

THE MENANGLE NEWS

VOL 27 NO 12

DECEMBER 2017

St James

Minister: Rev Chris Moroney
Enquiries: Ph. 4633 8594

8.30am: Traditional Service

10am: Family Service and Sunday School

Families are welcome to join us on Sundays. We run a children's program while the 10am service is on. This caters for children 3 years old to year 6. Under 3's are welcome in church and the service is live streamed to the adjacent room – The Stables



www.menangle.anglican.asn.au

BELL RINGING PRACTICE 7 to 8 PM

1st, 3rd & 5th Wednesday evenings
New members welcome.

Columbarium Niches

Reservations can be made with a deposit of \$200
contact Brian - 4633 8261

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

ST JAMES'

7pm Christmas Eve
Family Service

9am Christmas Day
Family Service

St. Patrick's Church

Mass: 1st Sunday of each Month at 6pm

ST PATRICK'S
6pm Christmas Eve

Menangle Facebook site:

<https://www.facebook.com/Menangle-321604494572016/>

Menangle website:

www.menangle.com.au

BIRTHDAYS

1st Bradley Warner
1st Simone Collison
2nd Charlie Culpan
2nd Ethan Green
3rd Laura Howard
5th Jason Jeffree
6th Sam Ashton
6th Shane Halfpenny
7th Sara McNevin
9th Paige Robertson
11th Vanessa Perentin
18th Rosemary Tedesco
19th Neave Burt
21st Shane Koeford
21st Luke Campbell
27th Fionn Johnson



Add your special dates to our list by sending an email to: byp257@gmail.com

LIBRARIES

The Wollondilly mobile library visits Menangle every Friday between 11am and 12noon. You will find it parked in St James Ave... AND don't forget the Little Library at 12 Station Street; available whenever you're passing by!

MEN @ SHOP

...an opportunity for men to relax, with other men, over a cup of coffee or tea in a friendly atmosphere once a week at 10.30 a.m. on Thursdays at the Menangle Store.

The meetings usually last about an hour.
Contacts: Chris 46338594 Graham 46338810

MERRY CHRISTMAS

WISE MEN STILL SEEK JESUS

RAINBOW REFLECTIONS

DECEMBER 2017 – Dealing with Offences

Summer has arrived! In the short lead up to Christmas may I offer you some thoughts that could significantly sweeten up your Christmas experience. Guaranteed totally calorie-free!

An article I read recently claimed that the single greatest cause of marriage breakdown and break up was UNMET EXPECTATIONS! I dare to suggest that this is the single greatest cause of ALL relationship difficulties.

If you don't meet my expectations, I may be hurt and offended. I may become angry, and my thoughts may resemble a prosecuting attorney, as I relive the offence giving it way too much of my attention.

Until I find the grace to forgive you, I will not trust you and I may not even like you. Nothing you do will really change anything because it is not your fault – it is mine. “A brother offended is harder to win than a strong city.” Proverbs 18:19

Jesus offended people, because He was not what they expected. In the town where He grew up, the local people “knew” Him, or they thought they did! And because of their unbelief in who He really was, He was not able to do many miracles there. Offence is a terrible thing!

In the same way many, many people are offended at God. “How can God be good when there is so much suffering in the world?”

“If God is all powerful, then why does He let bad things happen to good people?”

“A good God would not let innocent children be harmed.”

These are the wrong questions to ask because they won't uncover the truth.

Rather – if we ask “How has God shown His goodness in the world?” we can begin to find answers that lead us into truth. We discover that God not only entered our world as a human being, but He has identified with every human suffering, so He can understand and comfort all who suffer. As a totally innocent man He suffered rejection, betrayal, denial, desertion by His closest friends, a corrupt pretense of a trial full of false witnesses, a torturous flogging and death by crucifixion. He KNOWS!

We discover that God created all things good, but the bad choice of human beings allowed evil into the earth. So much evil is still the direct results of bad human choices.

So – if you are offended at God – If He has not met your expectation in some way, you can even put your offence onto the cross of Jesus, along with all of my offences and all the offences of every person in the world – past, present and future. He has already carried them. And you can be free to get to know who He really is! And boy is that the best adventure in the world!

If you are offended with people – the difficult relative; the obnoxious sibling, the painful in-law; the boss who treated you unfairly; have a look at what you were expecting from them. Was it understanding or affirmation or a reciprocal gift, or even just kindness? Forgive them, let them off the hook, and you will be free to find joy this Christmas!

Blessings and love,

Sue Peacock

MENANGLE AUSTRALIA DAY BREAKFAST

FRIDAY 26th JANUARY 2018

AT THE MENANGLE FIRE SERVICE SHED

8am – 9.30am

\$5/Adult \$10 / Family

Special features include:

- AUSTRALIANA THEME - wear your Akubra
- Good tucker cooked by our wonderful Brigade
- Info on the Beersheba Memorial Wall at Menangle Park
- Reading from an early Menangle History article
- Classic Car Club on display.



Land at Menangle has been rezoned, opening the village up to development

Daniel Zautsen, Macarthur Chronicle Wollondilly
December 1, 2017

A proposal to rezone a 557ha site at Menangle has been approved, paving the way for a 5000-home development on the site by developer Mirvac.

The Sydney South West Planning Panel approved the rezoning of the Station Street Precinct at a meeting yesterday.

The panel had held off on making a decision after a meeting last month when Wollondilly Council raised concerns the proposal did not fit within strategic plans for the region.

However the development was approved after advice from the NSW Planning Department.

According to the panel's decision document, the proposal was consistent with the current regional plan and with the draft Greater Sydney Regional Plan put out by the Greater Sydney Commission.

A spokeswoman for the planning department said the rezoning would be finalised shortly.

“It will now be forwarded to the Department of

Planning and Environment as a delegate of the Greater Sydney Commission for consideration before the rezoning is finalised. The Department will consider any community concerns when it assesses the proposal," she said.

"The rezoning would allow low density residential development, a neighbourhood centre, public recreation area, and infrastructure.

"The proposal was approved by the panel subject to the exclusion of any land within 200m of active coal seam gas wells.

"The panel agreed the proposal to expand the Menangle Village has merit because it would help with supply and choice of housing in the Wollondilly local government area. It also includes measures to restore important heritage items in the village."

Wollondilly, Camden and Campbelltown Council have unanimously indicated their opposition to proposal.

Menangle resident Matthew Deeth, also a Wollondilly councillor, has long been opposed to the development and said it was disappointing to see the land rezoned.

"It's a sad day when one of our most important heritage villages is left to be developed by the State Government and the Department of Planning," he said.

"It's also disappointing given that the Greater Sydney Commission was incredibly clear in its draft plans that there should be no urban development on rural land such as this."

Four of the five panel members voted for the proposal with only Wollondilly Councillor Matt Gould opposing.

It is anticipated that Mirvac will now submit a development application for the site.

OPINION

No plan other than to say yes to developers

Jeff McGill

From Camden Advertiser

Wollondilly, Campbelltown and Camden councils all oppose new housing estates at historic Menangle – as do local residents, local historians and local environmentalists.

Developers want it to go ahead.

Guess who won?

Ha. That was, of course, a trick question. This is NSW...and the Macarthur region is Sydney's dumping ground.

Historic Menangle, a time capsule originally created for rural workers on Camden Park estate, is hailed as the birthplace of Australian agriculture. It might soon be better known for McMansions.

And, of course, the usual lack of government spending, thinking or caring.

As I noted last week, we already have a massive new housing estate approved for equally-rural Menangle Park, just across the river, but no announcement of an electric rail connection or even freeway on/off ramps.

The plan appears to be no plan – other than saying yes to developers and creating a future traffic gridlock around Macarthur Square. Now we can add Menangle too.

I don't mean to sound cynical and grumpy, and would much prefer to be talking about other topics, but this is happening on an almost weekly basis now and the developers always win.

This is the same state where the politicians making the decisions live in large leafy north shore homes 10km from Sydney, but demand tiny squished-up new estates without backyards 70km from Sydney.

The same state that promised to hand planning powers back to local councils and then did the exact opposite.

Last week's decision to rezone rural land at Menangle was NOT made by any elected local councillors.

Approval was given by an *appointed government panel* in a meeting at 320 Pitt Street, Sydney. That says it all.

Our future, our landscape, and our quality of life in Macarthur is being decided (and dictated) from the other side of Sydney, by a government led by MPs also from the other side of Sydney.

The sad reality is that we are NOT a cherished part of Sydney, we are a sneered-at *colony* of Sydney. We do as our colonial masters tell us.

We got a glimpse of the attitude on full display earlier this year when plans for a new high school in Oran Park were announced to cater for 2000 students and 158 staff – with 10 parking spaces.

When locals complained, the attitude from some government supporters was *how dare you!* We should be thankful for any scrap thrown from the table.

This decision to hand Menangle to developers was made on the other side of Sydney. That says it all.

No. If we're expected to be Sydney's dumping ground, the least we should expect is adequate and timely infrastructure – without begging, or having to try to get substandard efforts changed.

There are some locals who will defend the government by saying it needs to spend taxpayers' dollars wisely.

I would reply that this is the same government

spending \$2 billion to knock down and replace two Sydney stadiums, one of which isn't even 20 years old. Yet it can't afford a fraction of that money to replace deadly Appin Road goat track, at the same time as it approves housing along it. It *has* the money; it just *chooses* not to spend it here. Government planning IS that arbitrary. Look at the bribes, sorry, I mean previously-unannounced road funding pouring into Bennelong, where (by complete coincidence) a vital by-election is underway. Dumping grounds get residents – not roads, rail and respect.

See also:

Menangle Park rooftops a step closer *From Wollondilly Advertiser* by Ben Chenoweth

Over 350 people attended this year's event. We were blessed with wonderful weather. Thanks band, singers, fire brigade and all who helped by setting up and providing displays.

CAROLS ON THE HILL



Photos courtesy of
Leon Warren
- see photos at
www.menangle.com.au

