

CONNECTIONS

This Week - On Tour With Marj and Val.

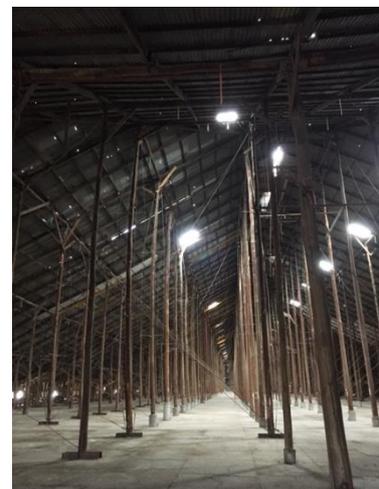
A couple of weeks ago Val McKenzie and I took a three-day road trip, basing ourselves in the Northern Grampians Shire town of St Arnaud, where we stayed in a Deluxe 2 bedroom cabin in the local caravan park. St Arnaud's population as per the 2016 Census was 2193, however on driving into town if we'd been told the population was 2 or 3 times that we would not have been surprised. A very long, wide main street and lovely old buildings reminding us of Bendigo, as St Arnaud also a gold town. We were very impressed by the presentation of the main streetscape, each side of the street being lined with suspended swags of ornamental grape which would be a picture in autumn, and even a traffic light in the centre of town!! Three parks in town were large and immaculately kept with huge trees for shade and one had a large undercover playground.

Also in that park was a very impressive mosaic wall which was created by students from the Secondary College, as well as local youth, under the supervision of artist Sally Pritchard. The students interviewed a number of long-term residents documenting their stories of the town during their lifetime and using tiles donated by locals the dedicated youth then smashed, cut and cleaned the pieces needed to create the 9 panels which made up the mosaic. It took numerous sessions over a period of 9 months to complete the mosaic inside the Neighbourhood House shed and they were then mounted to the concrete wall, built by council workers, by members of the St Arnaud Men's Shed.

It took another 8 days in summer heat to grout the entire mosaic. On Day 2 we journeyed to Pomonal to the James McMurtrie Glass Blowing Studio and Gallery and were fortunate enough to see him creating a beautiful bowl as well as view many lovely, completed pieces. From there we travelled through Stawell and on to Murtoa along roads bordered by canola as far as the eye could see and higher than the fences, Murtoa, population 895, another neat, well cared for little town.

We were there to see the 'Stick Shed' which was constructed as a solution for grain storage during the World War II wheat glut when exports were restricted. Work commenced on Sept 25th, 1941, and was ready to receive wheat in January 1942 and was built from 560 un-milled poles or 'sticks' (56 rows of 10) to support the corrugated iron roof. The shed is about 270 metres long, 60 metres wide and about 19 metres high along the ridge. We were amazed that such a huge structure could be built in such a short period of time without the benefit of the massive cranes, scaffolding and other machinery used in construction today. Also, there was probably a shortage of labour as most of the young men went to war, so those involved in the construction would be farmers and older men. In non-Covid times dinners are regularly held in the now empty shed.

After a late lunch at the Wild Duck 'Kafe' in Murtoa we journeyed back to St Arnaud via Rupanyup. The following day we checked out the St Arnaud shops and indulged in a bit of retail therapy. Without exception, everyone we met were very friendly, helpful and happy to chat. We then travelled home via Bendigo viewing the tulips in Rosalind Park on the way through. A very enjoyable few days (and blessed with lovely weather). God bless. Marj Squires. (Photos: ex Marj. Murtoa Stick shed)



Parish of St Andrews Anglican Church – Kyabram

Service times: 9am in the Church. 11am, family service in the Hall – 31 October 2021

A warm welcome everyone. It's a blessing to have you with us each week.

Readings Today: Ruth 1:1-18; Psalm 146; Hebrews 9:11-15; Mark 12:12-34

Next Week's Readings: [1 Kings 17:8–16 Psalm 146] Ruth 3.1–5; 4.13–17 Psalm 127, Hebrews 9.(19–22) 23–28 Mark 12.38–44

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God,
whom to follow is to risk our whole lives:
as Ruth and Naomi loved and held to one another,
abandoning the ways of the past,
so may we also not be divided,
but travel together into that strange land
where you will lead us, through Jesus Christ our
Lord. **Amen.**



Keith Hartin - We are saddened you hear Keith died on Saturday evening after a short illness. All our thoughts and prayers are very much with Beth, Jenny and Sharon and their families. His funeral was held yesterday Saturday 30th October. **Please keep the Hartin family in your prayers.**



Keep in Mind - St Augustine's College is hiring the hall and parish centre for the VCE exams. They have keys and will be set up from Tuesday 26th October. The hall will remain set up until the exams are over on Monday 15th November. If you are around the church at all, quiet would be appreciated. Keep the students in your prayers too. It is often a stressful time for them. 11 am service is as usual.

Prayer Group Re-starting

We are hoping to re-start the weekly meeting for prayer again in several week's time, at a suitable time for everyone. So far, we have had a suggestion for 2 pm on a Monday or Tuesday. Please let me know if you are interested and what time you prefer. The Prayer chain still is in operation. Please don't hesitate to phone or text either Phyl Stokes, on **0417 621 330**) or myself, on **0418 511 330** if you have any requests. Blessings, Patti Harrison.

CAN YOU HELP?

Help is needed with the following at 11am. Welcoming and assisting with the QR/sign-ins, handing out the service sheets and bulletin. Cleaning after the service. Tidy up the morning tea. Leading the prayers. Give Robyn a call on **0437 084 729** if you are willing to help.

Your Daily Prayers:

- Pray for the Parish finances, we are not meeting current commitments.
- for our new ministry team, Jacob and Sarah and little Theodore.
 - for wisdom for those in leadership
 - for those suffering with co-vid,
 - for those in the health care system under pressure.,
 - wisdom for Bishop Matt and family
 - for assistants at 11am service to step up

