

Greensborough Inter Church Council.  
Author Rosie Bray.

The early years.

*Greensborough Inter Council Church was established with an ecumenical meeting called by concerned members of the Greensborough Minister's Fraternal on May 23 1989. The inaugural meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> September 1989 at Greensborough Uniting Church expressed unity of the Churches and a strong Christ based mission statement. At this meeting members discussed a Draft Constitution .It was decided to charge an annual fee of \$75, this was updated to \$100 in 1990. Fees were to be set aside to begin the G.I.C.C Emergency Fund.*

*The Churches involved were -  
New Life Centre (Apostolic)  
Greensborough Anglican Church,  
Greensborough Church of Christ,  
Saint Mary's Catholic Church,  
Saint Thomas Catholic Church,  
Lutheran Church Greensborough,  
Watsonia/Macleod Uniting Church,  
Greensborough Uniting Church*

*Greensborough Baptist Church joined as an observer for about two years before accepting full membership.*

*The Greensborough Salvation Army was interested participants.*

*The first elected President was Rev Peter Robson from Greensborough Uniting Church and the first Secretary/Treasurer was Rev Kevin Richardson from Greensborough New Life Christian Centre.*

*Other Office bearers who followed were-*

*Rev David Ling, Rev George Warren, Jen Davis, Fred Dixon, Sandra Bishop, Rosie Bray, Father Kevin McIntosh, Heidi Beard, Peter Blythe.*

*Early Committee Members were- Ken Maxwell, Madge Wanden, Graham Blackeby, Heidi Beard, Geoff Williams.*

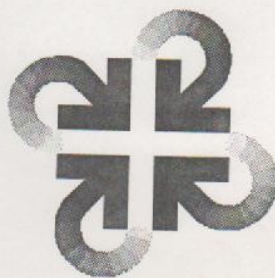
In September 1991 a logo was adopted, designed by Paul Andrews of the Church of Christ.

The symbol is constructed from arrows, which represent the people of God from the different denominations coming together to display unity and highlight Christ, who is represented by the white cross.

The graded effect represents movement, and the arrows move clockwise, symbolising a positive step forward.



Greensborough  
Inter-Church Council



Greensborough  
Inter-Church Council

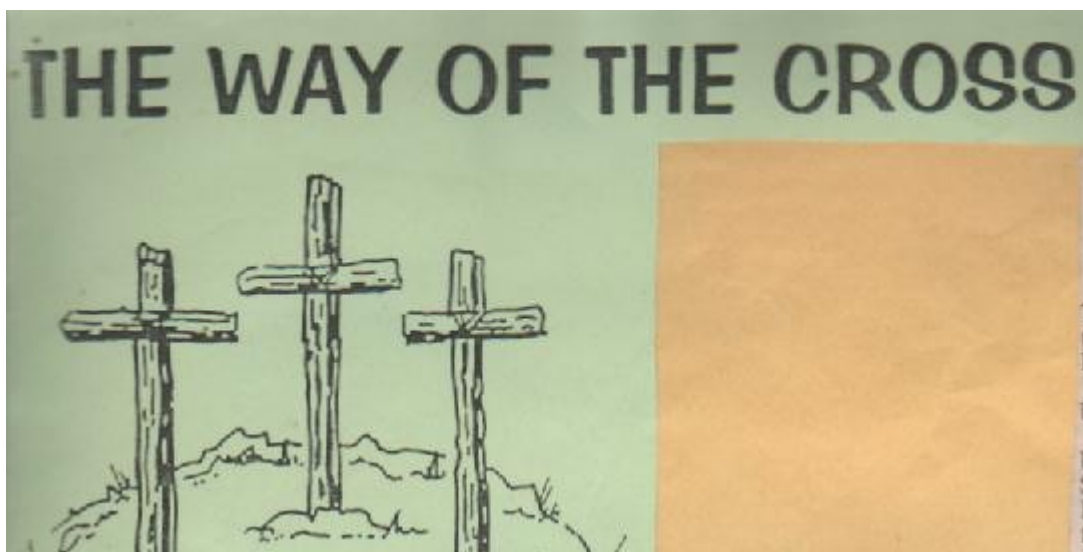
The Greensborough Inter Church Banner was made in 1993 by Sandra Bishop from St Thomas' Parish and first displayed at the Australia Day Celebrations the following year. The Banner's logo's represent the nine churches involved with G.I.C.C. and is proudly displayed in the different churches during the year.



From its inception the Greensborough Inter Church Council (G. I. C. C.) has been involved in the many Community activities. The G.I.C.C. members firmly believed that by participating in Community events it would show to the public the unity of the local churches. G.I.C.C became accepted and gained a healthy reputation in the community.

1990 saw the first G.I.C.C. Stations of the Cross, which was held at 1pm on Good Friday. The name was later changed to the Way of the Cross. This truly Memorial Service was a holy and meaningful way for all the Churches to combine their Easter celebrations. The Way of the Cross began its journey behind the shops in Main Street Greensborough. The service opened with a combined Churches prayer. The crowd then followed the 'cross' (transported by a light vehicle, usually driven by Jim Beard) along Main Street to Grimshaw Street ending in Memorial Park Greensborough.

There were seven stops en route to Memorial Park Greensborough. A different Church led each stop. While walking in between the stops the crowd present sang hymns.





Not all the Clergy felt the same about this occasion. Rev G. Sells from All Saints Anglican Church wrote to the members of the G.I.C.C. (letter dated 12/2/96) stating that he had concerns about the content of the Way of the Cross. He wrote that he withdrew any formal participation of any of his parishioners in this event. After an Executive Committee meeting, the secretary Rosie Bray was instructed to answer Rev Sells letter saying that the Way of the Cross would proceed as usual that year and that G.I.C.C. Members were sorry that the Anglican Church would not be joining them, and asked him for suggestions that could be considered at the next meeting. Letter was sent 18/3/1996. The Anglican members had mixed feelings about the instructions from their Minister and many attended and took part in the combined churches worship that Good Friday.



Fred Dixon, the chief organiser of Way of the Cross until he retired in 2000.

The first Progressive Dinner was held in November 1990. Minutes written December 11 1990 tell that this event was a great success and this should be an annual occasion for all to mingle and meet each other.

The Progressive Dinner has continued and each year it has been hosted by three G.I.C.C. Churches each November. In this time members of the various churches formed very good friendships and each meal was well attended by church members and also the general public. Some of these dinners have been better than others, but always good fellowship. As the food was largely donated the Progressive Dinner Committee was careful to keep the admission price at an affordable cost. This was much appreciated and proved successful. Monies collected added to the G.I.C.C. Emergency Funds.

Elected Committee in 1991.

President ...David Ling. Vice President ...Fred Dixon. Secretary...Jennifer Davis. Treasurer... Sandra Bishop. Executive... Ken Maxwell, Graham Blackeby, Ken Baldwin, Geoff Williams and Rosie Bray.

23/24/11/1991, the G.I.C.C. became involved with the Watsonia Festival, hosting a stall that sold Australian trees and shrubs. These were supplied by the Scripture Union and sold at a minimum price to cover costs. The stall did a very good trade mainly due to Heidi Beard and Mat Bray who were good sales people.

Members of G.I.C.C. were asked to help and partake in the Scripture Union Klomp Club which was a Christmas Holiday Youth Program held at the Uniting Church and Anglican Church each year. The members of G.I.C.C. helped in the various activities until the Klomp Club was 'shut down' by the Scripture Union in 1999. Many of the

G.I.C.C. Members were already involved in of the Community Christmas Carols, which had its beginnings pre World War Two. The first Community Carols was held in the front garden of Dr Edward Cordiner Grimshaw Street Greensborough. When the Shire of Diamond Valley was dismantled in 1994, and it later merged into the Banyule City Council (1995), a Community Committee led by Carols Coordinator Rosie Bray, organised the Community Carols. (For the next 15 years). There was a name change at this time to Festival of Family Carols. The Banyule Council granted the G.I.C.C. \$500 a year to pay for expenses. An offering was taken up and given to a needy charity.

The Committee was very careful to continue the Carols for the people and there was care not to build the event on a personality---it was every ones carols.



### Since the first Noel

JESSIE Angus has sung in Diamond Valley's annual Family Carols service every year since it began 69 years ago. Jessie, 83, remembers as a 15-year-old singing in the first carols night—held in the front garden of its founder, Dr Edward Rae Cordiner.

"We stood on the balcony and people had candles and sat on rugs on the lawn," Mrs Angus said.

"It was lovely. You could hear the singing across Greensborough."

Since then, the carols service has been held every year except during World War II.

Mrs Angus loves to sing and has been in many choirs, including the Melbourne Philharmonic. She has been secretary of the Family Carols service for many years and is in charge of all the music.

"The carols have changed very much. When they first started they were very humble. We got an organ out of the Methodist Church and that's all we had for accompaniment. We gradually built up... and now we've got the whole municipal band."

The audience also has grown—from 50 or 60 people to more than 500.

The 69th annual Family Carols service will be held on Sunday, December 4, 7.30pm at St Mary's Church, Grimshaw St, Greensborough. It will feature the Diamond Valley Children's Choir, the Family Carols Choir and the Diamond Valley Municipal Band.

— NATALIE TOWN

IN PRACTICE for this Sunday: Jessie Angus has sung in the Family Carols service since it began 69 years ago. Picture: MARK FRECKER. 522MF316

(Pictured right). Well known Greensborough identity Jess Angus (Partington) was a choir member until her death. Jess used to tell us that she was a choir member in the first Community Carols.



## Xmas spirit kept alive

FOR 71 years the Festival of Family Carols at St Mary's Catholic Church in Greensborough has helped bring alive the Christmas spirit. This year's festival, organised by the Greensborough Inter Church Council, the Family Carols Committee and Banyule Council, will be no exception with Montmorency Secondary College junior jazz band and choir set to fill the air with Christmas joy. The Diamond Valley Municipal Band and the Festival of Carols choir will join them. Family Carols committee member Glyn Norris said a collection would be made with the proceeds going to the Greensborough Inter Church Council Emergency Fund and the Diamond Valley Community Hospital, and tinned food would be collected for Foodshare. The festival begins at 7.30pm next Sunday at St Mary's Church, Grimshaw St, Greensborough. Ph: 9490 4222.

— LAETA ANTONYSEN

**Carols cheer:** *Montmorency Secondary College students Lee Mitchener, Louise Richardson, Luke Hodgson and Justin de Bondi with Glyn Norris.*

*Picture: LAWRENCE PINDER*  
9991 2000



*G.I.C.C. Member Glyn Norris with Montmorency Choir Members in 1992.*



The Family Carols Committee in conjunction with  
the  
City of Banyule present



# 72nd Annual Festival of Family Carols

**Sunday 6th December, 7.30pm  
at  
St Mary's Church Grimshaw Street  
Greensborough.**

featuring

Diamond Valley Municipal Band  
Festival of Family Carols Choir  
Diamond Valley Baptist Junior Choir  
Montmorency Secondary College Junior Jazz Band  
Montmorency Secondary College Junior Choir

**All Welcome**

A community collection for Red Cross will be taken up on the day

*Your non perishable food donation for Foodshare gratefully received*

For further information	City of Banyule	9457 9919
	Rosie Bray	9435 5401

Elected 1992 Committee. President...David Ling. Vice President...Fred Dixon. Secretary..Jennifer Davis. Treasurer...Sandra Bishop. Executive Geoff Williams, Rosie Bray, Graham Blackeby, Ken Maxwell, Heidi Beard and Madge Wanden.

It was decided to hold an Australian Day Celebration and Worship Service on January 26<sup>th</sup> as it fell on a Sunday that year (26/1/1992). The venue was then called the Diamond Valley Shire Common, now called The Diamond Valley Outdoor Performance Centre at the Diamond valley Complex. This first event was reasonably well attended and the guest speaker was Mr Warwick White. A similar event was held the following year, (1993). The speaker was a member of Greensborough R.S.L.; however the event it was a victim of Melbourne's weather and it poured raining all day. This dampened every ones plans for the following year.

Correspondence was received to arrange Chaplains for the T.A.F.E. College Greensborough. Unfortunately this project fizzled out before it could get started.

1992. G.I.C.C. joined the Diamond Valley Skill Share Program to help the unemployment situation. The Job Seekers project was devised and mainly organised by David Ling and George Warren. The news item from the Diamond Valley News November 9 1992 tells the results.

# Joint assault to help the jobless

**T**HE Greensborough Interchurch Council and employment and training groups came together last week to fight unemployment.

The churches, under the banner Churches Networking for Job Seekers, held a job seekers expo at the Valley Central shopping centre.

The 12-hour exhibition featured the Northern Metropolitan TAFE, North-East Consumer Support Service, Life Centre services, Citizens Advice Bureau, Skill Link, Job Link, Mature Action,

Youth Access and Skill Seekers.

Co-ordinator of the project, the Reverend George Warren, of Greensborough Church of Christ, said the expo was a success.

"We had a lot of people coming to each display and asking questions and clarifying issues," he said.

Mr Warren said the common concern was unemployment.

"So many people are out of work and have been for a long time and cannot get back into the workforce," he said.

"The people who came to us are still trying."

Mr Warren said many

people were unaware of their rights to welfare and retraining.

"Some people think they have to be out of work for 12 months before they can be retrained."

Mr Warren said more than 30 people enrolled in the job-seeking register.

Mr Warren hopes the job expo will become a regular event.

The co-ordinator of the Diamond Valley-Eltham Citizens Advice Bureau, Ms Janet Oppy, was happy with the expo.

"There is still a tremendous number of people who don't have any idea what is available in the community," she said.

"It heightens people's awareness of what is available."

Project co-ordinator of the Eltham-Diamond Valley Skillshare Program, Mr John Martin hopes the expo helped the unemployed.

"I thought it was successful in terms of informing the public about services available," he said.

"It would have given them an insight they would not normally had."

For more information about Job Seekers, phone Mr George Warren on 435-8797.



## PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS

Northern Metropolitan T.A.F.E.

North East Consumer Support Service

Life Centre Services

Citizens Advice Bureau

Skill-link

Job-link

Mature Action Inc.

Youth Access (Dept. Employment Education & Training)

Skill Seekers

Greensborough Inter Church Council

# JOBSEEKERS EXPO '92

Being out of work can be a distressing time. But there are many groups and organisations in our community that are able to help by providing:

- \* access to basic needs - housing, health etc.
- \* opportunities for retraining.
- \* emotional support.
- \* referral counselling.
- \* efforts to provide jobs.

This display brings a number of these groups together in a place where people can browse, ask questions and find answers without embarrassment.

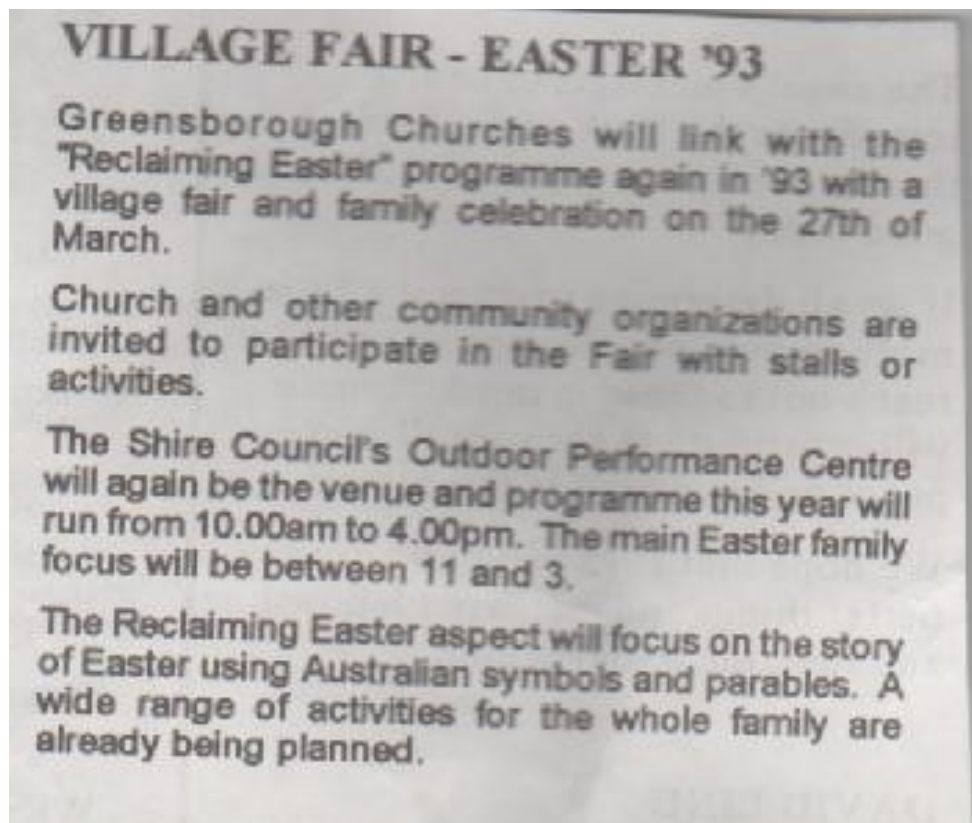
Sponsored by :-



The Job Expo held at the Greensborough Shopping Centre on October 30 1992, proved to be fruitful for those who attended. Co ordination Rev George Warren reported that the semi government and community groups which assisted gave valuable information to those who were seeking employment.

Elected 1993 Committee. President...David Ling. Vice President...Fred Dixon...Secretary...Jennifer Davis. Treasurer...Fred Dixon. Executive Geoff Williams, Rosie Bray, Graham Blackeby, Ken Maxwell, Heidi Beard, Madge Wanden and J. Morrissey.

In 1993 it was decided to hold a Village Fair to be linked in with Easter 1993. The aim was to link with "Reclaiming Easter" and it was to be a Village Fair Family Celebration This was held on March 27 1993.



The G.I.C.C. meeting on July 13 1993, after much discussion it was decided "that we hold a Village Fair separately from the Easter Celebrations on Saturday March 5 1994 at the Out Door Centre for the purpose of fund raising for the Community Emergency Fund."

Elected Committee 1994. President...Kevin Richardson...Vice President...George Warren. Secretary...Rosie Bray. Treasurer...Fred Dixon. Executive Madge Wanden, David Ling, Glen Auty, Graham Blackeby, Heidi Beard and Jen Davis.

1994 was a time of diverse activities. Winter Bible Studies were held on May 4, 11, 18, 25 1994 at the Baptist Church.. It was reported that numbers were disappointing.

G.I.C.C. Members fully supported the Victorian Arts and Crafts Recreation and Hobbies EXPO. This was a project of the Lions Club of Greensborough and held at the Diamond Valley Sporting Complex September 24, 25 1994.

A sub committee was formed to present a combined churches concert in 1995. The venue was to be at the Greensborough Baptist Church on May 21 1995.

Elected Committee 1995. President...George Warren. Vice President...Geoff Williams. Secretary...Rosie Bray. Treasurer...Fred Dixon. Executive Madge Wanden, David Ling, Glen Auty, Myra Dixon, Graham Blackeby and Heidi Beard.

1995 saw the G.I.C.C. Members hosting an Australia Day picnic .This was held at the Greensborough Memorial Park. The event was popular with the local residents.





Top. Mat Bray, Les and Val Miles from Watsonia Uniting Church. Bottom Rev Kevin Richardson from Greensborough New Life Christian Church and Rosie Bray from Watsonia Uniting Church. At the 1995 Australia Day picnic.



**Family Picnic & Fun Day**  
**January 26th 1995**  
**11am - 3pm**

**Memorial Park**  
**Henry St, Greensborough**

\* A short service of Thanksgiving will be led by a member of the Greensborough Inter Church Council



- \* Limited BBQ facilities available, BYO
- \* BYO sports games to share
- \* Clown
- \* Music groups
- \* Life Be In It Games
- \* Childrens races, prizes to be won
- \* Tea & coffee provided

Organised by the Greensborough Interchurch  
Council & Community Groups

Members enjoyed Bible Studies on August 2,9,16, 23 1995 at Greensborough New Life Christian Centre. Book studied "The Prayer that could change the World" (The Lord's Prayer) by Rev John Bodycombe."

Christmas presentations were arranged and held at the Greensborough Shopping Centre. The Festival of Carols choir sang selected Christmas Carols under the direction of Kay Driver. The public always seemed to enjoy these performances and of course the G.I.C.C. banner was always well displayed.

Elected 1996 Committee. President...George Warren. Vice President...Heidi Beard. Secretary...Rosie Bray. Treasurer...Fred Dixon. Executive...Madge Wanden, Graham Blackeby, Myra Dixon, Frank Sudborough.

As a lead up to Easter 1996 G.I.C.C. Members presented part of the Aussie Focus of the Aussie Awakening program at the Greensborough Shopping Centre on March 26 1996 from 11am to 3pm. Clowns, puppets, face painting, story telling, music and games were all part of this event.

A report to G.I.C.C. about a meeting with Mr Mc Ivor (July 18 1996) regarding Chaplains work on a "Pastoral Caring" project. The Chaplain would walk around the shopping centre making themselves known and offering help where needed. The cost would be \$240 per week and the work load would be between 6-8 hours a week. This project fizzled out due to lack of support.



*The second Combined Churches concert was held on August 18 1996 at the Greensborough Salvation Army Citadel with Captain Steven Black as compare.*



*Concert held at the Salvation Army August 18 1996.*

*Christmas carols were sung again by the Festival Choir on December 21 1996, outside the Myer Store at Greensborough Shopping Centre.*

*G.I.C.C. conducted a young people's colouring completion from December 16 to 21 1996. The theme for this activity was "Illustrating Prayer to God", which was coordinated by Glen and Marg Auty. The Greensborough Shopping Centre management allowed us to use the space near the foyer of the theatres on level 3; however they refused to take responsibility because of vandalism etc. A roster system was arranged for members to oversee the project.*

*G.I.C.C. donated \$500 to the Port Arthur Appeal.*

*At a special appreciation service in September 1996 G.I.C.C. Members said a sad farewell to loyal and hard working Kevin and Kath Richardson who were relocating to Ballarat.*



*Kevin and Kath Richardson September 1996.*

*Elected Committee 1997 President...Rosie Bray. Vice President...Peter Blythe. Secretary...Heidi Beard. Treasurer ...Fred Dixon. Executive Graham Blackeby, David Cowman, Myra Dixon, Tom Leydon, Madge Wanden, Glen Auty, Steven Black.*

*Combined Churches Concert was held on May25 1997 with the theme "Jesus the King" at the New Life Christian Centre.*

*Another sad farewell to George and Lesley Warren , who were transferred to the Doncaster Church of Christ The following tribute was extended to the Warren's in the form of a "This is your Life" on July 20 1997.*

*George Warren "This is your Life" in the Greensborough Inter Church Council.*

*A Foundation member when council inaugurated in August 1989 and was a continuous member until July 1997.*

*George became Vice President for one year in 1994 and President for 2 years for years 1995/95 and 1996/97. Right through the 8 years George was very active in the planning and organisation of and participation in the Inter Church Council activities. These included Easter and Christmas activities in the Greensborough Shopping Centre, Inter-denominational and Australia Day Services, The Way of the Cross processions at Easter, Inter Church Bible Studies, Dutch Auction for Rwanda, Job Seekers Symposium, Village Fairs, Investigations into Chaplaincies at Greensborough TAFE and Shopping Plaza and Inter Church concerts.*

*George's contribution to our Lord through the Greensborough Inter Church Council is unmeasurable and he will be really missed.*

*Tribute from the Greensborough Inter Church Council*

*As President of G.I.C.C. I would like to pay tribute to George for his faithful and loyal work over the years.*

*Thanks George for your listening ear and words of wisdom over the years. Thanks for correcting my spelling in the minutes.*

*We worked well together George and we wish you God's richest blessings in your new post. But please don't forget us and keep in touch.*

*Rosie Bray  
Past Secretary  
President G.I.C.C.*



*Elected Committee for 1998. President ...Rosie Bray. Vice President...Peter Blythe. Secretary ...Heidi Beard. Treasurer...Fred Dixon. Executive...a representative from each Church..*

*Meeting of February 10 1998 confirmed that the annual membership fee be reduced to \$75. Annual General meeting June 9 1998 moved that this fee should continue.*

*There was a low key presence at the Greensborough Shopping Centre for Easter in 1998.  
Way of the Cross still well attended.*

*Concert was held on June 14 1998 at St Mary's Church was a huge success.*

*G.I.C.C. Members continued to support the Progressive Dinner and the Festival of Family Carols.*

*1999 elected Committee--President...Rosie Bray. Vice President...Peter Blythe. Secretary...Heidi Beard. Treasurer...Joy Blackeby. Executive...Madge Wanden/Bill Davidson, Tom Leydon/Fred Dixon, Mavis Hitchcock, Aivars Sieton, Ron Haigh, Graham Blackeby.*

*Members were sorry to say farewell to Fred Dixon who after 7 years as treasurer retired due to ill health.*



Instead of the usual Easter celebrations at the Greensborough shopping Centre, it was decided the G.I.C.C. should accept the invitation from the Banyule Council to join with their 'Good Neighbour Festival' on March 13 1999. The stall with general information from all the Churches proved to be a great way to meet the public. Rostered volunteers from all the G.I.C.C. churches helped to blow up balloons and give out helpful brochures. Thanks to Fiona Ewings for designing the combined churches brochure.

A worship service was held to celebrate 10 years of G.I.C.C. on June 20 1999. The guest speaker was Rev Peter Robson, who was the first G.I.C.C. President. The location was the newly built St Thomas Catholic Church. The Parish Priest Father Kevin McIntosh was so proud because this was the first public occasion in the new church. This was a joyous occasion, and Rev Robson congratulated members for the strength of the Council. Mat Bray made G.I.C.C. key rings for each Committee Member. Val Bush made and decorated a 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cake. These were received with thanks.



*Sandra Bishop and Fred Dixon cutting cake.*



**Greensborough Inter Church Council**

**Invites you to help celebrate the**

**10th Anniversary**

**by attending a**

**Thanksgiving and Worship Service**

**on June 20th 1999**

**at 3pm**

**at St Thomas' Parish Church  
Diamond Creek Road  
Greensborough North.**

**Afternoon Tea of hot soup and finger food  
will be served after the Service**

Enquires to Heidi Beard 9435 3061 or Rosie Bray 9435 5401

*The Festival of Family Carols December 6 1999 proved to be a special occasion. Not only was it dedicated to Jessie Angus (Partington), who had been active on this committee for 72 years, but this event won Banyule Council National Australia Day Community Event 2000 Award.*



*President Rosie Bray receiving the Award (below) from Mayor of Banyule Michael Peacock January 26 2000.*







NATIONAL AUSTRALIA DAY COUNCIL

# event 2000 award

australia day 26 january 2000

presented to

*Festival of Family Carols*

by

*Banyule City Council*

signed

*M Reavock*

position

*Mayor*





*Elected Committee for 2000. President...Father Kevin McIntosh. Vice President...Pater Blythe. Secretary Madge Wanden. Treasurer...Joy Blackeby. Executive, one representative from each Church. Father Kevin McIntosh thanked Rosie Bray for her valuable service to G.I.C.C. and expressed sympathy for at the death of Mat Bray.*

*G.I.C.C. once again participated in the Banyule Council Good Neighbour Festival on March 18 2000.*

*Combined Churches concert was held on August 13 2000 at St Mary's Catholic Church.*

*Presentation of a plaque to Fred and Myra Dixon who had retired from G.I.C.C. for their loyal service.*



*Fred and Myra Dixon December 2000.*

Elected Committee for 2001. President...Father Kevin McIntosh. Vice President...Peter Blythe. Secretary...Rosie Bray. Treasurer...Joy Blackeby.

G.I.C.C. were involved with the Banyule Council Good Neighbour Festival on March 25 2001

Bible study about Baptism "Life after Drowning" held on June 14, 21, 28 2001 held at the Lutheran Church.

Combined Churches concert held at New Life Christian Centre October 7 2001.

Elected Committee for 2002. President ...Father Kevin McIntosh. Vice President ...Peter Blythe... Secretary...Rosie Bray. Treasurer...Graham Blackeby. (Joy Blackeby thanked for her valued work as Treasurer.)

G.I.C.C. participated in Banyule Council Good neighbour Festival on March 16 2002.

No Annual General Meeting Minutes. For 2003.

G.I.C.C. participated in the Banyule Council Good Neighbour Festival on February 22 2003.

Asylum Seekers Action training night at St Mary's Catholic Church on May 15 2003.

Combined Service for Christian Unity at All Saints Anglican Church June 4 2003.

Bible Study on July 16,23, 30 at Lutheran Church

Combined Churches Concert at St Mary's Catholic Church October 7 2003.

Banyule Good Neighbour  
Festival 16/3/2002.





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*All G.I.C.C. Members were saddened at the death of Heidi Beard on May 17 2004.*

*Heidi was a woman of exceptional ability and she had a love for all. An obituary written by Rosie Bray and printed in the Diamond Valley Leader News Paper tells it all.*



**Heidi Annemarie Beard**  
**1939 – 2004**

*I have run the race. I have kept the faith.*

HEIDI ANNEMARIE BEARD OBITURY.     Rosie Bray

A Lutheran Funeral Service was held at St Mary's Catholic Church on Friday May 21<sup>st</sup> for Mrs Heidi Beard who died on May 17<sup>th</sup> after a long illness.

Heidi was a foundation member of the Greensborough Inter Church Council and a staunch believer of ecumenicalism . It seemed fitting that, as her own church Calvary Lutheran Church was under construction and could not be used for the funeral service that her farewell would be from St Mary's where she made regular visits for events organised by the Greensborough Inter Church Council.. Pastor Pietsch from Calvary Lutheran Church said "this was a symbol of the great co-operation between the churches and church unity and fulfilled her faith and belief in Church unity".

The Service was led by Pastor Pietsch and assisted by Pastors Koch and Zwick, former Pastors from Calvary Lutheran Church. The organ was played by an old friend Eric Collyer. Father Kevin McIntosh paid tribute to Heidi for her loyal work as an officer bearer and committee member for Greensborough Inter Church Council.

Heidi had a wealth of friends and many people travelled long distances to say a fond farewell to their friend. Heidi's interests were spread over a number of different areas and she touched many people with her practicable wisdom and kindness.

Mingled with the tears people had their own memories of a lady who was always cheerful.

Heidi Annemarie Beard (Sager) was born in Hamburg Germany in 1939 and she had recollections of that time of nights spent in air raid shelters, queuing for food and blackout during the bombing. She learnt to knit at this time, so could always knit in the dark.

The Sager family arrived in Melbourne in 1954, and Heidi would tell stories of eating her first banana --and hating it--and watching the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in a store window.

Heidi and her sister Elki joined the Fairfield Rowing Club and Heidi was selected in the Australian rowing team for the Rome Olympics. A very proud time for her to compete for her new country Australia.

Returning from Rome, Heidi married Jim Beard and they settled in semi-rural Watsonia, where there were only dirt roads. Six children followed with Heidi and Jim joining a large number of church and local committees as running a trucking business. Busy days for the Beards ??

In the early 1990's Heidi was diagnosed with breast cancer, but she was determined to attend her old High School reunion in Germany in 1995, coming back to Australia with wonderful tales of renewed friendships.

Heidi was such a humble person that she did not tell her children or grandchildren much about competing in the 1960 Olympic Games in Rome, so when asked to take part in the Olympic Torch Relay at the Olympic Village in August 2000, she initially said no. After much thought Heidi decided that she owed it to her grandchildren to take part in the relay, to give them some sense of history. However it was not until the night before the event that she found out that it was she who was chosen to light the cauldron. Give the task Heidi carried the torch high and did the job well.

Heidi had a wealth of friends and her memory will live on in her husband Jim, children Tim, Peter, Julie, Linda, Doug and Ralph and the extended family.

The family tribute sums it all up--A life well lived. A women well loved. Now in God's care.

Much loved friend of Rosie Bray

