

THE MENANGLE NEWS

Vol 31 No 1

SPECIAL EDITION

JANUARY 2021

MENANGLE AUSTRALIA DAY CELEBRATION

Tuesday 26th January, 2021

MORNING TEA TOGETHER

At **10am** In the OLD SCHOOL GROUNDS



Under the current restrictions we need to meet outdoors in family groups.

BYO:

MORNING TEA

GAZEBO SHELTER

(for your family group.)

PICNIC CHAIRS

AUSTRALIANA OUTFIT

TRIVIA KNOWLEDGE OF ALL THINGS AUSTRALIAN

****The Historic 7th Light Horse Troop will join us!**



BIRTHDAYS

5 th	Terry Swanson
7 th	Doug McDonald
8 th	James Tedesco
16 th	Victoria Foulks
19 th	Bianca Peretin
20 th	Rheannen
21 st	Joshua Bond
28 th	Paul Thompson

ANNIVERSARIES

29th Harry & Francis Warner

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

O WHAT FUN IT WAS TO MEET, ON THE CAROLS ON THE COMMON! HEY!



The annual Christmas Carols in Menangle originated as a Community event many years ago, was absorbed and run by St James Anglican until 2019, and then picked up again as a Community Event in 2020. Covid restrictions caused many organisations to shy away from facilitating Carols Events in 2020.

The Camden Community Band had been booked, so we confirmed our booking for December 13th. The bandmaster Murray was very pleased. He believes that communities coming together to celebrate Christmas after a very difficult year was very important, and

was disappointed that so many of their other bookings were cancelled.

Our wonderful Fire Brigade very generously provided BBQ and drinks for free.

Mark Shepherd facilitates the sound and light each year through a local firm LKR Productions, and their digital screen upgraded our event to a level of brilliance unseen before in Menangle. Our singers excelled as always!

Two readings from Max Lucado's book "God Came Near": "The Arrival" read by Brittany McFarlane, and "Just a Moment" read by Siobhan Burt created a lovely context for a very broad sweep of God's big picture story presented by Sue Peacock.

Thank you all who participated! It is such a privilege to belong to the Community of Menangle!



Happy New Year - 2021 IS THE YEAR OF ABIDING!

The Fruit of the Vine

During the Christmas/New Year holiday summer holiday season many of us have enjoyed the fruit of the vine!

Special occasion meals in our family are made even more special when we add a glass of wine. We relax, the conversation flows, and even the Christmas bon-bon jokes raise a chuckle.

But it's more than the effect of the alcohol, there's a comfortable companionship in the belonging and sharing. We are blessed, and what is good is enhanced. (Sad to say the opposite can also be true and we grieve for those caught in the trap of alcohol abuse.)

Jesus was celebrating the Feast of Passover with His Jewish friends on the eve of His death. As He took the cup He would have said the traditional Jewish blessing over the wine: "Blessed are You Lord our God, King of the Universe, who brings forth fruit from the vine." He went on to say "The wine in this cup represents My blood that will be poured out for many people for the forgiveness of sins." ⁽¹⁾

Jesus came to earth as God's gift of love, and as He gave Himself in complete sacrifice, the fruit His life produced was the forgiveness of sins!

Jesus brings some rich meaning to this wine/vine metaphor in His teaching: "I am the Vine, you are the branches, if you abide in Me you will produce much fruit." ⁽²⁾

The fruit we produce, when we abide in Jesus, will be love and forgiveness.

What does it mean to "abide" in Jesus?

It means to live life in the innermost part of our beings – the part of us that is one with God – our Spirits. Jesus said "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the scripture has said out of his innermost being will flow rivers of living water." ⁽³⁾

How do we abide?

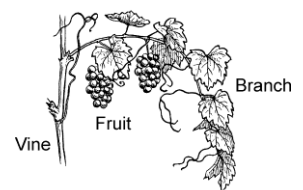
We focus our attention on the presence of Jesus in our innermost being. (the spirit – sometimes called the belly – putting your hand on your belly can help.) Then we humbly draw near to Him, and honour Him as Lord of our lives. (I imagine myself kneeling before the King of the Universe)

We surrender our desires, hopes, dreams, thoughts, opinions, feelings, and all our circumstances to Him.

We partner with His love and forgiveness towards all people in our lives, and (very importantly) towards ourselves. When God created people He made them human BEINGS. Not merely human "doers", or "thinkers" or even "feelers". We can only be authentic human beings when we abide with God in our innermost being, processing our emotions, thoughts, relationships and feelings with Him.

When Jesus is Lord in your life, you will have peace – not stress or fear or worry.

When Jesus is Lord in your life, love and forgiveness will be the fruit of your life – not anger, hurt, frustration, or resentment. You will be patient with people, and steadfast in every circumstance.



May 2021 be your year of abiding in the Vine, and bringing forth much fruit!

(1) Matthew 26:28 ⁽²⁾ John 15:5 ⁽³⁾ John 7:37-38

Menangle Fire Brigade News

Apology to Geoff Hughes

When the Brigade produced their 2021 Calendar Geoff Hughes' name was omitted under the list of Brigade Members names. This was an error and on behalf of the Menangle Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade we extend our sincere apology to Geoff. Geoff joined the Brigade 1977 and in 2021 Geoff will notch up 44 years' service to the Menangle community. Geoff also served as Captain for 17 years retiring from the position owing to a hip operation. To date Geoff has been the longest serving Captain of the Menangle Brigade. Geoff's RFS achievement awards are as follows:

- 15 Year Long Service Medal Recipient
- 25 Year Long Service Medal Recipient
- 35 Year Long Service Medal Recipient
- National Service Medal Recipient
- Life Member of The Menangle Brigade

Michael McGrath
Secretary

THOMMO'S CORNER

I told my daughter, "Go to bed, the cows are sleeping in the field." She said, "What's that got to do with anything?"

I said "That means it's pasture bedtime."