



The Catholic Parishes of Branxton and Singleton are part of the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle

12th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

25 June 2023

First Reading

Jer 20:10-13

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.

Jeremiah said:

'I hear so many disparaging me,
"Terror from every side!
Denounce him! Let us denounce him!"
All those who used to be my friends
watched for my downfall,
"Perhaps he will be seduced into error.
Then we will master him
and take our revenge!"
But the Lord is at my side, a mighty hero;
my opponents will stumble, mastered,
confounded by their failure;
everlasting, unforgettable disgrace will be
theirs.
But you, Lord of Hosts, you who probe with
justice,
who scrutinise the loins and heart,
let me see the vengeance you will take on
them,
for I have committed my cause to you.
Sing to the Lord,
praise the Lord,
for he has delivered the soul of the needy
from the hands of evil men.'

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 68:8-10. 14. 17. 33-35. R. v.14

(R.) Lord, in your great love, answer me.

It is for you that I suffer taunts,
that shame covers my face,
that I have become a stranger to my brothers,
an alien to my own mother's sons.
I burn with zeal for your house
and taunts against you fall on me. (R.)

This is my prayer to you,
my prayer for your favour.
In your great love, answer me, O God,
with your help that never fails:
Lord, answer, for your love is kind;
in your compassion, turn towards me. (R.)

The poor when they see it will be glad
and God-seeking hearts will revive;
for the Lord listens to the needy
and does not spurn his servants in their
chains.
Let the heavens and the earth give him
praise,
the sea and all its living creatures. (R.)

Second Reading

Rom 5:12-15

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.

Sin entered the world through one man,
and through sin death, and thus death has
spread through the whole human race

because everyone has sinned. Sin existed
in the world long before the Law was given.
There was no law and so no one could be
accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet
death reigned over all from Adam to
Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of
Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law.
Adam prefigured the One to come, but the
gift itself considerably outweighed the fall.
If it is certain that through one man's fall
so many died, it is even more certain that
divine grace, coming through the one man,
Jesus Christ, came to so many as an
abundant free gift.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Jn 15:26, 27

Alleluia, alleluia!

**The Spirit of Truth will bear witness to
me, says the Lord,
and you also will be my witnesses.
Alleluia!**

Gospel

Mt 10:26-33

*The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
Matthew.*

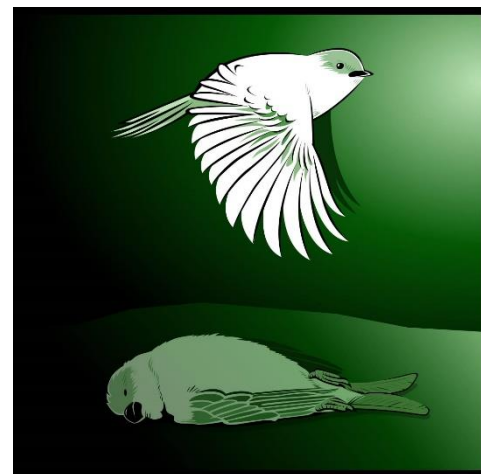
Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: 'Do
not be afraid. For everything that is now
covered will be uncovered, and everything
now hidden will be made clear. What I say to
you in the dark, tell in the daylight; what you
hear in whispers, proclaim from the house-
tops.

'Do not be afraid of those who kill the body
but cannot kill the soul; fear him rather who
can destroy both body and soul in hell. Can
you not buy two sparrows for a penny? And
yet not one falls to the ground without your
Father knowing. Why, every hair on your head
has been counted. So there is no need to be
afraid; you are worth more than hundreds of
sparrows.

'So if anyone declares himself for me in the
presence of men, I will declare myself for him
in the presence of my Father in heaven. But
the one who disowns me in the presence of
men, I will disown in the presence of my
Father in heaven.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.



**REFLECTION
BY FR MICHAEL TATE**

House-tops and Sparrows

Our Gospel reads: '... not one [sparrow] falls to the ground without your Father knowing.'

But that is a bad translation. The Greek simply says 'not one [sparrow] will fall to the ground without your Father.' Full stop! Our Heavenly Father accompanies a dying sparrow as it dies! That is the measure of the Creator's love for all creatures. God wants to – does – enter into the moment of death, *our* moment of death.

Now, that *would* be consoling if I were facing what Jesus was foreseeing for his disciples in the first century.

One of the first Christian groups to hear this Gospel was that set around the Tigris River running through Baghdad in modern day Iraq. Now they face terrible persecution from fanatical Muslims. We can barely imagine hearing today's Gospel amongst the remnant, left in Baghdad today. How does 'Do not be afraid' really sound to them?

So, we could pause for a moment to pray for those for whom today's Gospel is a challenge beyond our imagining.

© Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com

Rev Prof Michael Tate graduated in Law from the University of Tasmania in 1968, and in Theology from Oxford University in 1971. He lectured at the University of Tasmania from 1972-78, being Dean of the Faculty of Law in 1977-78. He was a Senator for Tasmania from 1978-93, being Federal Minister for Justice from 1987-93. He served as Ambassador to The Hague and the Holy See from 1993-96. He then returned to Australia and was ordained in May 2000 and has been a parish priest in the Archdiocese of Hobart since then. He is an Honorary Professor of Law at the University of Tasmania where he lectures in International Humanitarian Law.

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:
The Lord is the strength of his people, a saving refuge for the one he has anointed. Save your people, Lord, and bless your heritage, and govern them for ever.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:
The eyes of all look to you, Lord, and you give them their food in due season.

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURES
12th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A
1st Reading: Jer 20:10-13
2nd Reading: Rom 5:12-15
Gospel: Mt 10:26-33

MYSTERY OF FAITH
When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

Prayer Requests

Sick: *Phuong Ho, Austin Hoffman, Warren Markham, Harrison McLachlan, John Ottery, Jen Phillips, and Sharon Wood. Bring healing, comfort, and peace to their bodies. Send strength to their carers.*

Anniversaries: *Fr Brian Bailey, Philomena Matthews. Having returned to the Father may they rest in peace.*

Recently Deceased: *Sally and John Warne. Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.*

Due to Privacy Laws, names of the sick and deceased can only be put in the bulletin with the permission of the immediate family.

PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Priest	Rev Thomas Chirackal	Presbytery: 6578 9651	Email: Thomas.chirackal@mn.catholic.org.au
Parish Secretary	Mrs Erica Janssen	Parish Office: 02 5507 4048 (Tues-Fri, 9am-3pm) Unit 5, 16 Cambridge St, Singleton	Email: singleton.branxton@mn.catholic.org.au Web: www.singletoncatholicparish.org.au
Facebook	Catholic Parishes of Singleton and Branxton		YouTube: singletonbranxton
St Patrick's Parish PLEASE PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE FOR BOOKINGS OF PARISH CHURCHES (5507 4048)			
Singleton	<i>St Patrick's Church</i>	Queen Street Singleton 2330	Contact: 02 5507 4048
Broke	<i>Immaculate Conception Catholic Church</i>	Wollombi Street, Broke	Contact: 0407 488 872 or 0458 626 299
Glendon Brook	<i>St. Paul's Catholic Church</i>	874 Glendonbrook Road, Glendon Brook	Contact: 0437 374 929
St Brigid's Parish PLEASE PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE FOR BOOKINGS OF PARISH CHURCHES (5507 4048)			
Branxton	St Brigid's Catholic Church	Station St, Branxton 2335	Contact: 02 5507 4048
Greta	St Catherine's Catholic Church	Branxton Street, Greta 2334	Contact: 0428 485 025
Schools in our Parishes			
St. Catherine's Catholic College	<i>Principal: Mrs Niamh Marzol</i>	K-12 Office: 02 6578 9600	Email: admin@singleton.catholic.edu.au
Rosary Park Catholic School	<i>Principal: Miss Sallyanne Stanbridge</i>	K-6 Office: 02 4938 1541	Email: admin@branxton.mn.catholic.edu.au
St Nicholas Early Education Singleton	<i>Director: Ms Madison Keevill</i>	Office: 02 4015 2860	Email: singleton@stnicholasmn.org.au
St Nicholas Early Education Branxton	<i>Director: Ms Alex Stafford</i>	Office: 02 4931 1220	Email: branxton@stnicholasmn.org.au

MASS ROSTER – SUNDAY 2 JULY 2023

	Branxton Saturday 6pm	Greta Sunday 8am	Singleton Sunday 7am	Singleton Sunday 10am	Singleton Sunday 5pm	Counters 9.30am Tuesday
Welcomer	E Bendeich	D & J Clarke	C Crow	J Dries		
Commentator		L Gorczyca	G Cattermole			
Readers	J Stafa S Stafa	L Harrison	J Tindale E Thomas	T Cochrane VOLUNTEER NEEDED	A Borg P Goodwin	
Prayers		L Gorczyca	C Langford	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	M Cunningham	<i>Welcomers are required each week.</i>
Offertory	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	Joan N Norma E	G Cattermole	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	VOLUNTEER NEEDED	
Rosary Leader		L Gorczyca				

Faithful and compassionate God, your Spirit guides the Church and makes it holy; hear the prayers we offer, that in the ministry to which you have called us, may we serve you faithfully, through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

WEEKLY MASS DIARY

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
26 June	27 June <i>Our Lady of Perpetual Help</i> <i>St Cyril of Alexandria</i>	28 June <i>St Ireaneus</i>	29 June <i>STS PETER AND PAUL</i>	30 June <i>First Martyrs of Rome</i>	1 July	2 July 13 th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A
OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE OPEN	OFFICE CLOSED		
<u>8.00am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>5.00pm</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.20am</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>5.00pm</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.20am</u> Mass & Adoration St Patrick's Singleton	<u>9.00am</u> Novena <u>9.20am</u> Mass 1st Anniversary St Patrick's Singleton	<u>7.00am</u> Mass <u>10.00am</u> Mass <u>5.00pm</u> Mass St Patrick's Singleton
	<u>9.20am</u> Mass St Catherine's Greta		NO MASS		<u>6.00pm</u> Mass St Brigid's Branxton	<u>7.35am</u> Rosary <u>8.15am</u> Mass St Catherine's Greta

St Brigid, St Catherine, St Patrick, and St Paul – pray for us

Weekly Notices

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH

We welcome visitors from all faith communities to our Parish Mass. If you are new members of our Parish, we ask that you take a Welcome Pack from the back of the church, complete and return the Member forms and one of our welcoming team will contact you.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians, the Wonnarua people, who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SURVIVORS OF ABUSE

We acknowledge the lifelong trauma of abuse victims, survivors and their families, the failures of the Catholic Church to protect, believe and respond justly to children and vulnerable adults, and the consequent breach of trust.

St Patrick's Church Open

St Patrick's Church is always open during daylight hours for anyone to come in for private prayer and reflection.

Support Services for our Community

Students, staff and their families at St Catherine's Catholic College Singleton are able to access counselling through our school-based Beyond the Gates program as well as our additional external provider, The Rosewood Centre.

Staff and families impacted who attend St Nicholas Early Education Singleton are also able to access counselling and supports.

The NSW Government has endorsed Rotary Australia's fundraiser to provide benevolent relief and support to survivors, victims, and their immediate families. If you wish to donate, please visit www.rawcs.org.au or www.nsw.gov.au

Lifeline Hunter have a range of services available for those who are in need. Access their interactive Tool Kit can be access online at <https://toolkit.lifeline.org.au/> You can also visit the Singleton Neighbourhood Centre without a referral to access Lifeline services.

Lifeline Hunter will also be holding some one-day workshops locally later in the year. The Accidental Counsellor Foundations course gives basic skills for dealing with people who need support or are in crisis. More information can be found at <https://lifelinedirect.org.au/hunter> These are fully funded courses for the Singleton community.

Office and Mass Changes this Week

Mass will NOT be said in Branxton on Thursday 29 June as Fr Thomas will be attending the Council of Priests meeting. The Parish Office will only be OPEN Tuesday – Thursday.

2022-23 Planned Giving Tax Receipts

If you give money to the parish through the planned giving envelopes or direct debit and you would like a Receipt for taxation purposes, please let the parish office know **ASAP**. Tax receipts CANNOT be issued after 30 June. Each giver will have a slip at the church with a form to complete. Please check all details and return in the collection plate.

Eucharistic Adoration - St Patrick's Church

Eucharistic Adoration will be held after Friday morning Mass each week in June. All are welcome.

Senior Singles Lunch

The next Senior Singles lunch will be held on Tuesday 11 July 2023 at 12.00pm in the Albion Hotel Restaurant. All are welcome.

St Patrick's First Anniversary Mass

St Patrick's 1st Anniversary Mass will be held on Saturday 1 July 2023 at 9.20am. Prayers will be for the souls of

- † Barry Davy,
- † Pam Langsford,
- † Bernadette Coffey
- † James Johnston.

MacKillop Place Pilgrimage

This year's pilgrimage to Mary MacKillop Place will be on Friday 21 July 2023. Bus will leave Branxton at 6.15am picking up at Greta/Lochinvar/Rutherford/East Maitland. Cost will be \$60 which includes bus and museum tour and upgraded morning tea lunch at North Ryde RSL. Fr Thomas will be joining the pilgrimage and will say Mass in the chapel. Bus will leave Sydney at 3pm. All are welcome! Contact Mercia on 0447 819 889 to book your spot and names and money to be finalised by 6 July 2023.

St Patrick's Women's Guild Meeting

The next meeting of the St Patrick's Women's Guild will be held on Wednesday 12 July 2023 at 1.30pm in the home of Elaine Thomas, 21 Henry Drive, Singleton Heights. All are welcome and we would love to see there.

NAIDOC Week Community Day

Singleton Council will be holding a Community Day for NAIDOC week on Wednesday 5 July 2023 from 10am-2pm at Singleton Showground. The day will start with a welcome ceremony and there will be a free BBQ, cultural activities, koorioke, jumping castles, 30+ services and community stalls and an Elders Tent.

Workshops and Cathedral Lecture – Richard Lennan

We are excited that Father Richard Lennan will be visiting his hometown this August. He is offering several workshops and presentations. Join Richard in 'tilling' the Church for a more faithful, just, and creative church, one responsive to the movement of grace. Tues 15: Workshop open to all diocesan community – The Church: Foundations, Challenges, and Possibilities- Maitland Gaol- 9.30am-3.30pm. Wed 16: Cathedral Lecture open to all diocesan community – Shaping the Church's Future: The Grace of Creative Faithfulness- Sacred Heart Cathedral. 6.00pm-7.00pm. Fri 18: Workshop open to all diocesan community – The Church: Foundations, Challenges, and Possibilities Forster Tuncurry Parish Hall. 9.30 am to 3.30pm. To register go to www.mn.catholic.org.au/church-mission/catholic-life/faith-formation/upcoming-events/

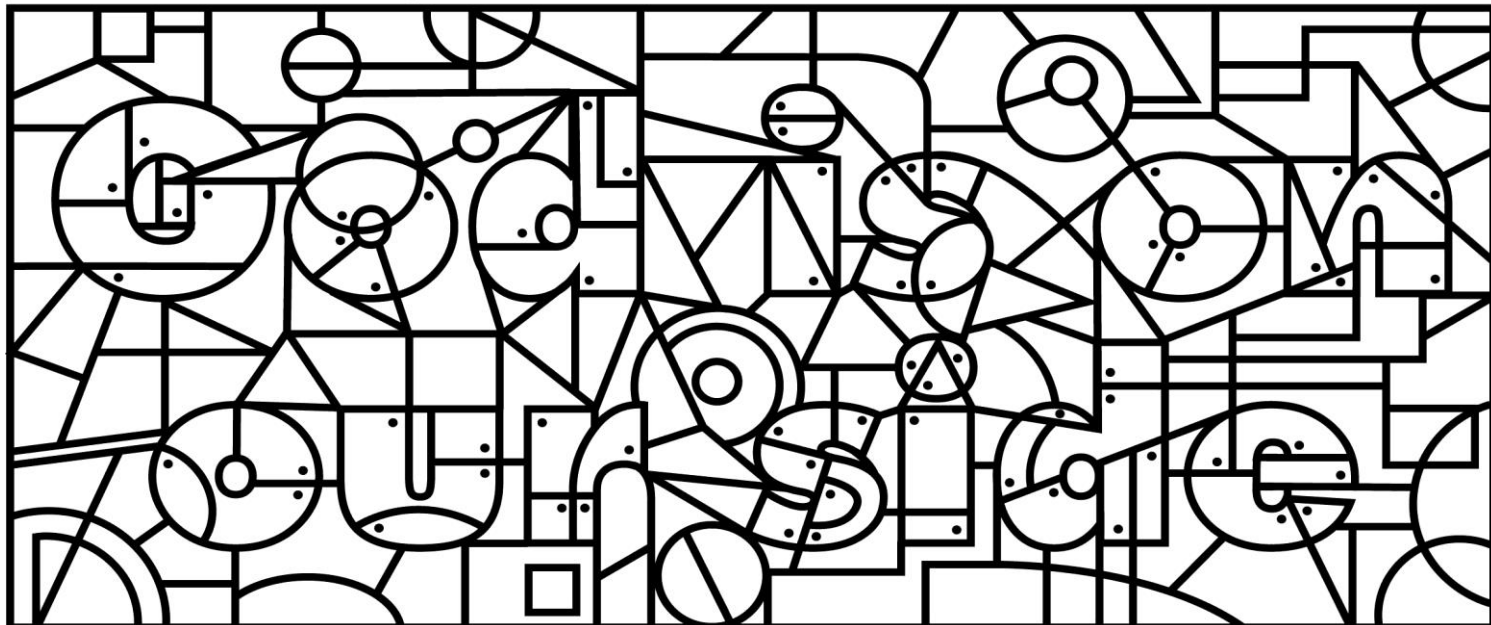
Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle Marriage Tribunal

Can we help you? The Church is aware of the stresses associated with marriage breakdown and divorce and understands that many people have questions about the processes which might allow a divorced person to remarry in the Catholic Church. If you have any questions or would like to have a confidential chat about your situation, please contact Jane at the Tribunal on 4979 1370. Flyers are available at the back of the church.

Rediscovering Joy – Dr Michele Connolly

How are hearts set on fire with love of God and love of the world? 'The only thing that counts for me,' wrote Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, 'is not to propagate God but to discover him.' Join a day of formation with Dr Michele Connolly, current Associate Professor of Biblical Studies within the Catholic Institute of Sydney and University of Notre Dame Australia. In a retreat style and setting, Michele will help us examine how rich and life-giving Scripture can be, revealing a God whose story intends to renew our lives and calls us to actively engage with the world. Monday 11 September, Crown Plaza Hunter Valley, 9.30am – 3.30pm, \$30pp RSVP: 13 August 2023. Registration: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/rediscovering-joy-tickets-626620176817>

Color in the shapes that contain a dot • and discover the hidden message!



A new life in Christ...

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday

2nd July 2023



A New Life in Christ: Uniting as One People on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday

Each year, Catholics from all corners of Australia gather on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday to celebrate the unique gifts and contributions of Australia's First Peoples. This year's theme, "A New Life in Christ" reflects the hope and promise of a brighter future, rooted in unity and shared commitment to positive change.

As we commemorate this special day on the Liturgical Calendar, we invite you to listen to our voices and walk alongside us on our journey towards progress. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday symbolizes our unity as one people in Christ, and we urge both Indigenous and non-Indigenous Catholics to come together in every Catholic Parish and School across this great Southern land.

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER CATHOLICS IN AUSTRALIA

First Nations Catholics are the youngest and fastest growing demographic in the Australian Catholic Church.

135,681
The number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholics

4.6%
The percentage of Catholic population aged under 5

10
The number of Dioceses which have over one-fifth of their Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population who identify as Catholic

8.2%
The percentage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholics aged under 5

50 year Anniversary of First National Aboriginal Liturgy in Australia

2023 marks 50 years since a significant event took place at the Melbourne Myer Music Bowl in Australia. The occasion was part of the 40th International Eucharistic Congress and was titled the Australian Aboriginal Liturgy. More than 150 adults, teenagers, and a children's choir, mainly from the Kimberley region of Western Australia and the Northern Territory, participated in the event. It was the first time many people witnessed Aboriginal people expressing their Catholic faith in culturally significant ways, and it was the first public and National Aboriginal Liturgy in Australia. The Liturgy was a new attempt by the Catholic Church to re-shape the ancient Catholic ritual of the Mass by incorporating the faith experiences of those belonging to an even more ancient culture, the Aboriginal cultures.



The Liturgy was a result of the energy and commitment of many Aboriginal people, strongly supported by various priests and religious men and women. One such priest, Kevin McKelson, played a crucial role in shaping the final English version of the Liturgy. The task required deep listening, respect, and attentiveness, and approval from Rome before it could be celebrated. The Liturgy sought to express a pattern of language expression that would be accepted by many groups where the handing on of an oral tradition was often expressed by word, dance, and repetitive chants, accompanied by hand clapping, clapsticks, or didgeridoo. Since 1973, only the Broome Diocese has attempted to find a formal expression of a more appropriate Catholic and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Liturgy. The *Missa Terra Spiritus Sancti*, Mass of the Land of the Holy Spirit (2018), may be celebrated in the Diocese of Broome and other communities only with permission from the Bishop of Broome and the local bishop, and it has also been translated into Aboriginal languages. Pope John Paul II's invitation to make a contribution to the Church's life and for that contribution to be joyfully received by others remains an ongoing challenge for the Australian Church.

(Article is a summary of Fr Brian McCoy's article in Eureka Street)

Top three

Parishes

with the highest number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholics:

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| 1
Wadeye (Darwin)
2,078 | 2
Dubbo (Bathurst)
1,787 | 3
Broome Cathedral (Broome)
1,581 |
|---|--|---|

with the highest percentage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholics:

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| 1
Palm Island (Townsville)
98.5% | 2
Dubbo (Bathurst)
97.3% | 3
Melville Island (Darwin)
96.4% |
|--|--|--|

2016 Census

Dioceses

with the highest number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholics:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| 1
Brisbane
16,474 | 2
Darwin
9,671 | 3
Maitland-Newcastle
8,436 |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|

with the highest percentage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholics:

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| 1
Broome
62.7% | 2
Darwin
24.8% | 3
Wilcannia-Forbes
13.8% |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|

We Acknowledge the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of reconciliation.