

OUR SURVIVAL DEPENDS ON YOUR SUPPORT



HOW YOU CAN HELP



MEMBERSHIP
Family \$70
Single \$40



**MAKE A TAX
DEDUCTIBLE
DONATION**



**HIRE OUR
VENUES**



Like so many in the community who are facing rising insurance premiums, we were amazed and saddened recently when our insurance account has increased by another **\$3933 per annum, to a total of \$28,224**. This means we need to pay **\$2,352 per month or over \$540 per week!**

**"We need
your support
to continue."**

When coupled with our mortgage interest, gas and electricity bills we need to pay a minimum of **\$4,160 per month**.

That is a huge amount for our hard working volunteer group who rely solely on income from 2 sources- our fundraising functions and annual memberships. Currently we are struggling to raise anywhere near that amount.

CHAIRPERSONS REPORT

Hello friends.

St Brigids has had another successful year with our committee members, volunteers and community members working hard and often going beyond what is expected.

Denis O'Brien has been a welcome addition to our committee but we still need new committee members for renewal and to spread the load for everyone. If you, or you know of anyone has skills to offer and who would like to be part of St Brigids, please let any committee member know. **Alternatively, our committee meetings are on the first Monday of the month at 730pm if you would like to come along and see if you would like to join.**

St Brigids is a great team to be part of and if you do join you will be part of a vibrant positive community and be a part in hosting community events.

This past year we have lost 2 amazing people who were great supporters of St Brigids, being **Geraldine Ryan and Paddy Fitzgerald**.

A short tribute here to **Geraldine and Paddy** would not do them justice; so please go to The Friends of St Brigids Facebook page to have a read of the wonderful lives these humble people lived.

In other sad news for St Brigids, one of our humble champions of the Mens Shed and gun 15 minutes of fame volunteer, **Tony Molenaar**, is moving to Queensland. Tony's friendly demeanor, eye for detail and number one dishwasher skills, will be a big loss and will be felt by all of the committee and volunteers at St Brigids, of whom consider Tony to be a friend.

All the best to you Tony- you know there is a big welcome for you when you return to this area.

Mention must also be made of the loan of the Grand Piano to be used by selected people, who are musicians and are performing in the Church.

This has been made possible by the purchase of a very high quality instrument by one of our members, **Mr Martin Sullivan**.

We, the Friends of St Brigids, have a formal agreement with Martin which protects us from any loss associated with the piano. To this end, security in the Church has been improved.

This instrument has been a wonderful addition to the appeal of St Brigid's from the point of entertainers who wish to use the Church. Many Thanks Martin.

Paul Smith. (Chair person)

EVENTS

St Brigids continues to offer a wide variety of music, dance and concerts that appeal to a wide range of preferences. Keep an eye out for our events by following us on Facebook. Some of our main events are listed below.

Of our regular events, our **Tuesday night Irish dancing** brings the hall alive as well as our **Thursday night traditional Irish music lessons and music session**.

In **October**, we are also holding a **beach walk from Killarney to Port Fairy**. Keep an eye out on Facebook as we finalise the date to coincide with a low tide and hopefully a sunny day.

Keep an eye out in **early 2025** for our **Concert in the Church** featuring some of our best local talent from around the district.

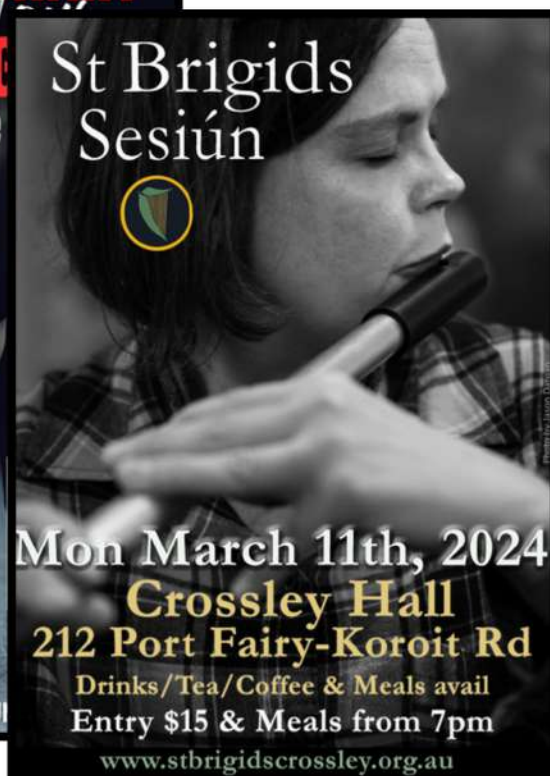
Sunday, December 22nd, the iconic St Brigids Christmas Carols in our Church. A BBQ meal from 6pm and carols from 7pm. This is an event not to be missed.

Saturday, February 1st, 2025- St Brigids mass and get together with a shared meal brought by attendees.

Monday, March 10-our traditional session with everyone welcome to end the Folk Festival weekend.

Friday April 18- Monday April 21. St Brigids music retreat weekend.

Sundays at 10am except January- Crossley mens shed is open from 10am to 1pm or later.



BRIGIDS RETREAT
A CULTURAL GATHERING FOR
TRADITIONAL PLAYERS,
SINGERS, POETS, & ARTISTS.
@ TOBAR NA GAEL
ST BRIGID'S AUSTRALIAN-IRISH
CULTURAL & COMMUNITY CENTRE
212 PORT FAIRY-KOROIT RD
CROSSLEY, VICTORIA

CONCERT
MARCH
FAMILY SHOW
ETY ACTS
AVAILABLE
LS 6.30 PM
7.30 PM
ST BRIGID'S HALL CROSSLEY

MENS SHED

Our mens shed members have continued their great work around the precinct, completing maintenance and upgrades to keep our precinct in a good condition.

Our **major project** this year was to complete the altar renewal project to a standard be-fitting of the Church. The previous extension was not satisfactory and needed an addition. Steps were built and then new carpet was laid to enhance the area. **Graeme Rawson** completed many of the earlier wooden modules and the second major stage was co-ordinated by **Paul Smith and Don McDonald** during the week, with assistance from mens shed members on a weekend.

Brendan Bushell laid the carpet to finish the project.

Mens shed members also assisted in the preparations and completion of both the **new guttering and down pipes** and they organised and were present during the **Church roof slate repairs**.

In the mens shed itself, **shelves have been built to store the wood** and it has been measured and stacked into different sections.

Our **new entrance** has almost been completed. This major project is been coordinated by **Don McDonald** and that has been to make a new safer entrance for attendees , with much earth moving and a new surface for cars to enter. With some of the soil we have also raised the area below the tennis court just a little, to allow the water to run off in wet weather.

Fencing and signage has been added to make the new entrance safer and more visible. On top of this, many **smaller maintenance and repair tasks** have been completed to keep the precinct in good order.

Other works have included- **getting the perimeter trees cut back by Wayne Bryce** and then burning them and cleaning up the back paddock. **Colin Ryan** has also been completing the complicated task of **repairing the plaster in and around the feature round stain glass window** at the road end of the Church. **Thankyou to Wayne and Colin**. We are always looking for **new members** so if you are up for a friendly chat on a wide range of subjects, and enjoy some good food **come, along on a Sunday from 10am** and be part of a friendly social group.



Photo: Jason Dargan

GROUNDS REPORT

This year most of the work on the grounds has been on the lines of maintenance. This has been a continual job as the plants in the garden beds are now well established and require continual pruning and shaping. Last year's laying of the water pipe, with three tap outlets, from the bore tank, proved very useful when the new garden bed was established in the south east corner of the yard. Some 30 plants were put into this bed and the watering in the early stages help them get a good start. A bird bath, made and donated by **Kate Sloan**, was installed in the **Peace & Healing Garden in May**. Our back paddock took on a new look when neighbour **Wayne Bryce** sought the committee's approval to put some sheep in there to keep the grass down. To make the area more secure, he strengthened the boundary fences and cut back all of the overhanging cypress branches which were heaped and burned. The paddock took on a new appearance and looked twice the size. A wonderful job done. The sheep were removed when Wayne went away for an extended period of time but it is anticipated that he will once again put sheep in the paddock on his return. Our crumbling asphalt area continues to be a problem with an infestation of weeds. This requires continual attention to keep the yard looking neat and tidy. Recently the **entrance to our precinct has been moved further north for safety reasons**. A new roadway entrance has been constructed and the former entrance closed off. A **new garden bed** has been formed along the inside of the front fence. This bed consists of clumps of sedge grasses which will withstand the harsh elements they experience. In all, our grounds have enhanced our precinct and we receive many favourable comments on its appearance.

Rob Farrar. Grounds Supervisor

FINANCIAL REPORT

Currently, we have reduced our mortgage to around **\$45,000** but as the mortgage reduces our insurance premium rises each year at an alarming rate.

Paying our insurance premium is becoming our greatest challenge. As previously mentioned, our premium is now well over **\$28 000 per annum**, despite never having an insurance claim. This is a challenge many community and other organisations are facing and it is hitting us at St Brigids, hard as well. Our BBQs, held at the Port Fairy community market over the past few years; with the main volunteers being committee members, Rob and Jose, Peter Keogh and Don McDonald as well as other volunteers, have raised almost **\$48 000-** an incredible effort.

These funds have been mainly used to reduce the mortgage which continues to lessen.

Well done to our hard working team.

We are now relying on your support; you, being our community members to continue to be sustainable into the future.

Sue Elms- Treasurer



GRANTS REPORT

We now have all new spouting and guttering around the Church which looks great and makes the Church more sustainable for the future.

Thanks to another grant our new entrance is almost complete and enhances the safety of patrons entering and exiting the precinct.

All of the repairs and improvements around the precinct have been made possible by the generosity of various organisations who have given us grants.

Amongst those are **The Moyne Shire, Dan Tehan's office, Willatook Wind farm, Rogers Earth Movers, and Foundations such as Archie Graham, Ern Hartly, Alan Lane, Ray and Joyce Uebergang, and Gwen and Edna Jones.**

Without the generosity of these organisations we wouldn't be able to maintain and improve the precinct as we have. A very big thank you to the aforementioned benefactors and also to each and every person who have donated smaller amounts.

We have had approximately **\$80 000 in grants and donations-** thanks very much.

Maureen Fawcett is our **current grants person** and without her and before her, **Michael Lane**, St Brigids would not be in as good a position as it is now.

Thanks for their great efforts.

FUNDRAISING AND CATERING

Our catering and fundraising team has excelled again this year and is the lifeblood of all that is good at St Brigids. With rising costs hitting all, and especially the financially vulnerable, the St Brigids team has continued to provide **low cost meals, salads, desserts, cakes, slices, sandwiches, soups, scones, savouries, etc,** to suit the occasion.

As food is always freshly made, it can be difficult to cater for events that are not pre-sold, but the catering team always makes sure that everyone is fed.

As well as 15 minutes of fame, St Brigids has catered for many other events, including the recent **Warrnambool Orchid Show, which raised almost \$2500.** Once again, it was **Jose Farrar** who was the driver who co-ordinated this event.

Don McDonald has also been busy co-ordinating the **hire for the precinct, which has included weddings, music and a variety of other functions.**

Memberships have been coming in steadily but we urgently need more to counter the rising insurance premiums.

There have been **many other fundraisers, with the Crossley Classical Concert** held in the Church, co-ordinated by **Carli Reeve**, a real highlight for those who attended and raised around **\$3300. Thankyou Carli.**

Mary O'Brien also held her **Woven Tapestry and Art exhibition** in January which was a major success. Thankyou Mary.



HERITAGE & CULTURE

Friends of St Brigid's Association - Cultural History Sub-Committee.

Archives - Dorothy - Report to AGM 29th September 2024

Size of Collection

The archive collection continues to grow, with the most recent item having been donated to the collection (pictured below) being listed as Item Number 000434 of the collection. Over the past four years the collection has increased from 179 items in 2021 to 437 in September 2024 – an increase of approximately 145 %.



Items in the Collection

Most often, the items which are deposited in the Archives bring with them their own mysteries, and this plaque is not without its mysteries.

Why was this item presented to Miss M.A. O'Brien in 1917?

To what was this plaque attached? There are 4 hooks at the back, so maybe was attached to wood.

Was the wood a stand for something, or was the plaque on a box?

Donors of Items

Contributions to the collection are being received not only from families still residing in the area, but from families who have moved away: a recent donation arrived from Queensland

We whole heartily thank the contributors to the Archives – each item helps create, not only a picture of the times, but also enhances our knowledge of the lives of the residents of the area.

Collection items

All matter of items are being added to the collection – items which reflect the religious, social and economic history of the area. Items range from ceremonial objects, devotional objects, printed materials, religious paraphernalia and realia.

We are continually accepting donations, and welcome any contact from prospective donors

The Archives are situated in sacristy of the St. Brigid's precinct and open on the first and third Wednesdays of each month and also the first Sunday of the month. Hours are generally from 11:00 am until 15:00. A phone number (0418519152) is displayed so that visits outside these times can be arranged.

Dorothy Rooney

Be our 'friend'

'Without your support we won't be able to keep this



Friends of St Brigids Assoc Inc

The Friends of St Brigid's Association are the caretakers of a community owned precinct in South West Victoria that celebrates a unique Australian Irish history.

OUR STORY:

The Friends of St Brigids Association Inc formed in 2006 when the local community were informed that the local church and hall were being sold. The community has raised funds and taken out a community mortgage to buy the precinct on behalf of the community to keep the precinct as the 'St Brigids Australian-Irish Cultural Heritage and Community Centre'

WHAT DO WE DO:

The St Brigids community works to provide a cultural and community heart for our rural community. Events are run monthly, dance and music classes held weekly and the Church and Hall are lovingly maintained for our community to hold their weddings, funerals and celebrations in our community, a place that has such a long history with our families, friends and community members.

OUR VISION

- To preserve and restore the buildings of St. Brigid's and their surrounds.
- To create an accessible community gathering space suitable for meetings and events.
- To assist in the preservation and restoration of the unique cultural history of Crossley, Killarney and Koroit.
- To provide a forum for the discussion of local community needs.

WHAT CAN YOU DO ?

Become a Member

Membership form is included with the FOSB Newsletter or on the website - www.stbrigidscrossley.org.au/support

Become a Volunteer:

Join the catering team and help cook meals, prepare food, wash dishes or set tables, etc Please contact us on 0497 352 001 to become one of our team of 'Friends'.

Join The Men's Shed:

Add your hands and knowledge to the team of helpers at St B's Please contact us on 0497 352 001 to become one of our team of 'Friends'.

Make A Donation:

Forms are in our Newsletter or on the website - www.stbrigidscrossley.org.au/support

Buy the Merchandise:

T-shirts, CD's , Books and more.. Forms are in our Newsletter and on the website.

Book the Precinct for events:

Please contact us on 0497 352 001 to book the Hall or Church.

Please go to the website for all other information: www.stbrigidscrossley.org.au



Friends of St. Brigid's Assoc Inc.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Membership Name: _____

Group Name (If Applicable) _____

Contact Person (for group) _____

Address: _____

Town/City: _____ Postcode: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

MEMBERSHIP TYPE:

- ☐ Individual Membership - \$40.00
- ☐ Family Membership - \$70.00

I/we would like to receive:

- ☐ Monthly minutes
- ☐ Events updates
- ☐ Annual Newsletter

Please email receipt and membership form to: stbrigidscrossley@gmail.com or post the membership form along with cheque/money order/receipt of deposit to:

Friends of St Brigids Association Inc.
PO Box 102, Koroit, Victoria. 3282

BANKING DETAILS:

ACCOUNT NAME: FRIENDS OF ST BRIGID'S ASSOC
BANK: BEYOND BANK
BSB: 325 185
ACC NO: 05916491



MERCHANDISE FORM

- ☐ St Brigid's T-Shirts - Black TShirt with design by local artist Donna Dixon. Avail M, L, XL - \$25 each
Qty: Size M/F
- ☐ St Brigid's Session CD feat. tunes played by Tommy Carty, Adrian Barker, Kate Burke, Jack Brennan & many more. Recorded by Shane Howard in The Shed", Killarney - CD-\$20
- ☐ The Church on The Hill (Book) - By Helen Doyle - The 100 year history of St Brigids Church. \$40
- ☐ Saving St Brigids (Book) - By Regina Lane - The History of Saving St Brigid's - \$35
- ☐ The St Brigid's Booklet - reproduction of the booklet collated when the school closed in 1971. \$10
- ☐ St Brigids Paver: Immortalise your family, your family name or a loved one with an engraved paver to be placed in the St Brigids peace and memorial garden - \$50 single paver/ \$100 double.

Text for St Brigids Peace & Memorial Garden Paver

14 digits per line, 3 lines per paver

Line 1 _ _ _ _ _

Line 2 _ _ _ _ _

Line 3 _ _ _ _ _

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

TOTAL MERCHANDISE PAYMENT. \$ _____

ACCOUNT NAME: FRIENDS OF ST BRIGID'S ASSOC

BANK: BEYOND BANK

BSB: 325 185

ACC NO: 05916491

**Please include this form with proof of payment*

Post/email the Merchandise form and payment form to:

FRIENDS OF ST BRIGIDS ASSOC INC. PO BOX 102, KOROIT. VICTORIA. 3284

or

Email to: stbrigidscrossley@gmail.com



DONATION FORM

St Brigid's Australian Irish Cultural,
Heritage & Community Centre



Friends of St Brigid's Association Inc. (FOSB) (ABN 47 199 549 104) are developing the Hall and Church in Crossley, Victoria, into the St Brigid's Australian Irish Cultural, Heritage & Community Centre. Friends of St Brigid's are the caretakers of the five-acre community owned and operated precinct which celebrates 150 years of unique Australian Irish history in south-west Victoria. Their vision is to preserve and restore the buildings of St Brigid's and surrounds. Donations will support property repayments, upgrades to allow people of all abilities to access and participate in activities at the site, and development of the History Display & Information Centre. For more information, please visit www.stbrigidscrossley.org.au

NOT-FOR-PROFIT FUNDRAISING ACCOUNT

The Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal (FRRR) (ABN 27 091 810 589) is a charitable foundation based on partnerships between philanthropy, community, government and business. FRRR partners with Friends of St Brigid's to assist in the fundraising for their programs and operations as a charitable activity in line with FRRR's purposes, through a Not-for Profit Fundraising Account. Donations \$2.00 or more made into the FRRR Public Fund towards this appeal are tax deductible in Australia because of FRRR's tax status. For further information, visit www.frrr.org.au

Your Details

Full Name: _____ Date: _____

Organisation (if applicable): _____

Address: _____

State: _____ Postcode: _____

Telephone: _____ Mobile: _____

Email (to issue tax receipt): _____

Acknowledgment Preferences

I am happy for FRRR to publicly acknowledge my donation ☐ OR I would like my donation to remain anonymous I am happy for FRRR to share my details with FOSB (name, email, donation amount)

* If different to above, my preferred email address to share is: _____

Please add me to FRRR's mailing list, I would like to receive updates ☐

Your Donation

Amount: \$ _____

Method of payment (please tick payment option):

EFT - Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal Public Fund BSB: 633 000 | Account Number: 144 419 736

Use ref FOSB and the first 4 letters of your surname

Cheque payable to "Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal" (FRRR) **Credit card payments are invited online via**

FRRR's secure website:

<https://frrr.org.au/helping-community-organisations/> or by Phone: (03) 5430 2399

By making this donation you are agreeing to FRRR's **Donation Terms and Conditions** (<https://frrr.org.au/frrr-donation-terms-and-conditions/>) and the information collected is done so in accordance with our **Privacy Policy** (<https://frrr.org.au/frrr-privacy-policy/>).

Please return this form either via email to: info@frrr.org.au or post to: FRRR Donations, PO Box 41, BENDIGO VIC 3552