



LION TALES

January 2010

Quarterly Newsletter of St Mark's Community Centre
50 George Street, FITZROY - 3065 Phone 9419 3288



An event in World's History,
God's greatest gift to all,
of Virgin's birth, a greater mystery
in a lonely cattle stall.

'Tis time to . . .
celebrate the birth
of this earth's True King,
born so long ago,
(the Herald Angels sing,
the Herald Angels sing.)

He taught lessons of Peace
that pure love would bring,
to all Peoples of Earth
life Everlasting.

Written by one of our clients, Colin Gist

FROM ROBIN:

Happy New Year to you all! We returned from our two week closure on 11 January expecting to be inundated by clients, but in fact the extreme heat that day deterred some. Having said this, we were busy enough and pleased to welcome back our regular clients – this is for many, a home from home, a place to feel safe and accepted, and as so many of the agencies offering emergency assistance close down after Christmas, people are particularly vulnerable at this time. For this reason, Anglicare's breakfast programme at St. Peter's, Eastern Hill and the Lazarus Centre at St. Paul's Cathedral continue to open whilst we are closed and the staff there will take

a well earned break now that the other agencies have reopened. This is an example of how working in partnership is good for the clients and good for us. Another example was, at the suggestion of Ray Cleary, involving Rev. Robert Vun, chaplain to the Chinese community, with our work. This we did during the distribution of Christmas parcels which made life far easier as regards the language barrier and is something we hope to build upon in the future.

ANGLICARE UPDATE:

On 29 November, the First Sunday of Advent, Dr Ray Cleary, CEO of Anglicare formally commissioned Robin as the Co-ordinator of the Community Centre. This is the latest stage in the new partnership between St. Mark's



Pictured (above) after the Commissioning, left to right: Fr Philip Murphy (Parish Priest), Tim Clark (Sports Co-ordinator), Dr. Ray Cleary (CEO of Anglicare Victoria), Robin Ellwood (Co-ordinator) and Ross Haynes (former Co-ordinator)

and Anglicare Victoria. In his homily, Dr Cleary spoke about this relationship being a two-way process in that both organisations have gifts to offer each other. A copy of his homily is available on the Facebook page.

PLEASE STOP THE RUMOURS!!

A number of people have called expressing their concerns about rumours of a takeover by Anglicare, claiming to have such information from “reliable sources, close to St. Mark’s” – THIS IS NOT THE CASE! However, we are hoping to form a formal partnership with Anglicare Victoria, like the many other parishes undertaking a similar ministry to ourselves. Essentially little will change except that we can receive help and assistance from the bigger organisation which has to be to our advantage. Examples would include holiday/sick cover, such as when Allan Russell held the fort before my appointment; training opportunities for staff and volunteers; and premises maintenance. As Dr. Cleary said in his homily on 29 November, “this is a win-win situation.”

FROM FR. GRAHAM REYNOLDS OF ANGLICARE VICTORIA:

Let me introduce myself. I am Fr Graham Reynolds the new General Manager, Parish Partnerships and Community Development with Anglicare Victoria. I began working at Anglicare last December.

I am quite excited about the developing partnership with St Mark’s. The

welfare work carried out by St Mark’s has a proud history of service within its neighbourhood.

By entering into a partnership with Anglicare Victoria (AV) this service will be enabled to be enriched and offer new programs that fit in with the ethos of St. Mark’s. In particular, AV offers staff and infrastructure support as well as partnering with sister programs at Mission House (Napier Street) and the Lazarus Centre at St. Paul’s Cathedral.

In many ways our programs only scratch the surface of the needs of the homeless. Our combined “weight” will give us much more clout to provide more holistic support and also strengthen our arm in dealing with the various Government Departments who have responsibilities in these areas.

I too think that this partnership is a “win win” situation enriching both organisations and also, enriching our work with our clients.

CHRISTMAS PARCELS:

My thanks to those who made contributions towards our Christmas Parcel Appeal. We have had a great response with financial donations, tins of ham, cakes and puddings for the double and family parcel items, but had to raid the shelves of the local supermarkets for smaller sized puddings, cakes and tins of meat. We were also fortunate to have been supported by Bunnings, Hawthorne who donated 600 ‘green’ bags. Other companies who supported us were Bunnings at Northlands, Coles at Brunswick, Westpac Bank, Gisborne, Dockendorf’s Supermarket, Brighton

and Newton and Leung Pharmacy. New schools on board this year include Sherborne Girls Grammar School, Melbourne Grammar School, the Academy of Mary Immaculate, Mentone Grammar School, Trinity Grammar School, Mount Macedon Primary School and Strathcona Baptist Girls Grammar School (Tay Creggan Campus).

Thank you too to all who assisted in making up our 625 parcels, including the wrapping of 400 gifts of toiletries for the single clients – this was a mammoth undertaking.

A warning . . . to be even better organised in time for next Christmas, I’m already beginning to plan for next year’s parcels - so watch this space!

SPORTING EVENTS TIM CLARK:

St. Mark’s has put on sport in a number of areas throughout the spring and summer.

In the pool competition we were able to reach the Grand Final at the Red Triangle Pool Parlour near Brunswick Street. Our opponents were from the Coolibah Centre. The match was fought very closely with Coolibah winning by just four balls. Better luck next year.

In cricket we played in the ReLink 25 Overs Per Side Competition with six other teams. Our home matches were played at the beautiful Brunswick Street oval where Fitzroy used to play football until 1968. Skills have improved and attitudes were good with our cricket team. We played in the C Grade Grand Final against Western Storm and we won it convincingly.

Lawn Bowls continues weekly at north

Fitzroy. In November we travelled to the ReLink Bowls Tournament at the St. Kilda owls Club which I helped to organise. There, our team won the trophy for the best team. Also, it is worth noting that a number of our bowlers are playing Pennant on Tuesdays and Saturdays.

(Thanks to Tim for all he does in mentoring and supporting the teams, plus the hard work of co-ordinating with other agencies which can be very frustrating!

On another note, we have a large number of golf clubs, particularly left handed clubs, so if someone is maybe starting out and looking for some inexpensive clubs, please let Tim or myself know).

OPPORTUNITY SHOP JOHN NAUM:

After a busy year, St. Mark’s Opp Shop closed on Christmas Eve and reopened on 12 January giving all staff a well earned holiday.

We are still hoping to recruit more volunteers this year to fill vacant shifts, enabling us to extend our opening hours and continue to provide a service to our clients and the community.

Any enquiries will be welcomed. Please ring John on **9417 2965** or just drop into the shop at **298 Smith Street, Collingwood**. We look forward to your continued support and wish everyone a Happy New Year.

Thanks to John, Sharyne and the team of volunteers who work so hard to run the shop - this is one of our main sources of income. Recently we said farewell to Dorothy Viertman, a long

term volunteer who retired after many years service. Can I echo John's request for more volunteers both for whole and part days.

The shop welcomes unwanted Christmas gifts as well as clothes and household items. If you haven't already visited the shop, do please come in and have a browse – you never know what sort of bargain you might find!

AGM:

The Annual General Meeting took place on 19 November and was well attended. Copies of the Annual Report will be available as soon as the Auditor has completed the accounts. The report will also be available on line. Thanks to Lois and Harold Peters, Jenny and Martin Dickenson and Alan Phessey who provided an excellent lunch for us all.

ON-LINE BANKING:

A number of our supporters have asked about making payments to St. Mark's via internet banking. This is of course possible.

The required bank details are:

BANK:

Commonwealth Bank

BSB NUMBER:

063-123

ACCOUNT NUMBER:

1012-2989

A/C NAME:

St. Mark's Com. Centre Opp Shop

And,
Readers overseas may like to use:
Swift Code: CTBAAU25

Please ensure that you include your name as a reference so that we can acknowledge your donation and issue a receipt.

HAVE YOU VISITED OUR FACEBOOK PAGE?

This is directly accessible from our web page:

<http://www.stmarksfitzroy.com/>

Why not become a Friend of St. Mark's? There are some up-to-date photos of recent activities to view.

LION TALES BY EMAIL:

Don't forget that you can now receive your copy of Lion Tales by email which helps us at St. Mark's by saving money on the postage. Please let me know by sending an email to: robin@stmarksfitzroy.com or by completing the form on page 6.

AND FINALLY:

Once again, a big "thank you" to all our supporters for their donations (edible, financial and spiritual) throughout 2009. Thanks to our paid staff: Tim, Kent, Anthony, John, Sharyne and all of our volunteers. Thanks too to Lyn Wilson for editing and typesetting this edition of Lion Tales. Best wishes – Robin Ellwood

ABOUT DONATIONS

TO:

St. Mark's Community Centre, 250 George Street, FITZROY, Vic. 3065
Tel: (03) 9419-3288; Fax: (03) 9417-5398; Email: robin@stmarksfitzroy.com

"INASMUCH AS YE HAVE DONE IT UNTO ONE OF THE LEAST OF THESE MY BRETHREN, YE HAVE DONE IT UNTO ME." [Matthew 25:40]

Here is my gift of \$..... to support the work of St. Mark's Community Centre

(Gifts of \$2.00 and above are tax deductible)

Name

Address:

..... Post Code:

If you do not wish to contribute at this time, please ignore this form.



Please send me any future copies of Lion Tales and/or Receipts by email.

My email address is:

.....



ST. MARK'S COMMUNITY CENTRE

250 George Street, Fitzroy, Victoria. 3065.

Tel: (03) 9419 3288; Fax: (03) 9417 5398;

Email: robin@stmarksfitzroy.com

Website: <http://www.stmarksfitzroy.com/>

*Our Facebook page can be accessed directly from the parish website
and includes photos from the Centre*

Opportunity Shop: 298, Smith Street, Collingwood, Victoria. 3066

Tel: 9417 2965



ST. MARK'S COMMUNITY CENTRE, FITZROY

As we begin 2010, we look forward to your continued support.

The following items are always welcome contributions

for our food parcels:

Weet-Bix type Cereals

400g Tins of Baked Beans/Spaghetti

400g Tins of Vegetables, Tomatoes, Fruit etc.

400g Tins of Soup/500g Tins of 'Chunky' Soup

400g Tins of Stew/Curry/Bolognaise/Pies etc

Tins of Fish/Meat

Packets of Cuppa Soup

Bags of Pasta/Spaghetti & Jars of Pasta Sauce

Packs of Flavoured Noodles

Bags of Rice

Own brand Coffee/Tea/Milo/Sugar – for the Lounge

Long life milk – for the Lounge

**Soaps/shampoo/toothbrushes/toothpaste/razors
(and hotel/in-flight type toiletries are always useful)**

PLEASE TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRINT THE NEXT PAGE AND PIN IT
TO THE NOTICEBOARD OF YOUR CHURCH OR CLUB !