

# The Link

The monthly newsletter of St. Andrew's, Brighton-Le-Sands Uniting Church

Volume 1 Issue 2

July 2020



*We reach up to  
God, reach in to  
one another and  
reach out to the  
community*

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## Church Council

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Elders	Ese Enari Shirley Jackson
Members	Alison Dain Stephen Dain Carolyn Gates

## Pastoral care needs

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## Bank details

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Brighton-Le-Sands Uniting Church

Welcome to the July edition. Morning worship is now back in full swing and we thank Alan Harper and Rev Matagi Vilitama for leading us in worship and preaching. Everyone seems so pleased. The restriction on singing is frustrating but understandable. The pre-recorded music that Alan brought made it easier to sing quietly, but after last Sunday morning Alison commented on how the singing got louder during the service. As long as we do not return to full volume just yet, we should be fine.



In order to achieve this resumption, there are many instructions and notices and it is important that you follow those instructions. We have been complimented on the quality of our COVID-19 safety plan. A copy is held in the vestry and I will put a copy on the website.

We ask that kitchen users be especially diligent and follow the disinfection procedures.

Harry's Cooking Classes and The Well Christian Fellowship (11am Sundays) are back and I expect that the Holy Path Church (7pm Saturdays and Wednesdays) will be back soon. The Brighton Bunnies Playgroup are waiting on the advice of Playgroups NSW and will review at the end of July.



The roster for July is at the end of this newsletter. Please identify your tasks. If you are unable to do any, please arrange for a swap or substitute yourself

The repaired computer is in place. The network is complete in the church and the cable is through to the upper room. The audio/video cupboard has been reorganised and the hearing loop is back in action.

Lauris Harper has volunteered to edit future editions of The Link. Is there any limit to the generosity of the Harpers? We thank God for them. She will assemble the document, but it is up to us to provide the copy. The submission date (to [sdain@optusnet.com.au](mailto:sdain@optusnet.com.au)) is Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July

## A history of St Andrew's

In preparing the documents for the division of assets of Brighton-Kogarah congregation in the separation process, I got immersed in the history of St Andrew's. The particular issue related to the manses, but other things came to light. Pam and Charles Schofield, who have been part of St. Andrew's all their lives, have some fascinating documents. Betty Johnston has lots of photos since she and Gordon became part of St. Andrew's in 1985. We should try to consolidate what we all have.

I will try to assemble a history (it would be nice if we had someone with history searching skills). There is a wonderful document, the booklet for the Silver Jubilee celebration in 1950. The outside view has not changed much.



1950



2020

Alsiob and I first climbed the central steps in August 1985, took the left-hand branch of the path and entered by the vestry!!!! I have cheated a little in 2020 by Photoshopping out the units and the sign. The interior is more changed. The 1950 version is not the 1938 original. But more of that later. I chose the Pentecost banners because I think that the red looks fantastic.



1950



2020

The Jubilee document is a record of the oral history of St. Andrew's at that stage and traces events right back to the building of the original church. The original church became the church hall and was replaced by the current hall in 1961. Even before that, Presbyterianism came to Brighton in the form of Scots College.

So, it is in my mind to provide snippets of history, to consolidated what we know in The Link, month by month, and, eventually, combine into a single document. But, before we move to the church history, we should look a little at the history of the area in which St. Andrew's stands.

Compiling a history of the first peoples in the area would be much better done by the experts, but we lack any those. So, here is my inexpert summary, with apologies if I have misrepresented anything.



## The first occupants of the land on which St. Andrew's stands

I have relied on an extensive and comprehensive report "Aboriginal history along the Cooks River" published by the Cooks River Alliance and the Australian Government.

<http://cooksriver.org.au/publications/aboriginal-history-along-cooks-river/>

See also [https://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/first\\_people\\_of\\_the\\_cooks\\_river](https://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/first_people_of_the_cooks_river)

In the report, the Aboriginal name for Cooks River is said to be not known but elsewhere, [https://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/boatswain\\_maroot#ref-uuid=d019eb08-9e65-9034-55cc-52308f00b997](https://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/boatswain_maroot#ref-uuid=d019eb08-9e65-9034-55cc-52308f00b997) it is said to be "Gumannan". I will use our modern names for ease of our understanding. While St. Andrew's may seem a little distance from Cooks River, this is a comprehensive document plus, Cooks River is not what it was and I am not talking about the mouth being moved to build the airport. 20,000 years ago, Botany Bay did not exist. What we call Cook's River was 4 km longer than it is now and flowed along the line of Lady Robinson's Beach and joined the Georges River at, what is now, Greenhills Beach and then joined the Hacking River off Jibbon Head to meet the sea about 1.5 km later. It seems that both Cooks River and Georges River have lost the apostrophe that they, presumably, once had.



Map modified from "Aboriginal history along the Cooks River".

So that would make St. Andrew's definitely part of the Cooks River valley. Muddy Creek, the lowest tributary of Cooks River on this map, now runs past Rockdale Plaza and crosses West Botany Street between Bay and Bestic Streets as a concrete-lined stormwater drain, becoming a creek after crossing Bestic Street by Francis Avenue.

So, the report is applicable to the land on which St. Andrew's stands.

This is a very much abridged abstract of the, 45-page, full report. I will place a full copy of

the report at St. Andrew's.

20,000 years ago, the world was in the middle of the last ice age, sea levels were lower and there had already been aboriginal people in the region for thousands of years. The river at Wolli Creek was freshwater where now it is brackish. A fireplace dating back 10,500 years has been found next to Tempe House. Around that time the coastal swamps extended all the way to Moore Park and Randwick and 8,500-year-old stone hearths have been found in Randwick. The remains of a butchered dugong dating back about 6,000 years were found when the Alexandra Canal (by QANTAS Drive) north of the airport was excavated. Kendrick Park, Tempe, has a shell midden dating to about 4,500 years ago and

there are middens and rock drawings in Undercliffe. 4,000 years ago, stone axes were being used and about 1,000 years ago fish hooks were in use.

This all begs the question as to who should be acknowledged in our respects to the traditional owners of the land on which St Andrew's stands. The land on the northern side of Cooks River is identified in Figure 3 as Cadigal land (also spelled "Gavial") and the land by the coast south of Cooks River is Gameygal (also spelled Kameygal) land. They are defined as "Aboriginal clan whose hunted and fished in the area along the Georges River and western Botany Bay." Gameygal land extended to include Allawah, Carrs Park and Blakehurst.

Dictionary of Sydney entries

Cadigal/Gadigal: Aboriginal clan originally found on the southern shore of Sydney Harbour from inner South Head, along the shores of the present Eastern Suburbs to Darling Harbour.

[https://dictionaryofsydney.org/organisation/cadigal\\_people](https://dictionaryofsydney.org/organisation/cadigal_people)

Gameygal/Kameygal: Aboriginal clan whose hunted and fished in the area along the Georges River and western Botany Bay.

[https://dictionaryofsydney.org/organisation/gameygal\\_people](https://dictionaryofsydney.org/organisation/gameygal_people)

Eora: Group of Indigenous clans from the Sydney basin that were united by common language and strong ties of kinship. As coastal dwellers they were skilled at navigation and fishing and had strong spiritual ties to the land, which were broken with the arrival of Europeans. The name is Aboriginal for 'the people'. [https://dictionaryofsydney.org/organisation/eora\\_people](https://dictionaryofsydney.org/organisation/eora_people)

Dharug: Aboriginal nation composed of many clans across a wide geographical area of the Cumberland Plain. [https://dictionaryofsydney.org/organisation/dharug\\_people](https://dictionaryofsydney.org/organisation/dharug_people)

So, as far as I can see, the original custodians of the land should be referred to as the Gameygal or Kameygal people of the Eora nation. I will look some more expert validation of this.

## **Samaritan's Purse**

The Craft Group, when it resumes) will be filling the Christmas Shoe Boxes as it has for a number of years. Thank you for the support from both St. Andrew's and Kogarah.

It is not the only thing that Samaritan's Purse does. It is an international Christian organisation and supports countries all over the world. In this pandemic, Samaritan's Purse quickly set up emergency field hospitals in New York and Italy, caring for thousands of sick people as well as continuing to care for sick people in dozens of missionary hospitals.

In Australia and New Zealand, Samaritan's Purse has been partnering with local churches to deliver care packages and to distribute groceries to vulnerable communities. In Sydney and Brisbane, Samaritan's Purse is working with local churches to supply necessities.

In the summer, Samaritan's Purse worked to help disaster affected families recover from the devastating bush fires – sifting through rubble and ash to find salvageable items.

Overseas, they bring relief to Syrian refugees, aid hurricane survivors in the Bahamas, cyclone victims in Mozambique and work to improve the health of women and children in South Sudan.

So please thank God for the medical and logistics teams and pray for all teams and volunteers who are busy responding to disasters.

Finally, back to our own church and the Craft Group's contribution to the Christmas boxes, a separate notice will be sent out soon, itemising what we need . Please support our project with prayer, good and financial donations.

## St. Andrew's supports these activities, in particular

### **COOK MOOREFIELD COMBINED CHURCHES CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BOARD**

Supporting Nick's ministry at these schools. Financial donations to Alison (tax deductible).

### **NICK'S BREAKFAST CLUB AT JAMES COOK HIGH**

Alison will be finding out what they need and we will make arrangements for any donations you may wish to make.

### **THE KOGARAH STOREHOUSE FOOD MINISTRY.**

The Storehouse is distributing food parcels on Wednesdays and needs food donations still.

<http://www.kogarahstorehouse.org.au/>

The Winter newsletter is available <https://www.kogarahstorehouse.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Newsletter-Winter-2020.pdf>



### **LACLA-LET THE AFRICAN CHILDREN LEARN ASSOCIATION**

Carry on collecting your 5cts for donation when worship services resume.



### **SAMARITAN'S PURSE OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**

<https://www.samaritanspurse.org.au/get-involved/ways-to-give/>



### **ACT FOR PEACE CHRISTMAS BOWL**

<https://www.actforpeace.org.au/Learn/Why-we-are-here>



## **Weekly offerings to St. Andrew's**

Your offerings may be made direct to the bank account with a regular payment. See the side bar on the front of this newsletter. For offerings at the church, there are year supplies of offering envelopes in boxes in the vestibule. These run from the beginning of April each year and there still some there.

## **Prayer points**

The mission and ministry of our congregation.

Worship leaders, preachers, musicians, readers, helpers, leaders, followers.

Those affected by COVID-19, their carers and families. Those who have lost loved ones.

Those still feeling the effects of the bushfire and floods.

Those who are sick, sad or lonely

Our own people especially Carolyn and Dennis Gates; Ruth Bird and the Gaitau family.

Pam Schofield, knee replacement, St. George Private, June 9<sup>th</sup>.

Timothy Dain, after foot surgery resulting from a work accident.

To raise up people to work within St. Andrew's.

*If you need pastoral care or know of someone needing pastoral care, please see the contact details in the side panel on the first page. If you wish an addition to this list, please contact Stephen Dain*

ROSTER for July 2020

Please arrange substitutes when you are not able to do you allotted times

Date	Preacher	Worship Leader	Musician	Bible Reader	Welcomer	Projector	Open close + Communion	Morning tea	God's Gang	Special notes
05	Alan Harper	Alan Harper	Alison & Marques	Carolyn	Charles/Harry/Dennis	Ese	Dennis  +  Dain Family	Pam & Talafu	Shirley & helper	Colour: GREEN <i>Visiting lay preacher</i>
12	Alan Harper	TBC	Alison & Arinona	Mere	Charles/Harry/Dennis	Gordon		Alison & Arinona	Children in church	Colour: GREEN <i>Visiting lay preacher</i>
19	Alan Harper	Alan Harper	Alison & Marques	Arinona	Charles/Harry/Dennis	Komiti		Carolyn & Siunipa	Shirley & helper	Colour: GREEN <i>Visiting lay preacher</i>
26	TBC HC		Alison & Arinona	Alison	Charles/Harry/Dennis	Stephen & Dennis		Talafu & Marques	Charles & Pam	Colour: GREEN Someone to bring bread for HC <i>Visiting minister</i>