



THE FRIENDS OF ST BRIGIDS

ST BRIGIDS AUSTRALIAN-IRISH CULTURAL HERITAGE & COMMUNITY CENTRE



JOIN our COMMUNITY MEMBERSHIP

Become a member of the Friends of St Brigid's Assoc Inc. and pay a small single or family annual membership to support our community precinct and receive a newsletter and member discounts on events and merchandise. FOSB memberships are due on October 1st each year.

DONATE

Weekly, monthly, annual or one-off donations are appreciated. Donations can be tax deductible. You can simply fill in the Form in Newsletter

VOLUNTEER

Volunteer some time at one of our many fundraising and community events during the year. You will meet great people and help our community.

There is always something on the go at St Brigids ..

...from concerts to all types of music, with something for all musical tastes. Follow us on Facebook to see what events are coming up. Keep an eye out to find on what Saturdays the slow movement dance exercise classes are held in the hall. Also, on Sundays when the Church is not booked, relaxing bell sound meditation is held in the Church.

Of our regular events, our Irish Dancing is on Tuesdays during the school terms and there are Traditional Music sessions on a Thursday night in the supper room



SAVE THESE DATES!

Sun October 22: 2-5pm - Senior Citizens week music & dance afternoon.

Sun, December 17: Our traditional Christmas Carols in the Church. BBQ meal from 6pm with Carols in the Church from 7pm.

Thurs February 1st: St Brigids Day mass with a volunteers get together afterwards.

Mon, March 11, from 7pm. The Monday of the Folkie music session get together.

Fri March 29 -Monday April 1st. St Brigids music retreat weekend.





What makes St Brigids special and a sacred place for all, is the level of support from the local community and beyond, and so many people contribute to that



Hello Friends,

We at St Brigids hope that the past year has been a good one for you and your loved ones after the challenging previous few years.

The year has flown- it seems as you get older the years tend to meld into one another and the past year has been no exception.

With the world re-connecting after covid, St Brigids has been going along steadily, mostly due to a small but determined group of committee people who continually go above and beyond, with the assistance of a larger group of volunteers.

Managing the workload is a real balancing act as our success at St Brigids has increased workloads for everyone involved in making our precinct a successful and vibrant one.

Many of our committee and volunteers have many other commitments in their personal, work and in other volunteer roles. This makes the work completed at St Brigids even more inspiring.

Our committee and volunteers at St Brigids are getting older and although they may wear out, they will certainly never rust out- they are too active

With this in mind, we are seeking new committee members and good people with the skills to assist, especially in the areas of executive and governance positions, to lessen the workload on everyone and to keep St Brigids moving sustainably into the future.

For those of us involved, although you need to be dedicated and it is not always easy, the rewards of the camaraderie, friendship, working together, looking out for each other and the quality of the events you sometimes get to witness, makes it more than worthwhile.

So, if you are unsure but still a passionate person, step up and you will find yourself part of an inspiring and uplifting group of like minded people.

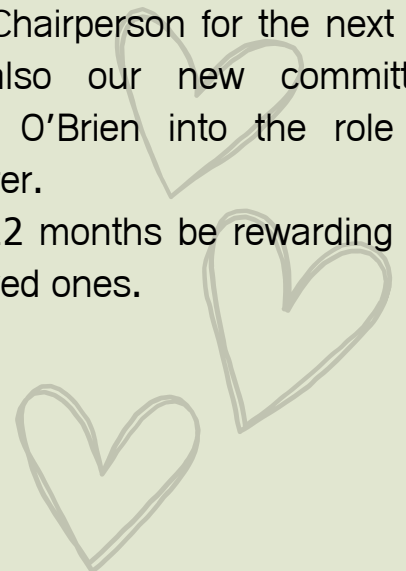
We at St Brigids would like to thank you for your support over the past year and beyond. Without you supporting us, St Brigids would not be able to survive.

What makes St Brigids special and a sacred place for all, is the level of support from the local community and beyond, and so many people contribute to that.

Finally, I would like to welcome our dedicated committee member, Paul Smith, into the role of Chairperson for the next 12 months and also our new committee member, Denis O'Brien into the role of assistant treasurer.

May your next 12 months be rewarding for you and your loved ones.

Dennis Bushell.





Financial report

Sue Elms and Jose Farrar have both been very dedicated in both fundraising and managing St Brigids finances. Sue always presents the monthly report in a clear easy to understand format for the committee to follow.

This time last year our loan balance was just under \$125 000

Although the workload has been large there has been excitement as we have got the loan amount under \$100 000 and as this report is written the loan stands at just under \$83 000.

There have been extra amounts paid off mainly due to the dedicated efforts of a few who will be mentioned in the fund raising report.

The big financial hurdle for now and in coming years is one that faces us all; and indeed has already caused many small community organisations and festivals and events to shut down.

That is, exploding insurance costs and it is no exception for us. Although we have never had a claim, our insurance costs have increased by another 20 percent this year, to be almost \$25 000. What is the answer to this issue? At the moment there does not seem to be one, but if the trend continues, in a few years time small communities will find it hard to be that; a community; and be changed forever and not in a good way.

Let's hope an answer is found, not just for St Brigids, but for all communities and event holders, as our lives will be much poorer if they disappear.



Grants Update

It has always been exciting when we are successful with new grants and the past year has been no exception.

Maureen Fawcett, Don McDonald and Mick Lane have been busy sorting through our suggestions and prioritising our most urgent needs.

Successful grants have included;

- 1:- a new photocopier.
- 2:- a large grant to move our front entrance to make it safer and more user friendly.
- 3:- new spouting and guttering on our Church, which is urgently needed.
- 4:- a trailer to transport our bbq, tables and other supplies.

Also included under the grants but of a different type, is the fact that Martin O'Sullivan has loaned us a grand piano to house in the Church. This has already proved to be a bonus for our precinct as the piano has been a feature of music recitals and other concerts in the Church.

Thankyou to Maureen, Don, Mick and Martin.

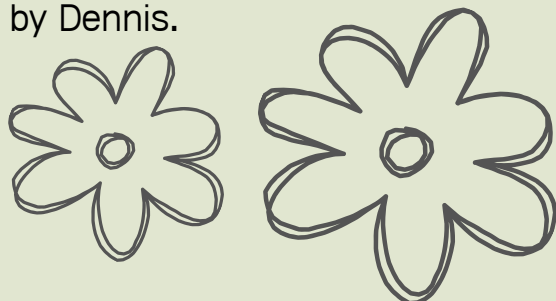
Grounds Report

The grounds of the precinct are beginning to develop into an attractive and picturesque venue as the plants take shape to fill the once barren area. This year the grassed areas have been regularly mown and sprayed for capeweed which is slowly starting to disappear. The grassed areas have been thickened up with the regular mowing and it is planned to spike the grassed area north of the Church with kikuyu to get an even grass cover in this area, which should remain green in the summer.

A water pipe with 3 tap outlets has been laid from the bore tank along the south fence line around to our water tanks behind the hall. This will allow us to water the plants and small areas in the summer.

A new entrance to our precinct will be constructed before the end of this year. This will be to the north of the Church. The existing entrance poses a traffic hazard as it is too close to a blind corner. Road base material will be laid to form the entrance and a roadway to the asphalt area between the Church and hall will be formed. The material for this project has been piled up under the cypress plantation for most of the year. Soil taken out of the drive in area will be deposited on the low area below the tennis court to prevent water lying there in the winter time. We have received a grant from Moyne Shire to carry out this work.

Our Peace and Healing Garden continues to grow as more people purchase pavers, and these are laid by Dennis.



We are indebted to Dennis's nephew who keeps us supplied with mulch for the garden beds. It is most important that we keep up mulching the garden beds as it helps control the growth of weeds and unwanted grass, and supports the plants growing there.

Earlier in the year Michele Molenaar planted out a garden of succulents in front of the Mens Shed and it is now beginning to take shape as the plants develop. Many thanks Michele.

We now have grounds that are inviting and we plan to continue to develop them in the future by creating more garden beds and planting more trees and shrubs. Robert Farrar.

Grounds co-ordinator.



Fundraising & Catering Committee.

Fundraising continues to be a central theme of our volunteers lives at St Brigids. Our main fund raising continues to be at our monthly 15 Minutes of Fame events with both the door money and food prepared and sold by our mighty catering committee and volunteers. 15 minutes of fame is now in its 11th year and continues stronger than ever; a highlight in the district's monthly calendar.

The catering team volunteers also prepare and serve food at a large variety of events, from Church concerts to events where there are guest speakers and everything in between.

We also host fundraisers in the Church with everything from classical music, piano recitals, orchestras and acapella sessions with musicians and singers often donating their time.

We also have our old favourite fund raisers, the iconic Christmas Carols and the Monday after the folkie session and the Easter Retreat which are always enjoyable events.

Hall and Church hire is co-ordinated by Don McDonald and he also manages to squeeze in bell sound meditation hire in the Church and an exercise group in the hall on weekends when the precinct is not booked. Well done Don.



Memberships and donations are another important revenue source as well as assisting on gate duties and carparking at the May Races and the Jericho Cup.

Another fundraiser that has been crucial is the fortnightly Port Fairy bbq led by the indomitable Rob and Jose Farrar and other team members.

The extra funds raised at the bbqs have been the reason that we have been able to pay extra off our mortgage.

There have been other ways we have raised funds or looked to save money but they are not all mentioned here.



Mens Shed

The Mens Shed members continue to punch above their weight in maintaining and improving the precinct. There are always jobs to do or work to be completed on the grants we receive.

The past year has been no different. The Mens Shed completed the end wall project which has been a real success as well as various projects around the precinct.

There is now water available around the southern end boundary and surrounds after a pipe laying project, the hall floor has recently been refurbished and the shed door widened to accommodate our new trailer.

Sandwiches and cakes made, baked and supplied by Mick Lane and Paul Smith (or their wives Loretta and Lee) mean that there is always a top feed to be had every Sunday lunchtime.

Mens Shed members meet at 10am Sunday and we always welcome new members



Cultural Heritage News

Collection-As of September 27 2023 we have 409 items in the collection, which have been accessioned. These items include ceremonial objects, ecclesiastical clothing, memorial cards, and documents.

During the year the following individuals/families have generously donated items to the collection.

Anne Murphy (nee O'Brien) & Mary O'Brien (nee Dwyer), Mary Owen-Smith (nee Conway), Matthew McNamara, Sister Geraldine Mugavin (SRM).

An official document, which states that the Church at Crossley, is according to Canon 1212, no longer a sacred place, has been received from Paul Bird CSsR, Bishop of Ballarat.

Displays

Historical information relating to the donors of items in the church have been displayed near the relevant items (e.g. statues). Displaying the donor details enables preservation of information pertaining to the history of families in the district, as well as the intention of the donor's generosity.

Visitors

Since October 2022, we have had just under 50 visitors who have recorded their names in the Centre's visitors' book.

Throughout the year, regular opening hours have generally been maintained.

*1st Sunday of the month 11:00-2:00.

*Wednesdays-11:00-3:00.

There have been occasions when the hours have varied due to personal reasons. When possible, a sign will be displayed if changes are known in advance.

A personal phone number is displayed, so that appointments can be made.

Dorothy Rooney.

0418519152.



Be our 'friend'

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



Friends of St Brigid's 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:

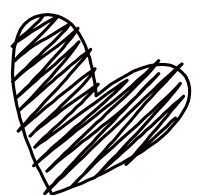
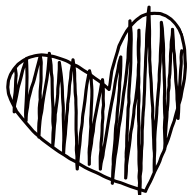
The Friends of St Brigid's Association Inc formed in 2006 when the local community were informed that the local church and hall were being sold. The community has raised funds and taken out a community mortgage to buy the precinct on behalf of the community to keep the precinct as the 'St Brigid's Australian-Irish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

WHAT DO WE DO:

The St Brigid's 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 membership form to: stbrigidscrossley@gmail.com or post the membership form along with cheque/money order/receipt of deposit to:

**Friends of St Brigid's 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/) (<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/) (<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