

# St Margaret's Anglican Church Eltham

## the Parish Matters

Celebrates parish life and reports important items from the most recent Parish Council meeting  
Find us on the web at [www.stmargaretseltham.org.au/](http://www.stmargaretseltham.org.au/) Facebook at [www.facebook.com/stmargaretseltham](https://www.facebook.com/stmargaretseltham)

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

St Margaret's Anglican Parish Eltham acknowledges the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation as the traditional custodians of the land on which we worship. We commit to working for reconciliation and justice for Aboriginal people. Diversity and inclusivity are important to us at St Margaret's.

O God, our Redeemer,  
in our weakness we have failed  
to be your messengers of forgiveness and hope:  
renew us by your Holy Spirit,  
that we may follow your commands  
and proclaim your reign of love;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

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### Climate in Crisis

#### *What can I do?*

Use the link provided to secure your spot and for more information.

<https://www.trybooking.com/BPGHM>

#### Seminar 2

**April 24: Climate in Crisis: What can be done?**  
**Decision Makers from all levels of Government will present their vision and action plans.**

Facebook Link: <https://www.facebook.com/events/2886131821641957/>

**2.30pm. St. Margaret's Eltham 79-81 Pitt Street Eltham.**

**Speakers: from Nillumbik Council, State and Federal Politicians**

#### **BRING YOUR QUESTIONS**

A **SAGE** event (St. Margaret's Action group for the Environment)

### MONTMORENCY ELTHAM RSL ANZAC DAY

#### ELTHAM ANZAC Day Dawn Service

Ceremony starts 6.00am sharp

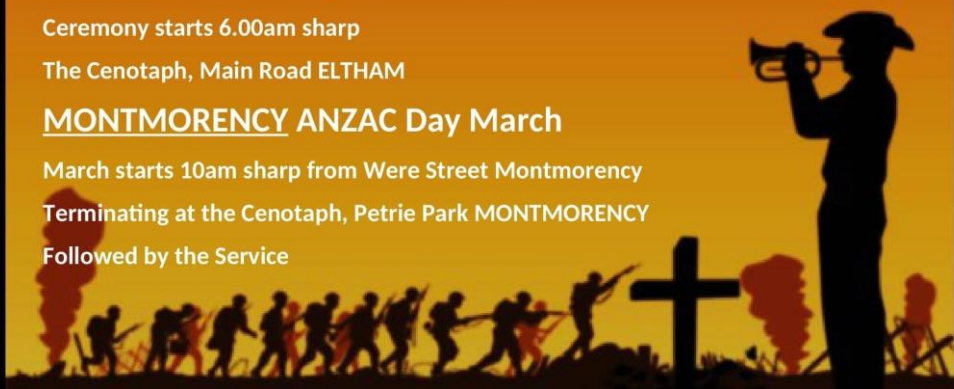
The Cenotaph, Main Road ELTHAM

#### MONTMORENCY ANZAC Day March

March starts 10am sharp from Were Street Montmorency

Terminating at the Cenotaph, Petrie Park MONTMORENCY

Followed by the Service



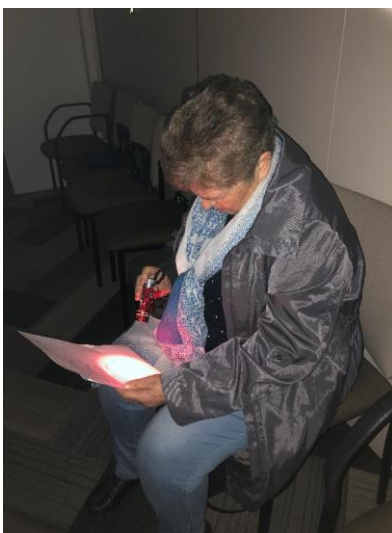
## Palm Sunday/Holy Week/Easter Day

The journey from Palm Sunday to Easter Day was wonderful. On Palm Sunday we processed from the Memorial Garden into the beautifully decorated church, waving our palms and tree branches. Thanks to Keren, the wizard at making palm crosses, we all received our crosses for another year. ***"All glory laud and honour to you Redeemer King"***



### Tuesday-Tenebrae:

The service of Tenebrae, meaning "darkness" or "shadows," has been practiced by the church since medieval times. In a darkened church using gospel and psalm readings, hearing classical music and slowly extinguishing candles, we remember the vicious politics surrounding Jesus' torture. A moving and meditative atmosphere.



### Maundy Thursday:

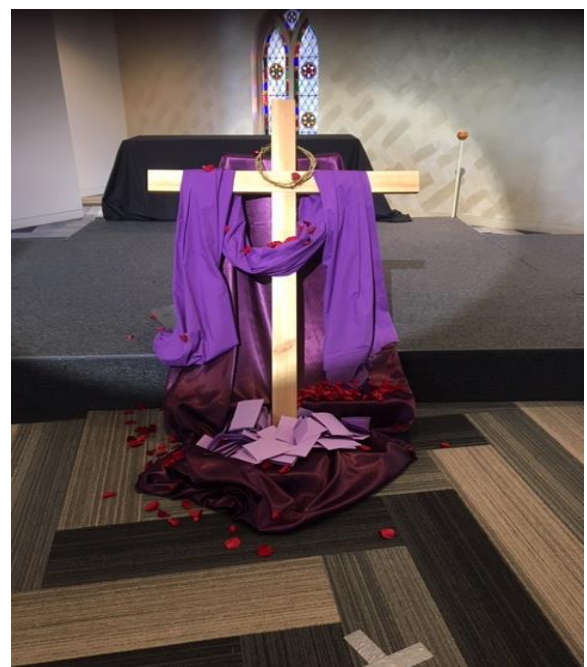
The beginning of the "Great Three Days" – a continuum of worship climaxing on Easter Morning. We recall the last supper and we participate in the washing of feet/hands, recalling Jesus' symbolic act of service.

***"A new commandment I give unto you, that you love one another as I have loved you."***



Then all is removed from the church. The sanctuary is bare.

### Good Friday: The Cross



***Were you there when they crucified my Lord***





The garden, the vigil commences.



And there are eggs!

## **Easter Day- He is risen Alleluia, He is risen indeed Alleluia**

The most joyous day of the Church year – the dawning of the great Sunday of Resurrection. We gather in the early morning to witness the lighting of the new fire, to hear the story of resurrection afresh and sing of God's glory. As the culmination of our Lenten preparation, we reaffirm our baptismal vows.



### ***Jesus Christ is Risen today, Alleluia***

Thankyou: It takes many people to bring together such a week. A simple thankyou seems small for the amount of time spent preparing.

Keren, Christopher and Robert - provided wonderful opportunities for prayer and worship; sermons and messages; music and song; and Easter eggs.

Mandy led the beautiful Tenebrae service.

Mitzi and Graham provided plants, and Mitzi, Jean, Graham, Keren and Christopher decorated the church for all these services.

Angela Langan for the beautiful lilies in the Easter floral arrangements.

Mary, Coralie, and Sally for managing the COVID Safe requirements through Lent and Easter.

Coralie and her helpers. worked tirelessly in the kitchen serving morning tea, including hot cross buns.

Lachlan, Helen, and Robert for providing the lovely music on Easter Day.

Jen Round for all her admin work – it's always a hard slog getting everything done for Holy Week!

Rob, John, Mandy, Harry – our AV operators throughout for being willing to bring the experience to those home.

## THE DOOR

Many of you will remember the work of the Property Re-development Committee led by John Winkett who worked hard for some considerable time to extend the spaces, ensure accessibility on one level and provide a church and facilities for the future. Great job, good result and within budget. BUT the front door, does not work for a number of members of the congregation. The Property Committee has worked with suppliers, the original architect and a supplier who we hope may supply a new set of doors.

The job now is to ensure that he can supply what we need. None of this has been easy, nor inexpensive but we know it is vital. Thanks for your patience.

**Sally Petty**

## The Vicarage, 10 John St

For a number of years we have been fortunate to have great tenants in the vicarage. The house has been well looked after. They have now left. We received an application from 4 men who live with certain challenges. Our agent reviewed their application and the lease was signed. We received the following delightful email of appreciation.

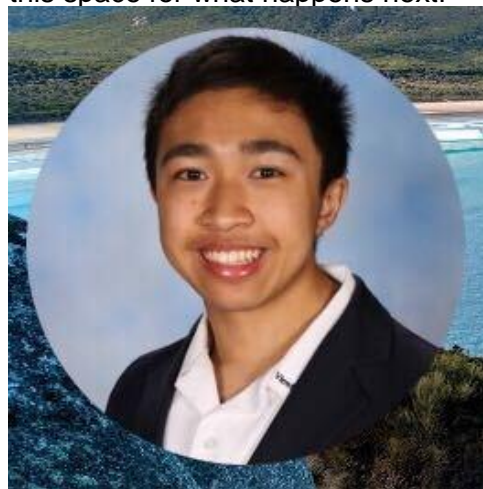
*Damian, Steven, Yuni & Luke together with their families want to thank you as the Churchwarden dealing with the rental of the vicarage. The success of the guys' applications has caused the greatest joy for all concerned. It is with pride and a combined sense of responsibility, as well as relief that at last, the opportunity to live in the community they love with housemates they have chosen, is a reality.*

## Music Programme takes off!

Some of you may have noticed the addition to our musical team on Easter Day at the 10am service: Lachlan Chau. Lachlan is the first candidate to participate in our scholarship programme, whereby we offer part scholarships for a young musician's instrumental lesson fees in exchange for them playing in church one Sunday a month. Those there on Easter Day were thrilled by Lachlan's playing, and we are delighted to welcome Lachlan and his mum Stephanie to our midst.

Lachlan will be playing as part of the 10am service on the 4th Sunday of the month. We look forward to walking alongside him as he

grows in his knowledge and expertise in supporting music here at St Margaret's. The committee is also involved in auditioning two further candidates at the end of April; watch this space for what happens next!



## Do Justice

**Sound the Alarm** for the climate emergency was the main activity of the Do Justice Group in the last few weeks. On the 11 March while the church bell rang, 19 people signed a letter to Mr Morrison asking for a quick change from using fossil fuels for power to the use of renewable energy. On the following Sunday congregations were able to sign other letters. So far there have been no replies from the offices of the PM, Josh Frydenberg and Angus Taylor. At the recent meeting, members decided more letters would be sent this month and congregations will be able to sign them if they so desire.

The next activity of DoJ on 17<sup>th</sup> April will be the Gary Presland seminar on how the landscape of the Eltham and the Yarra Valley region was changed after colonists arrived after the 1830s. We thank Kathleen Toal for coordinating this and contacting so many organizations.

Planning for the Yarning Circle continues. Helen Robinson, Kathleen Toal and David Tuke will give a presentation to Parish Council on Monday 26 April about landscaping and costings.

Part of the church's Mission Money has been sent to Korus Connect for pastoral work in the Greensborough Shopping Centre. The room/shopfront is now located on the base floor close to where you get off the escalator.....the old Priceline shop. In March one parishioner visited, taking in some books and magazines that others can select and take home, and reports seeing a dozen women sitting, talking and connecting with each other.

**Jenny Disney**



## Climate In Crisis Seminar Series

Under the name St Margaret's Action Group for the Environment (SAGE), the Mission Action Team is organising a series of in-person seminars under the banner of *Climate In Crisis: What Can I Do?* They are being widely publicised for the community to attend.

On Saturday 27 March, we held our first seminar, *Faith and Environment: What Grounds Us?* As its title suggests, this seminar was intended to frame our discussion over the series within our faith, and how faith underpins our care and concern for the natural world and the escalating crisis of climate change.

Our speakers came from backgrounds in the faith community and science. The first speaker, Sr Anne Boyd, was a leader in the Bigidine community (Catholic) and she reminded us that the entire universe is a sacred space, and that our planet is a gift. She outlined clearly and passionately that we are currently experiencing a spiritual crisis which is leading us to make the wrong choices in how we are treating our world. She told us that this is the most fundamental dilemma that we need to address to ensure survival of the world as we have known it.

Our second speaker, Professor Mike Clarke, was an ecologist and evolutionary biologist at La Trobe University and member of the group, ISCAST (Christians in Science and Technology), and his message to us was that the decision to act on the crisis facing our world is fundamentally a moral one, not a scientific one. He presented a faith-grounded response for action that was predicated on the ultimate truth that our planet is a gift from God, and that there is the necessity for us all alive now, to honour the responsibility that has been placed on us.

Our third speaker, Rev Alex Sangster, told us through a strikingly powerful delivery, that we need to wake up and act. Her urgent message was that we need to realise that inaction and despair about the crisis we are in are not options. She assured us that the "moral arc of the universe is long, but it bends towards justice" and that prayer was a powerful way to help us realise that.

Afterwards, during afternoon tea in the hall, many people commented to members of our Mission Action Team that the synergy between all three presenters and presentations was quite remarkable, and that the presentations approached

the subject from very different angles yet were highly complementary.

On behalf of the Mission Action Team, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to how well our community supported this event – thank you so much to everyone who came! We were thrilled with how the afternoon went.

This seminar leads into our next seminar on 24 April, *Climate in Crisis: What's Being Done?* Decision makers from all three levels of government will be presenting and offering their plans of action and what they can do to address the climate emergency. This will be an opportunity to continue our community conversation and convey to our representatives that we need to have strong partnership in ensuring better outcomes for our world. We are looking to a good attendance so that we can convey to our political leaders that there is an urgency for committed and serious action to address climate change.

**Mitzi Tuke**



## Parish Council Highlights

Parish Council met in the church physically for the first time in roughly a year. We began with reading and discussing the book we are studying called "A Future that's bigger than the Past". One of the key messages was to approach parish life with a focus on abundance – in all our planning, intentions and operations. So watch this space!

Some points of interest from the meeting included:

- We have one worthy recipient for our Music Scholarship program and many of you will have met Lochie and his mum at church recently. Lochie plays the piano at a very high standard. We currently have two more

submissions – one for a student who plays the flute and the other the piano so we look forward to seeing how these applications progress.

- We reviewed Event Planning Sheets for some really interesting upcoming events including World Labyrinth Day, an indigenous art exhibition and seminar for NAIDOC week
- We discussed the potential for the Labyrinth to be renewed as part of our surplus funding and this has been referred to the Property Committee for their consideration.
- Keren will be taking well deserved annual leave from the 10-23 April.
- The Finance Committee gave their report which in short identified that our financial situation is very satisfactory. The Committee has started drafting the 3 year forward budget and this should be finalised in the next couple of weeks and will include ideas for ongoing staffing needs.
- Robert and MaryAnn are stepping back from their work on the Pastoral Care team and Parish Council acknowledged the great contribution of both to this team over many years.
- The Bishop is booked to come to St Margaret's for Pentecost and for Christmas Midnight Mass this year.
- Do Justice will give a presentation at the next PC meeting to provide an update on the Yarning Circle and how it is progressing. At some point after this they will provide an update to the parish (most likely a short presentation after church). A big thank you to the Do Justice team for all their work on this important project.

**Mandy Stevens**

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### Eltham Anglicare

Proceeds from the recent visit of **Blumes Mobile Fashions on 13th April** will go to children and teenagers in care who need computer equipment.

There will be a **socks and jocks collection** ( new ones only please!) in May for men who attend Anglicare provided lunches and breakfasts at St Mark's Fitzroy and St Peter's Eastern Hill.

We have decided to put in an application to have a **Sausage Sizzle** at Bunnings later in the year. Offers of help will be gratefully accepted.

Finally a huge thank you to the ladies who knit and crochet clothes and rugs for Anglicare. Only 4 weeks after our last pick up of clothing and

toiletries there are some 30 rugs to be given to families. We have been advised that plainer, dark coloured rugs are the preference of the homeless people.

Now that Covid restrictions seem to be coming to an end, meetings will resume on the second Tuesday of the month in the church hall

**Jenny Disney**

### About the Pastoral Care Team

It's good news. Pastoral Care is almost out of all of the COVID restrictions. The Team are back to delivering as best they can:

- Pastoral Visits—home, hospital, rehabilitation and palliative care
- Phone calls and greeting cards
- Arranging Home Communion
- Prayers for those in need (Prayer Chain) contact Mary Lynton-Moll.
- Runs public seminars on topics of health and wellbeing.
- Arranges Men's Breakfasts and Pub Lunches
- Regular services and visits to Eltham Retirement Centre

Pastoral Care Team Clergy Contact is the Revd Christopher Garcia

This summary was requested by the Parish Council at its last meeting, where sincere thanks were recorded at the retirement of MaryAnn Wilkie and Revd Robert Street, after many long years of service to Pastoral Care, each making too large a contribution to measure and to so many people's spiritual and physical wellbeing. Again, we thank them for their magnificent service.

As suggested by Keren, we are publishing the Team membership with their contact information which we think could be useful in time of need.

We think that Keren and Christopher are well known enough not to need biographical details.

Most of the lay members attend the Sunday 10 am service, so if you are from 8 am or Wed 10.30 please think prayerfully if you could make a contribution. In the formative years of the team Revd Clem said '*how ever big or small you can make a difference*'.



**Revd Keren** Chairing PCT during COVID lockdown. Contact 0438 220 878



**Revd Christopher** our Curate and PCT contact at 0427 779 365



**Adrienne Watson**  
03 9439 9059

I have a nursing background from St Mary's Paddington, London. I joined St Margaret's in 1973 and contributed to children's ministry for 32 years before moving to Pastoral Care. I am available to talk or visit people at home, in hospital or respite care and am trained to bring Extended Home Communion on request. I support St Vincent's Aged Care as a volunteer by visiting 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays and at the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday services. I enjoy listening to people and helping where possible.



**Helen Costello** 0422 158 640

Creative writing and art classes keep me busy. I also own a frisky black cat. I mostly attend the 10 am Sunday services and occasionally Wednesday 10.30 am, and am a contact for the Monday Circle. I like our team meetings and find the pub lunch useful for connecting with people. I send out cards to people who are ill, in recovery or need some kind of contact from our church. People tell me that my cards and phone calls make a difference to their lives.



**Jenny Gillett** 0422 161 684

I have some 40 years experience as a general nurse, midwife and maternal

and child nurse in hospitals, radiology and community health consulting. My family and I have been part of St Margaret's Church family since 1983. Since 2008 I have been unable to practice my profession due to a workplace injury. I have been blessed with support from St. Margaret's Pastoral Care team during this time and am so pleased that I can now assist others in need.



**Sheila Cheary** 0425 708 286

After recently retiring from a long career in Nursing and Nurse Management, I am finding being part of St Margaret's Pastoral Care team both uplifting and rewarding. During the last part of my career, I became involved in Dementia care management, developing a better understanding of the needs of people living with Dementia and the needs of those caring for them. I hope to bring these insights to bear as part of my role with the pastoral care team.



**Harry Watson**  
0418 322 347

I am a professional engineer and on staff at Melbourne University before retiring, joining Pastoral Care about ten years ago. To my surprise the transition from helping students and with Children's Time here, to pastoral care has been very rewarding. I help Adrienne, Sheila and Christopher at St Vincent's and visit patients in recovery at hospital or respite care as well as people at home. I take the minutes of team meetings and am the convenor for the first Saturday of the month Men's Breakfast.

**Rae Kerr** 0432 688 571

I have a nursing background, the latest in road trauma rehabilitation, at Epworth Richmond. I joined St Margaret's in 2001, after a suggestion that I explore my spirituality. I came to the right place. I convened the prayer chain for a short time. Then became a member of the Pastoral Care Team. I mostly attend the Wednesday service, appreciating the friendship and support from this group. My special interests are my grandchildren and reading.

We acknowledge and thank so many parishioners who give care to friends and family. Your love is wonderful.

**Harry Watson**

## **The St Margaret's Oak – have you ever wondered?**

The St Margaret's archives do not reveal the details or date of the planting of the St Margaret's front garden oak. It remains a mystery.

It is partnered by a eucalypt, thereby entwining the indigenous heritage with a new colonial arrival.

Those who plant oak trees are touched by a sense of eternity. Rarely does one who plants an oak live to see its completed life cycle. The tree lives longer than most people do.

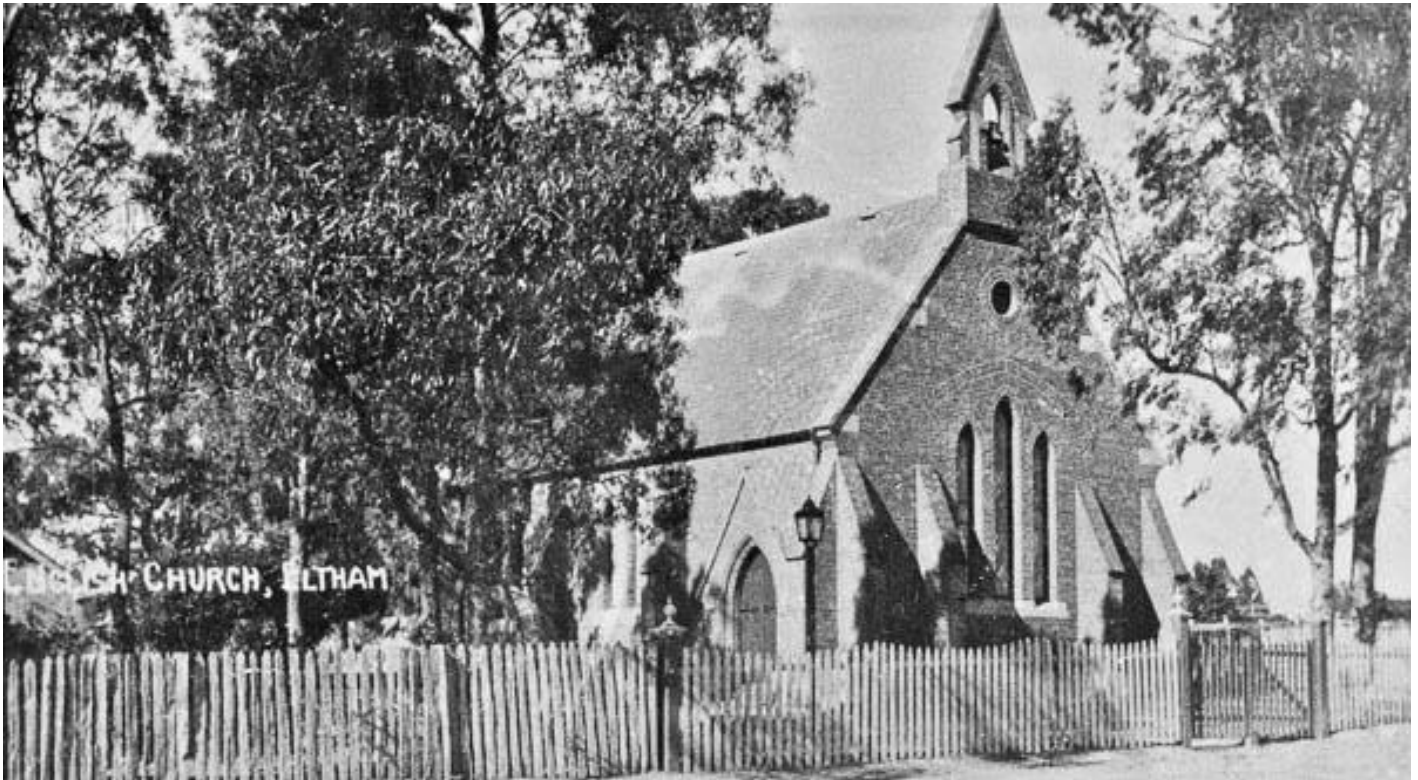
You plant an oak for a time you can only imagine or dream of; for people you probably will not know. You plant an oak in the hope that it will shade and shelter another, give joy and comfort to someone in need or sorrow, offer a climbing challenge to a child as yet unborn. There is a lot about an oak to connect us with the themes of Christian living.

The St Margaret's oak is unusual. It is an Algerian or North African oak – quite different from the English oak familiar to many of us. Its leaves are smaller and have more angular edges than its English relative. It behaves differently too.

The English oak sheds its leaves in autumn and stands with bare branches throughout winter. The St Margaret's oak retains its leaves until spring when the new leaves replace the old. So it remains an effective shelter all year round. That may well be why the early settlers chose to plant them.

If you are interested to make the comparison, there is an English oak in our garden beside the church that you pass on your way to Dendy House.

***Felicity Wiltshire***



Early Photo of St Margaret's with the trees.

### **Correction**

In the last edition Diana Warrell was accidentally omitted from the MATeam in the lead article. written by Harry  
Sincere apology.

Ed this edition Sally Petty  
Pictures by Linda McKenzie and Sally Petty  
Please note publication of next issue 12<sup>th</sup> May.



## The Ones They Left Behind.

A woman's work is never done,  
From rise of dawn to setting sun.  
She toils unrested throughout the day,  
Washing, cooking her hours away.  
Her nearest neighbour her eyes can't see  
Her spare thoughts only, she thinks of he.

He joined the army with his mates to fight,  
To stop this bloody war, to help life go right.  
He told her this as he left Aussie shores,  
'You'll have a good wage you'll not want for more.'  
'To stay behind, is a family's disgrace,  
That's why I'm going, to war with me mates.'

'I'll return with badges so shiny and bright,'  
He told his five little kids with great delight.  
You will be so proud, of your good ole dad,  
We will slaughter the enemy, war's not so bad.  
I will see the pyramids and I'll post you a card,  
Take care of old Granny, 'cause this will be hard.

He was 23, dressed in new infantry gear,  
So proud of his new socks, he let out a cheer.  
No thought of his city born wife, entered his head  
Or even of being injured or ending up dead.  
An adventure with mates was coming his way,  
And towards Gallipoli, he galloped away.

She ran the farm as best she could,  
She had little experience, at even chopping wood.  
No rain for a season, dust everywhere flowed,  
The dust covered lanterns would often not glow.  
In darkness and fear she tried hard to survive,  
She did grubbing and hand watering to keep them alive.

With five young kids, and another on the way,  
The weary mother, fought so hard to stay.  
Grandma lived with her, but dementia had taken its toll,  
She was confused, lost, and fearful, a testing old soul.  
Gran was continually incontinent and with no water  
'round,  
It was a true living nightmare to sustain mental ground.

The wife became weary and lonely as hell,  
Not once in a day could she rest for a spell.  
She got a letter from him after nearly a year,  
Most was erased by the army, which gave her more fear.  
She did not know where he was, or if he was even alive,  
When was he coming home? How could she survive?

She wrote back to tell him the news of her life,  
The horse had died four weeks ago from a horror snake bite.  
The ole brown dog had been gorged by a wild hungry boar,  
And where was her husband? Fighting a bloody awful war.  
Did he ever think of his family, and their horrendous plight?  
What were his thoughts before he said a quiet good night?

'Please come home;' she cried, dripping tears on her note,  
I'm so exhausted I can't read a word that ya wrote.  
I'm carrying water to boil, so we can at least have a drink,

When we last had a bath, I can't even think!  
I have to tie up your mother when I go milk the cow,  
Because yesterday she attempted to murder the sow.

She had another boy last June, she named him Big John,  
But he died in her arms before July came along.  
No Priest's been to visit and your mum's off her head,  
She reckons we're cursed and we'll soon be all dead.  
She says he's in limbo because he ain't been baptised.  
Poor baby born, so malnourished, undersized.

The chooks are not laying, the rooster been got,  
The foxes and dingoes, they've taken the lot.  
The dam has dried up, along with the creek,  
And we've not eaten eggs for over six weeks.  
The mice ate the wheat bags and the grain from the store,  
And I ain't got no money to go buy some more.

We can't go to town because the horse is so dead,  
And I can't leave your mother 'cause she's gone in the head.

The kids can't walk the distance so what will I do?  
I'm a city gal here in this hell of Barloo!  
The postman called, there was no mail for she.  
So she sent him, to draw, some water for tea.

The kids were excited to have a visitor call,  
He gave them all day suckers, and they cried out for more.

He promised he'll help them, move back into town,  
If she did as he requested, before the hot sun went down.

She picked up a gun and charged at him through the door,  
And your mad mum, with a rolling pin, gave him 'What For!'

She guesses it will be a while until the next post arrives,  
She hopes it will rain so she can try to survive.  
She waited for months, no one ever did come,  
Starvation, exhaustion, took the family, one by one.  
The little ones first, noiseless they did go,  
Their frail little bodies dying ever so slow.

She died holding her last little son,  
But Grandma survived, her race, was not run.  
He returned from the war in a terrible state,  
His war was now won, but he was too late.  
He buried his family, his eyes filled with tears,  
His horror at war, had been too many years.

He thought only the hardship, would be just for the men,  
He never imagined, it was also for them.  
It's not just the soldiers who have to be brave.  
It's the women, who unknowingly they take to their graves,  
What price have we paid? What is the score?  
How many must die for bloody useless wars?

*We will remember them!*

**A story about her Aunt by Jennifer Gillett**