

# What's News?

*A quick round up of what some of our St Andrew's parishioners have been doing while we have not been meeting together.*

It has now been about 4 months since we last met together to worship at St Andrew's. It has been an encouragement to us to hear that so many are keeping in touch by phone or the occasional catching up down the street, but for those who haven't seen one another recently, here is a quick snapshot of what some of us have been doing "during lockdown" and over the past few weeks.

## Olivia

Olivia, who is naturally a bit of a home body, has found plenty to keep her busy when she is not at school (although she is disappointed that the netball season was cancelled).

Cooking has become a new hobby and the family has enjoyed biscuits, cupcakes, chocolate cakes, banana French toast, baked donuts, ...

Our beautiful bunny, Gerald, is getting a lot more attention than usual. He is spending a bit of time each day hopping around the house, being groomed or being cuddled by Olivia (and others)

In recent weeks Olivia has tried her hand at some embroidery. It's a shame the don't do "Home Science" at school now...she'd have fitted in well in that class!



## Maddi

2020 has not been a great year for turning 18 and completing year 12 ☹️

Maddi's birthday in May was a rather uneventful day with just the immediate family (although we did play a few party games). Any further celebrations will have to wait. She has enough hours of driving under her belt, but Vic Roads is not taking any bookings for license tests; this is a great source of frustration for her.

With no netball to distract her and no library work for a while, Maddi had little else to do than to get stuck into her school work, but that's not very interesting to write about! She was glad when the local library re-opened so she could resume her few hours of work there each week.

We are all hoping that we won't have to go back to remote learning. Although we all did it well, we are happier at school.



## Rosalind

I began “lock down” determined to care for my mental and physical health by getting out and walking every day. David bought a “fit bit” for each of us, to keep track of our daily steps, and a bit of a competition developed for a while. I have continued to walk each evening and the scales are being kind to me (even though my hips, knees and back have not always been).

With not as much driving to Girgarre for netball and other chauffeuring tasks, I have found the hours after school to be less hectic than usual and it has been much easier to get into a good evening routine. We have definitely eaten less takeaway this winter, and have enjoyed a few new and different meals. I just need to convince Olivia that she can cook more than cakes!!

My technology skills certainly developed during our time of remote learning (and teaching) and Zoom meetings have become a natural part of my week. Even though we are back at school, we don’t all gather for staff meetings or assemblies, so we continue to spend a lot of time in front of our screens.

Our recent time in Point Lonsdale was very restful, and we kept very much to ourselves. Our days were filled with walks along the beach, fishing, reading, playing card games (a very common thing in our house now), etc.

From what I hear from others, 2020 has been a year of crafty and industrious pursuits (read on to see what others have done). My contributions to this effort have included reusable, washable, shopping bags and a large red octopus to be part of an ocean display for Science Week at school. My next goal is some face masks.



## David

It will come as no surprise, that during David’s down time he has been working on his trains! Recently this has been mainly the electronics, so there are no fancy photos to share. He has also mentioned in some of his messages that he has been out walking a lot more than usual.



Overall, as a family, we can certainly find many positives in 2020 so far, and are certainly in a better position than many. We are grateful that our parents are OK and still in their own homes, and that we are all keeping well. We have much to be thankful for.

## Dianne Glare

Twiggy continues to keep Dianne entertained each day and they can often be seen walking together. However, on Thursday Dianne was taken to Melbourne for further surgical treatment. She would value our prayers.



### Lorraine Doherty

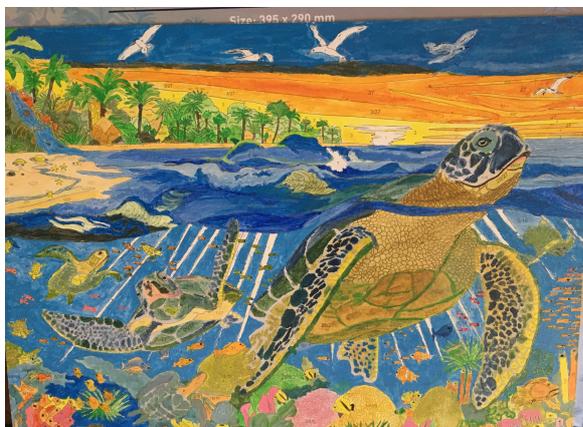
Lorraine has continued to make Sunday feel like Sunday and has informed us that she gets dressed and puts on her lipstick to “go to church”. She has been working on her strength and fitness and is glad that the gyms have re-opened. Ideally, she and John should be enjoying some balmy weather in Queensland at the moment, so there is some disappointment about that. While tidying a cupboard (another common Covid activity), Lorraine found some fabric and created what she has called her “Covid Quilt”.

### Doreen Napier

If you walk or drive up Church Street, you will see that Doreen has been busy in her winter garden and everything is neatly pruned, just waiting for Spring to arrive. Doreen is very proud (and rightly so) of her newly-acquired computer skills and has enjoyed staying involved with CWA activities via Zoom. Her grandchildren helped her to set up a new computer and her collection of recipes is now well-ordered and on the computer. Card-making and sewing have also kept Doreen entertained and she is another member of our parish who has maintained a regular Sunday morning routine of “attending” church on the computer at 9am.

### Hilda Tottenham

Wow! A 3000 piece jigsaw puzzle is an amazing achievement. Hilda has definitely kept herself busy. Once the jigsaw was finished, she moved onto a “paint by number” project (below) and has also been doing some pencil sketching. Hilda is another one of our walkers and can often be seen out for her late-afternoon walk, before tea.



We would love to include everyone in a newsletter, so please share your news with David or Rosalind (0400 260 355) by text or email, including photos so we can produce another edition of “What’s News?”

## Patti Harrison

Patti claims to have been “leading a quiet life”, but that doesn’t quite match with the list of activities that she has been involved in: gardening, sauce making, polishing the silver, walking (with a socially-distancing group 3 times a week and also at other times), ukelele classes, zooming the group with whom she travelled to the Holy Land (including prayer, praise and reflection) and in the first week of the school holidays she had some of her grandchildren staying here in Kyabram. If you visit the Grey-Box Reserve, you can still see this cubby that the children made. Patti is now filling her days by supporting two of her grandchildren with their remote schooling, by working with them online. This is filling a big part of each day and the prolonged screen time is quite tiring.



## Brad and Michelle Jackson

“We have been back in Australia for seven weeks now and adjusting to being locked down again. Two weeks in quarantine was a blessing, allowing us to rest and finish up important work from Japan. We are thankful that Melbourne wasn’t in lockdown when we arrived, allowing us to begin resettlement and attend church for the first time in months. Unfortunately, we are yet to reconnect with many of you and this will have to wait.

There is so much to be thankful for, overwhelmed by the generosity that was shown to us by many of you when we arrived in Melbourne. From cars being provided to meals in the freezer, we are so thankful to you and to God. It is fun to drive again, enjoy the beauty of Australia and rediscover Aussie food. We also managed to quickly acquire five bikes so we can get out and enjoy riding.

The boys haven’t attended school since February and we were all looking forward to them going again. Instead they will start at their new school online. It is hard enough to change schools in Year 9 and 10 but to do it online is particularly challenging, and making local friends near impossible. Please pray for our kids that their faith will grow through this time and that God will provide for all their needs. On the positive side we are thankful that our three kids are good friends with each other.

We are not sure what the future holds just yet. We have had some promising conversations and interviews as we hope to continue in gospel ministry. Please pray for God’s provision of work.

We are also not sure where we should live and continue to consider our options. Our employment will greatly impact this decision. We hope to connect with all of you in the coming months. In the meantime we can know that God is in control of all things and working in and through this pandemic for our good and his glory.”

*As a parish, let’s continue to pray for Brad, Michelle and their family as they settle in. We may see them in November, if things improve!*