was that there were "three octogenarians in this picture"! They reportedly "loved" the experience.



Bishop's Calendar

- | | | |
|-------------|--------------|--|
| May | 3 | Service at All Saints, Hyden |
| | 4-8 | Clergy Retreat, St John's Retreat Centre, Shoalwater |
| | 10 | Service at St Saviour's, Boyup Brook |
| | 12 | Boniface Care / ER Meeting via Zoom |
| | 14 | Cathedral Chapter Meeting, Diocesan Office |
| | 15-17 | Student Intensive, Albany |
| | 21 | School Council Meeting, Georgiana Molloy Anglican School |
| | 22 | Farewell Afternoon Tea, Frederick Irwin Anglican School |
| | 24 | Service at St John's Metricup 91 st Anniversary |
| | 25 | Anglicare Board Meeting |
| | 26 | School Board Meeting, Bunbury Cathedral Grammar School |
| | 28 | Ordination Council Meeting, Diocesan Office |
| | 29 | Reconciliation event at Bunbury Cathedral Grammar School |
| | 31 | Service at St Mary's, Coolup |
| June | 2-12 | <i>Bishop on Annual Leave</i> |

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'John' with a cross at the start, written over a horizontal line.

Justin Coulson's happy families®

LIVE IN BUNBURY: HELPING FAMILIES THRIVE

Join us for an inspiring and practical evening with one of Australia's most trusted parenting experts, Dr Justin Coulson.


Dr Coulson, co-host of Channel Nine's Parental Guidance and founder of Happy Families, brings research-backed wisdom and real-life insights to help parents, carers, and anyone working with young people build stronger relationships and support wellbeing.

At a time when young people are facing increasing challenges including mental health pressures, family stress and cost-of-living impacts, events like this are vital in equipping our community to respond well.

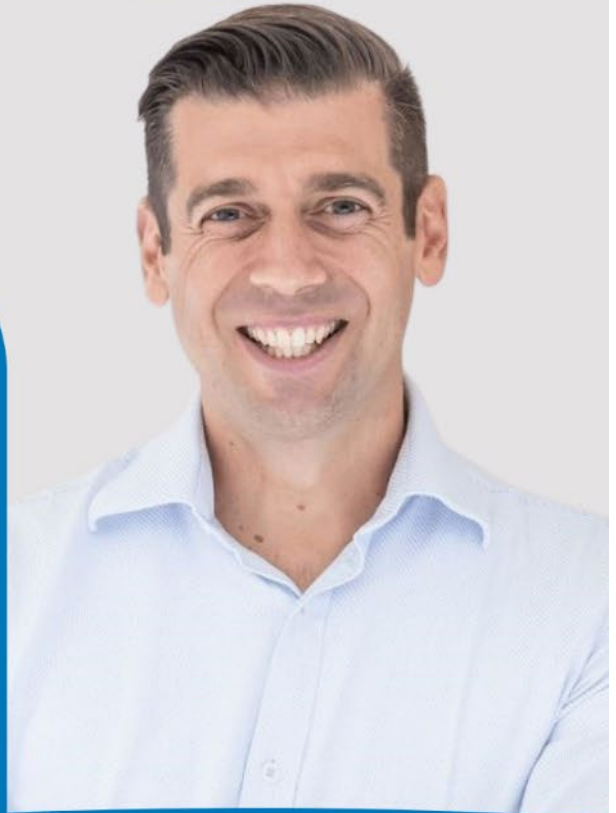
Monday, June 8, 2026

Tea & coffee from 6:30pm
7pm start (90-minute presentation)

Dreambuilders Auditorium, 38
Vittoria Road, Glen Iris

 Tickets available soon
via TryBooking

*Professional Development Certificate available for
educators by request.*



This event is proudly presented by the Bunbury Regional YouthCARE Council, supporting chaplaincy services that provide care, connection and support to students, families and school communities across our region.



WWW.YOUTHCARE.ORG.AU