

St Francis Xavier's and
St Clare's Parishes
September 2010

BOX HILL BUZZ

Welcome to the third edition of 'The Buzz'. In this newsletter you will see some photographs from the AGM held on 30 May 2010 at St Clare's. At the meeting the Parish Pastoral Council reported back on the previous year but also presented the Parishes with its plan to see the Parishes moving forward in the future with a comprehensive Strategic Plan focussing particularly on the areas of Parish life the Council considered would most enrich and enhance the life of our Parishes. Plan please feel free to download a copy from www.scsfx.org.au or contact the Parish Office on 9890 2231. You can also read about the enthusiastic Walking Group that meets every Saturday. There is a report on the life of Bob Lane who had a very long association with St Clare's and a report on how the Berengarra School is giving the facilities at St Clare's a new lease of life.

Annual General Meeting



The Parish Walking Group

A friendly and welcoming group, the parish walking group invites newcomers to join.

When Fr Anthony first suggested the idea of a Parish Walking Group about three years ago, there was uncertainty about his motives. Did he see our community as a group of unfit, unmotivated, unhealthy parishioners who could do with a shake-up, or did he seek to provide an opportunity for our people to meet fellow parishioners, to share their faith and friendship, and enjoy some physical activity at the same time? Of course, the latter was the case.

After much consideration, Saturday morning was chosen as the appropriate time for such a venture, and an open invitation was extended to parishioners to come along and join in morning prayer, enjoy a pleasant walk together and return to the Parish House for coffee.

Since the first gathering almost three years ago, a dedicated group of parishioners have taken part



in this weekly activity. Firm friendships have been formed and they look forward to a happy gathering each week. Irrespective of the weather they gather at 9.00am, begin to dissect the week's news events while waiting for all members to arrive, then share in morning prayer before setting off on an hour's walk. The very first walk from the Parish House took the group through Black's Walk and the Blackburn Creeklands Reserve and back through the leafy streets of Laburnum. On a sparkling morning in early spring it was magnificent, and although there has been variation of the route on many occasions, this walk still remains the favourite.

On return to the Parish House, Vic Burns consults his pedometer and declares - regardless of how long the group have been walking - that they have walked 5 kilometres even if the walk has been curtailed by the onset of rain.

Sense of direction and navigational skills have come into question on the odd occasion when those at the head of the group have, whilst engaged in earnest conversation, missed a turn or two and taken the group on a somewhat longer or more convoluted route than planned, amidst plenty of

laughter.

The health benefits of this regular physical activity are great and until this year were offset by the delicious range of cakes or biscuits provided by Rina Ingrassio each week.

Fr Ben frequently comes in when the group return, saying he thought they were just going out and that he was planning to walk with them!!! Of course he then joins in and entertains over morning tea.

The group has been delighted to welcome some newcomers this year, and on occasions they alter the routine and stop at one of the local coffee shops on the way back to the Parish House. As there is always plenty to chat about, it seems the time taken for coffee may well override the time taken to walk.

Although the group currently is relatively small, there is no limit to the numbers it can and would like to accommodate. It is a friendly and inclusive group and would welcome newcomers. If you are interested in joining us please call the Parish Office on 9890 2231 during office hours, or just come along to the St Francis Xavier Parish House Meeting Room by 9.00am on any Saturday. You will be made most welcome.

Mary Rossely

Berengarra

Over the past few years the Berengarra School has been investigating various options to relocate their school from the Glen Waverley premises. After a number of disappointments the preschool building of St Clare's was identified as an option.

In September 2009, representatives from the St Clare's Finance Committee and the Parish Pastoral Council meet with the Principal and Business Manager of Berengarra School. The result of the discussions recommended to Fr Anthony ofm that the Berengarra

School be offered a five year lease with an option to extend for additional three years.

Following the signing of the lease, a considerable investment of over \$200,000, was made during December and January into the School, including:

- refurbishment of the exterior of the buildings;
- the creation of seven new classrooms which accommodate up to eight students;
- refurbishment of the kitchen area; and creation of a new

staffroom.

The Parish of St Clare's is very fortunate to be able to assist Berengarra by providing the use of the buildings and some much needed certainty to a school which provides a wonderful service to our broader community in providing specialist services to its students.

For more information on Berengarra please feel free to contact Fr Anthony or visit <http://www.berengarra.vic.edu.au/> Anthony Kennedy



The entrance to the new school



A revamped kitchen facilities for students

Technology room complete with new computers.



Recreational facilities – more fun at lunch times



The end of an era with the death of Bob Lane

Bob Lane's death, on 4 June 2010, ended a 53-year association with St Clare's Parish and the local community of Box Hill North.

Bob and Bernadette Lane were married in January 1957 and settled in their Killara Street home. They became in due course the proud parents of Des, Michael (deceased) and Peter.



This period also saw the development of St Clare's School and, in April 1962, the establishment of St Clare's Parish as a separate parish within the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

The Box Hill North of that time was vastly different to what exists today. Box Hill was regarded as rather rural, a Sunday drive from the more developed areas of Melbourne. Housing development was proceeding on areas of land previously home to apple and pear orchards. Services and facilities were decidedly sparse, or what could be described, euphemistically, as "in the concept stage of development".

Bernadette returned to teaching in 1968, accepting an appointment at

St Clare's Primary School. At the time of her retirement in the mid 1980's, she was Deputy Principal. A generation of pupils at the school will remember Bernadette's warmth and skill as a teacher, as well as the withering look over her glasses at errant behaviour. Her skill in sewing and craftwork is legendary. Bernadette is remembered for her multitalented contribution to the parish community. She died on 23 August 2006, following a long illness.



Bob saw service in the RAAF during WWII. His experiences in preparing airfields in northern Australia and the islands, during which on a number of occasions he came under enemy attack, provided the framework for many interesting anecdotes of that period.

Following the war he became a skilled metalworker and welder, employed principally by the State Electricity Commission. He also generously contributed his talents to the various tasks involved in building the school and St Clare's Church. This was not a commitment of days or months, but one occupying years of spare

time. The many parishioners involved in this voluntary work established a strong bond. This bond persists and perhaps, explains the pride and close attachment of many parishioners to the parish and to each other.

Bob, together with another parishioner, built a working miniature railway from which many youngsters of that period derived great enjoyment at each Annual Fete.

He helped form the then Parish Credit Society and for a time was a Director. The credit society has long since disappeared, being progressively absorbed by larger societies. One visible remnant is the Coffee Kiosk, the building from which the original Co-op operated.

Bob also played his part in the various groups and organizations that enable a parish to function effectively.



Bob's health over more recent years progressively deteriorated. He bore his illness with Christian fortitude and was accepting of the inevitable outcome. In his final days he was cared for at Nazareth House.

The Parish Pastoral Council welcomes any items for the next newsletter please forward all photos and any articles or even suggestions for what you want to know about in the Parish to sfxbh@celestial.com.au by 30 November 2010