

Celebrating Australia Day at the Church of the Resurrection



The Church of The Resurrection has recently celebrated Australia Day with a Morning Service and then a Breakfast with entertainment. This tradition has been at this church since 1995, when it was inaugurated by the Rev'd Chris Chataway who was rector at that time. Over the years the format hasn't changed that much. The celebration consists of a morning service followed by a traditional English breakfast of bacon, eggs and sausages cooked in the traditional Australian way on a barbecue. Various people have organised and helped with the food over the years. Some of whom have been Patricia Findlay, Sue Battams, Julie Couzner and Karen Cameron.

Traditionally there is the community singing of purely Australian songs. A typical program since the start has been: the National Anthem, "Advance Australia Fair" followed by Waltzing Matilda of course and such old favourites as Botany Bay, Click Go The Shears, Road to Gundagai, I am Australian, South Australia, and I Still Call Australia Home. The singing was usually led by various people including Terry Balmforth, James Clay and John Jennison on Guitars. Chris Bowes or Barbara McCall played the Keyboard with more support from other musicians. Readers of prose and poetry were also a feature. A Quiz devised and conducted by Elaine Baulderstone always tests our general knowledge. A game of "Two Up" was converted to Tops and Tails to cut out gambling. A Numbers Board with prizes, still remains popular thanks to Chris Bowes or Karen Cameron.

The Breakfast was first held in the Parish Centre but as it became more popular it was transferred to The Car Park. After a few Breakfasts hot weather made that venue uncomfortable, so the venue reverted to the Parish Centre.

When the Rev'd Mark Bowey became rector, the parish amalgamated with the parish of Henley and Grange and St. James' Mile End and for some time the breakfast was in the church hall at St. Michael and All Angels, Henley Beach. This provided much more space and more people participated. In the days at St Michaels their then priest, Peter Brown and his wife Marilyn gave us some great comedy and singing entertainment.

After a time the parish amalgamation was changed and the Parish of Kidman Park and Mile End came into being. So, the Australia Day Breakfast resumed its original venue at The Church of The Resurrection and largely in its original format, as it was this year and we hope for a long time to come.

This is just one of the activities that are available for our congregation to participate in and enjoy. Not just our congregation by the way, as we always warmly welcome people from outside our parish to join us. Other attractions at The Church of The Resurrection include: The Opportunity Shop; The Craft Group, the Choir and The Christmas Carol Service. We hope you will join us at some time. You are very welcome.

Terry Balmforth...February 2017