

# Keeping Holy Trinity Wyndham as a public and community asset

## Proposal by Wyndham Progress Association Incorporated

Monday 29 April 2013

Submitted to—

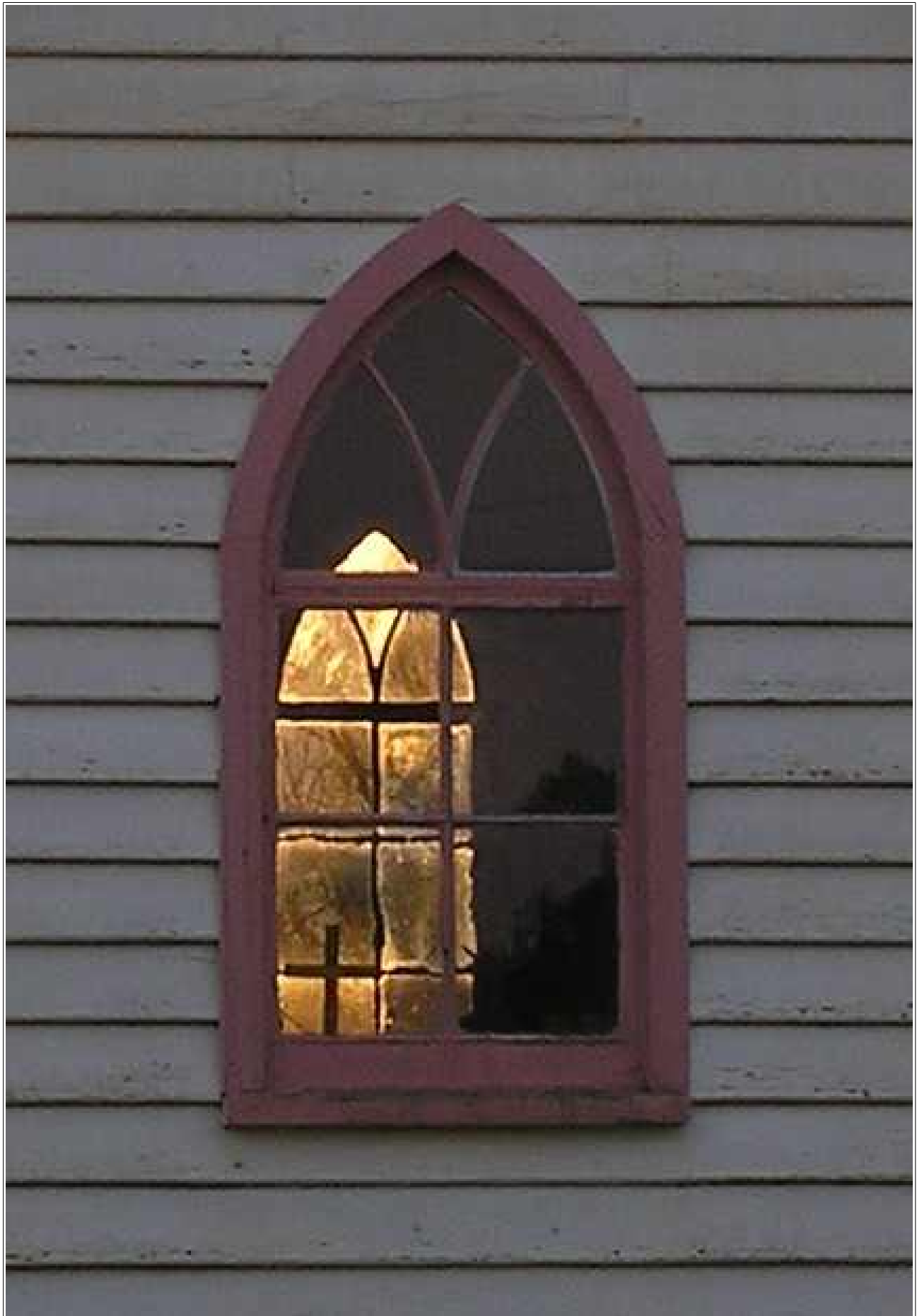
The Reverend David Ruthven, Rector, Holy Trinity Wyndham NSW  
Parish Council members, Sapphire Coast Anglican Parish  
Registrar, Anglican Diocese of Canberra/Goulburn



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## Executive Summary

**“This is as it should be. A united community can almost accomplish anything, and no doubt a respectable edifice will ere long grace our rising township”**

Quote from the Candelo and Eden Union newspaper, Thursday 16 February 1888 on the establishment of the Wyndham Holy Trinity Church.

The Wyndham community has become aware that it is in danger of losing the Holy Trinity Church as a public community building and consecrated church.

Holy Trinity was built by the community, with funds raised by the community, on land donated by community members, using mostly community donated materials. It is the first church built in Wyndham and provides strong and ongoing intergenerational links, spanning more than six generations.

Church buildings such as the 125 year old Heritage listed Wyndham Holy Trinity Anglican Church play vital roles in their communities. Church buildings can provide space for meetings and activities, historic repositories, community projects, cafés, concerts, exhibitions and essential services, while still primarily remaining places of worship.

A community meeting held with the Rector David Ruthven voted unanimously to work together with the ultimate aim of retaining Holy Trinity as a functioning consecrated church & empowered the Wyndham Progress Association to establish a sub-committee authorised to negotiate with the Parish Council.

The Progress Association has agreed to negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding whereby it offers to relieve the Sapphire Coast Anglican Parish of the ongoing financial costs of operating & maintaining Holy Trinity and its grounds for any period covered by a MOU.

The Parish immediately benefits by the lifting of financial burdens while gaining neighbourhood engagement and an enhanced community sense of belonging with the church and its parent parish.

Usage options including shared use will benefit both the Parish and the community. The Anglican church would retain its last remaining footprint in the village, maintaining faith with local townspeople as well as actively re-engaging residents in the life of Holy Trinity and hence the Parish.

The village community benefits by retaining its valued heritage as a living contributing part of Wyndham that maintains active links with the Anglican Church while also developing opportunities for sustainable community engagement and development.

## **Introduction**

### **Working together to enhance “Open”, “Sustainable” communities**

Holy Trinity is a community supported church which represents a treasure trove of stories, memories and information, presenting a large learning resource through which we can access and explore our past, enjoy the present and protect our future.

Faced with falling congregations and changing social needs, churches of various faiths need to adapt to maintain relevance and viability. In many ways, by re-integrating with the Wyndham community which initiated its establishment, Holy Trinity Anglican Church will re-establish relationships and its faith relevance for current and future generations. However if the building is sold; it's potential for capacity generation will be lost forever.

As a valuable part of national heritage, churches are often a major attraction for visitors. Opening Holy Trinity could be integrated into town events such as market days & other events and would reward the Sapphire Coast Anglican Parish by welcoming people into its church.

Making provision for visitors also sends a signal to the local community that the congregation is active and welcoming and Holy Trinity is an important and valued part of the Wyndham area.

Options to enhance viability and reduce financial burdens include the shared use of Holy Trinity - ranging from sole use for mission and worship with enhanced activities, to mainly community or other use with regular worship continuing. Community activities, cultural events including tourism, or fundraising activities, eg local service provision or private hire are all options that will increase viability and sustainability, as well as benefit both the faith and general Wyndham community.

#### **“Open” means:**

- Open or accessible for worship and for visitors during normal working or daylight hours; with clear information about opening times, services and where a key can be sourced.
- Open in the sense of providing a welcoming atmosphere for all, including those of other faiths or none, and regardless of their initial reason for visiting.
- Open for partnership, where appropriate, with community and fundraising interests, and for cultural (including tourism and educational) uses.

**“Sustainable” means:**

- Sustainable in the true sense of conservation, which is “the responsible management of change”, preserving the heritage value of Holy Trinity Wyndham while seeking to enhance and reveal its significance and use.
- Socially sustainable, by providing a resource which is accessible and attractive to large sections of the Wyndham and surrounding communities, and therefore able to draw on this social capital.
- Economically sustainable, in terms of covering the costs of mission, social outreach and maintenance.

People visit churches for many different reasons:

- For Worship, Sanctuary, and Prayer
- For quiet reflection in a place considered to be a 'sacred space
- As points of interest on a walk, faith tours, cycle-ride or car drive
- To explore family history
- Interest in local people, history & genealogy, writers, and/or artists
- To explore stories of places and areas of heritage interest
- For cultural activities, such as concerts, book readings or art exhibitions
- To enjoy decorative arts and architectural appreciation

## **Statement of the Issue**

Sapphire Coast Anglican Parish Council has advised the Wyndham community of its intention to de-consecrate the community built Holy Trinity Wyndham church, sell the asset and conduct all its future monthly services & activities at the Wyndham Uniting Church Hall.

This would leave the village with no remaining Anglican church building and deprive the community of access to an irreplaceable icon of living heritage. Also lost would be any opportunity for the community to work with the Parish to retain and develop the building's future use for further community and Parish benefit.

## **The Proposal**

This document proposes the joint development, by negotiation, of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), whereby Wyndham Progress Association Incorporated offers to relieve the Sapphire Coast Anglican Parish of the ongoing financial costs of operating and maintaining Holy Trinity and its grounds for any period covered by the MOU and the Sapphire Coast Anglican Parish acknowledges the special significance Holy Trinity has for the Wyndham community and the sense of loss that would endure should the asset be sold off.

1. The Association wants to achieve a long term solution to retain Holy Trinity as an active, accessible, living and contributing cornerstone of Wyndham and the Sapphire Coast Anglican Parish
2. The Association undertakes to investigate opportunities to support the ongoing function of the church as a consecrated building
3. The Association will explore and implement agreed strategies to increase community and Parish use of the church which could include other approved activities at times and of a nature not conflicting with the needs of the Parish
4. The Association intends these other uses to enhance sustainable local Parish and community engagement and development
5. Should the church building be de-consecrated, the Association will explore all possibilities to continue managing the building and grounds to support community development while remaining in keeping with its heritage

## Initial Strategies

### Preliminary suggested actions to increase community engagement

- Monthly advert in the Wyndham Whisper newspaper promoting service times, availability for Weddings, Funerals & Baptisms and contact names and numbers. **Done.** ✓
- Advert promoting availability of Holy Trinity for multiple use by agreement in Whisper
- Articles & photos in Whisper to raise community. Awareness. **Done.** ✓
- Confirm service times & contacts are published (free) in local papers and announced on local ABC, Commercial and Public Radio (Bega & Eden), Tourism South Coast and local tourism magazine
- Erect a name plaque with service & contact details for front of Church
- Encourage congregants to form a Roster as per other churches in Parish
- Ensure representation on Parish Council
- Prepare a MOU in partnership with Sapphire Coast Anglican Parish
- Insert service and contact details on Wyndham Facebook page
- List Holy Trinity on State Heritage website as part of a tourist trail
- Place Church on list of Faith/Pilgrim trail
- Establish regular liaison between Wyndham community and Parish
- Place notices in local Pew Sheets

### Maintaining Holy Trinity - Preliminary identified required work program

- The building is a prime example of a classic Australian rural church, in generally good order with no apparent leaks or White Ant activity. It is Heritage listed. The roof paint is peeling but has no apparent rust and is in good condition. The exterior now requires re-painting as it has been more than 25 years since last being done (also by the community).
- A broken front window pane has recently been replaced by the Progress Association, while it has been noted that a rear window is not in keeping with the rest of the windows.
- The yard is being maintained monthly but could benefit from more mowing in peak growing season.
- Neighbours & the Progress Association already work together to maintain the grounds including lawn, bordering shrubs, trees & fences at no cost to the Parish.
- Wyndham Progress Association Inc. will look after ongoing repairs and maintenance at no cost to the Sapphire Anglican Parish for the period of the suggested MOU.



- Local commercial painters have already been approached to provide quotes for re-painting the church at no cost to the Parish.
- The Wyndham RFS has been approached to pressure wash the exterior, also cost free to Parish.
- The Galvanised iron roof is in sound condition but would benefit from a coat of paint
- Community members have volunteered to do building and ground maintenance when needed and to provide free materials when possible.
- The community has committed to ensure electricity supply as required at no cost to Parish.
- A list of skilled volunteers to be collated for working bees and specific jobs.
- Town water is already connected to the lot and the annual membership subscription (currently \$70 pa) is routinely donated back to the Parish Council. The Parish initially paid a \$500 capital contribution in the 80's to have the water connected.

## **Appendix A - Vision Statement**

To work in partnership with the Sapphire Coast Anglican Parish with the aim of retaining, maintaining and integrating Holy Trinity Wyndham as an active, accessible, living & contributing part of the Wyndham community and the Sapphire Coast Anglican Parish.

### **Background of Holy Trinity Wyndham**

Holy Trinity has been continually used by the local community since the Wyndham Progress Committee petitioned it's construction 125 years ago.

With local fundraising and organisation, combined with mostly donated materials carted for free, the church was constructed in 1888 by locals donating their skills, resources and tools on a hill overlooking the village.

Seats for 100 were purchased, insurance paid for and the building completed at a cost of £100. It was dedicated by the Rev A. Duncan on February 17, 1889 who said he had "never worked amongst a people so kind and hospitable to their pastor as the Wyndham people were.....all had done their duty to God and their church". This was the first church to be built in Wyndham.

White Ants however took hold and so the Wyndham community again worked together with the aim of repairing & moving the church to a more central location. This goal took several decades to come to fruition, and in the late 1940's the move was finally achieved.

Four half-acre village allotments were donated by Ruby Anna Moore, widow of Joseph Moore formerly of "Moorvale" Wyndham; creating a community precinct bordered by St Josephs Catholic church and the Wyndham School of Arts Hall.

The old church was repaired and rebuilt at its current location by the Wyndham community, which again raised the necessary funds and laboured to establish the classic weatherboard church which now remains a cornerstone of the life & memory of so many Wyndham residents.

The Parish has already benefited from the sale of three of the half-acre lots, plus the original church-site overlooking the village. All that remains of the Anglican Church footprint in Wyndham is Holy Trinity; and the "spirit of belonging" which Holy Trinity & its bell inspire in the community.

## **Appendix B - Why we should work together**

### **A short history of Wyndham**

The small rural community of Wyndham has always been adaptable, capable, creative and self reliant. First surveyed in 1856, the village was originally populated by miners and was a major transport link for goods and people between the Monaro and the Coast. It is part of the historic Cobb and Co trail. Pubs, stores, butcheries, bakers, a farrier, wattle tanning and general businesses thrived in the local area.

Then came farming, followed by soldier settlers, then new settlers, and now many more new settlers; many established young retirees & families attracted by the cost benefit of local land and, most importantly, the spirit of the townspeople. For what we lack in size we make up for in heart, spirit, determination & ability.

Our residents have strong intergenerational connections with the village and Holy Trinity. We value our past. Well known local family names are reflected in street names & places; and many of the 6 generations since Holy Trinity's construction have ongoing church connections through attendance, volunteering, baptisms, confirmations, marriages and funerals.

Our strong community spirit of volunteering and cooperation has continued throughout many changes spanning 125 years. Buildings which are considered community assets are maintained and cared for by community members, regardless of their connection with the primary organisation, and people work together to achieve aspirational long-term goals.

### **Why we should work together**

As in many rural communities, Wyndham residents know our strength is our people. We cherish the village's past and its contribution to our present. We all belong, simply by living here. Wyndham residents work together and collaborate because we all face similar challenges and understand that to prosper is to cooperate.

We understand the idea of mutual benefit.

## **Appendix C - Wyndham Progress Association Inc.**

### **Introduction & achievement summary**

The Progress Association has been an active voluntary cooperative of local residents for more than 125 years. It was Incorporated as a Not For Profit Association in 1990 & is recognised by and partners with the Bega Valley Shire Council (BVSC). The Progress Association has been the primary fundraising, planning and development association for the village since its' inception.

The Progress Association currently works to lobby for, fundraise, develop and maintain community amenities. The extraordinarily active group has an extensive history of successful achievement ensuring the sustainable development of the town and has fostered numerous sub-committees, many of which now independently manage their own interests and facilities.

Achievements include:

- Monthly markets at the School of Arts Hall precinct adjacent to Holy Trinity
- Facilitating fundraising & lobbying for the Rural Fire Service buildings & equipment, local Pony Club and other organisations
- Wyndham Community Water Users Inc (1986) - proving an independent and financially viable potable water supply for the people of Wyndham, even providing water to BVSC.
- Planning, building & maintenance of the Skate Park for local young people, and those young of heart (and bones)
- Memorial Park maintenance and development, including placement of a huge grey box log, reminding us of our town's timber cutting heritage, plantings of Rosemary and Lavender commemorating those who fought in Australia's wars and the establishment of playground equipment, a BBQ and a covered rotunda for shelter.
- The establishment of the Memorial Avenue tree planting as you enter the eastern side of Wyndham; each planted by community members with individual plaques commemorating the lives of loved ones. Plaques and trees were also established for those characters who may otherwise not have been remembered. We never forget our own.
- Establishment of a multi-purpose sports ground The original sub-committee has now evolved into a local BVSC Reserves Committee which funds, develops and maintains the sports ground and other parks and reserves, including the Mataganah Riverside Reserve, currently under development including cleared river walks, picnic benches, etc
- Maintenance and refurbishment of the Wyndham Community Tennis Courts in partnership with the Reserve Committee. The courts are currently in the midst of a major project of being re-surfaced and fenced.

- Maintenance and improvements to the historic Wyndham School of Arts Hall (also 125 years old this year) including repairs, installing gas heating and a kitchen, constructing a front verandah & rear porch. Numerous internal improvements and seating provision. The installation of photovoltaic solar panels to feed power back to the grid.
- A Main Street committee which raised funds and held working bees to install sleeper retaining walls and garden beds throughout the town as well as tree plantings.
- The monthly "Wyndham Whisper" newspaper is now in its 10<sup>th</sup> consecutive year of production at 127 issues and now printed in colour.
- The Wyndham Hall Committee is a BVSC sub-committee which manages the School of Arts Hall on a local level. Hall Committee meetings are held in tandem with Progress Association meetings.
- Information and History Centre - a Historic Repository managed by a well informed volunteer historian.
- "History of Wyndham" Walk, which includes Holy Trinity, with numbered site markers used in conjunction with an "History Walk" pamphlet.
- Establishment and maintenance of the Jingera View Lookout including reticulated water, tree plantings, a BBQ & Picnic Tables
- The currently pending development of a "Men's Shed" in Wyndham is being actively supported by the Progress Association.

## Appendix D - Mutual Benefits

### A preliminary analysis of the possible strengths and weaknesses of various shared /multiple uses of Holy Trinity

#### Artists studios and gallery

**Strength:** Allows use of the main seating area on a semi permanent basis as studios with no issues for access. The sanctuary or the School of Arts could then become a gallery for most of the week, when they are not being used for worship or community activities respectively. Artists will not only bring rent, but also a new perspective on how to use the space and creative energy.

**Opportunity:** Wyndham currently does not seem to have a good quality local gallery or studio space. This is a gap in the market to be exploited, and could link into a greater narrative for the church relating to tourism and heritage.

**Weakness:** Access might still be an issue if other activities are planned.

**Threat:** Would limit other multiple uses if regularly used in this manner.

#### Concert / performance venue

**Strength:** The sanctuary and seating area are natural venues for musical or small performances. Acoustics may well suit small ensembles, including story-telling, book-readings, or choir practice. Both areas are flexible with their seating. There is already a dance school that use the hall & music classes are conducted at the Uniting Church Hall. Central location with car parking nearby.

**Opportunity:** To turn Wyndham into a cultural hub of the Towamba Valley. There is also the possibility to link this in to a tourism narrative, which could also help develop a more professional cafe/ restaurant in the Village or improved patronage of existing facilities.

**Weakness:** Due to the nature of performing arts, marketing the spaces as performance venues is essentially going to be similar to have a string of small lets. This will require management which could be facilitated by the Wyndham Progress Association.

**Threat**

### **Indoor market**

**Strength:** Could easily take place in the seating area with little additional work, other than moving the heavy pews.

**Opportunity:** Develop a niche market for high-end goods – arts and crafts, jewellery, books, antiques, artisan foods etc. with a specific Wyndham flavour. Links into tourism & could play-off the footfall already generated by the marketplace and other retail offerings. Could operate throughout the week enhancing other retail and tourism experiences.

**Weakness:** Providing space for small retailers might not generate that much income.

**Threat:** If there is not a perception of a significant difference between the church-based in-door market, and the other retail available on market days.

### **Ecumenical partnerships**

**Strength:** Keeps the buildings solidly as a church with an injection of manpower and resources.

**Opportunity:** Financial security and more people mean that the buildings are no longer the centre of attention and the church can focus on mission. The ecumenical partner may bring mission opportunities with them. Enhances community partnerships and local responses and ownership to local need. Social inclusion.

**Weakness:** Does not address the issue of how to maximise the space available.

**Threat:** Relationships between congregations can be tricky to handle – integration is not an easy process. The mission opportunities will require cooperation between parties to succeed.

### **Health centre**

**Strength:** Guaranteed income, builds upon the church's social function and creates a narrative of all-round health (physical, mental, social etc.). Central location and parking favourable.

**Opportunity:** To create a holistic health centre in the middle of town, attracting plenty of mission opportunities, hosting exercise classes, counselling sessions etc. Social inclusion.

**Weakness:** Limits availability for other activities during the week.

**Threat:**

### **School / partnership with Wyndham Primary School, University of the Third Age, Short Courses etc**

**Strength:** Easy fit for the school to use the seating area outright, leaving them free at the weekend for other users. Are there any/many home school families that could benefit from access to such a venue?

**Opportunity:** To promote Christian faith through sharing and trust from an early age and develop better ties throughout the community by interacting with children's parents & community members. Social inclusion again. Also Centrally located.

**Weakness:** Free schools vary in quality and may not last long, meaning that a search for a partner might have to start again. Is there anyone locally seeking to set up a Home school? Is the site big enough? Toilets would have to be accessed at the Hall.

**Threat:** Change in Government policy ending Free Schools.

### **Local / visiting authority organisation**

**Strength:** A reliable source of income. e.g. a library or an information centre., local BVSC access point to meet with various Inspectors, Rangers, volunteer organisers. Growing Opportunity by social inclusion. Centrally located.

**Opportunity:** Generates a significant footfall.

**Weakness:** The service might not necessarily relate strongly to the values of the church, e.g. a library or an information centre. Negotiations could be lengthy and unproductive. Is there any demand?

**Threat:** Government funding cuts.

### **Heritage research**

**Strength:** Builds upon the church's wealth of history.

**Opportunity:** Feeds into the tourist narrative of the 'historic rural village & marketplace', and has the potential to discover benefactors/sponsors.

**Weakness:** It does not directly address the problems of how to manage the buildings more efficiently.

**Threat: ?**



## Appendix E - Stakeholder comments & initial responses

When considering the options available for the direction of Holy Trinity and the Sapphire Coast Anglican Parish we present feedback gathered during & after initial consultation with local stakeholders/potential partners.

### Statements by Rector David & community/stakeholder responses

#### 1. How does the Parish maintain 9 churches and ensure ministry to all?

##### Current Proposal:

De-consecrate and sell the property. Funds to be “used for upkeep of Parish”. Continue monthly services at Uniting Church.

**Opportunity:** Continue current ecumenical arrangements, no extra travel is required compared to Parish’s Uniting Church proposal. Aim that Holy Trinity remains a consecrated active Anglican Church in Wyndham. By remaining open & considering possibility of multiple uses, the church spreads its footprint, creates opportunities to cover costs in partnership with community and grows goodwill in an otherwise shrinking congregation. It retains faith in & with the Wyndham neighbourhood, and faith in itself.

**Response:** Does not directly address the problems of how to manage Holy Trinity more efficiently & ignores the strength & value of community managing change in partnership. Community feels it has been abandoned & faith betrayed. Specifically how would the funds and efforts we donated in faith be used to benefit our community? 15% has to be given to the Anglican Trust. Is it true that funds from capital sales cannot be used for operating expenses and are “expected to be used for Capital purposes only”? Once closed and sold, all opportunities are lost forever.

**Threat: ?** Holy Trinity is closed and lost to the community that built and nurtured it. Loss of Anglican footprint, goodwill, community resources, opportunity & living heritage.

## **2. How do we relieve the Undue Burden to the life of the Parish?**

**Current Proposal** De-consecrate and sell the property. Funds to be “used for upkeep of Parish”. Continue monthly services at Uniting Church.

**Opportunity:** By developing an open community partnership & facilitating multiple uses, the Parish is relieved of financial burden and the Wyndham Progress Association may develop diverse income streams through partnership & financial commitments of community members. It retains faith in & with the Wyndham community - expanding goodwill & mission opportunities by increasing exposure to the community and users. It also supports the village as it endeavours to adapt & grow.

**Response:** The Parish would continue ownership of the building and initially invest some time developing a trust understanding with the Wyndham Progress Association. A relationship does already exist, with the Wyndham Water User inc. donating annual water fees back to the Parish and community members already undertaking maintenance of buildings and grounds.

**Threat: ?**

## **3. Concern re number of Anglicans attending. What has Wyndham done?**

**Current Proposal:** De-consecrate and sell the property. Funds to be “used for upkeep of Parish”. Continue monthly services at Uniting Church.

**Opportunity:** By remaining open & considering possibility of multiple uses, the church spreads its footprint and grows goodwill in an otherwise shrinking congregation. It retains faith in & with the Wyndham community, and faith in itself. Once closed and sold, all opportunities are lost forever.

**Response:** Anglican attendance is a Parish responsibility, not Wyndham's. However in partnership retaining an open and sustainable church, opportunities would be created to encourage attendance and faith engagement. Wyndham population is growing at about 3½% per year & has been identified as an area of growth by BVSC. Families are moving to Wyndham as an affordable “treechange”. Wyndham is also on a tourist track.

**Threat: ?** How long would it take to build congregation? What is the definition of a satisfactory number? Is it defined by tithing and giving, or numbers? Average Anglican congregation size in Australia is about 67/church. What is reasonable to expect in Wyndham?

**4. Responsibility for maintenance & upkeep is a big issue for the Parish**

**Current Proposal:** De-consecrate and sell the property. Funds to be “used for upkeep of Parish”. Continue monthly services at Uniting Church.

**Response:** Wyndham Progress Association members are already demonstrating a desire to maintain Holy Trinity by maintaining the grounds and cleaning the church and brass.

Broken glass in a front window has been replaced at no cost since December. Committee members have further offered to undertake maintenance with free materials wherever possible and ensure electricity is available as required, also at no cost. Although the Parish has not undertaken any major maintenance in the past 20 years at least, Wyndham Progress Association agrees to take responsibility for all reasonable maintenance at no cost to the Parish for any period covered by a Memorandum of Understanding.

**Opportunity:** Community members are actively re-engaged in the life of Holy Trinity & hence the Parish. This engagement spreads interest throughout the community & incites involvement, building capacity for sustainable change.

**Threat: ?** Although the community works together to maintain and develop multi-use activities in Holy Trinity - developing income and faith opportunities - the Parish could still pull out leaving the community bearing the cost for no benefit. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Review Periods would be necessary.

**Appendix F - Local Context; Church plaques in Wyndham**



## Appendix G - Extracts from the Wyndham Whisper Newspaper

### Holy Trinity Church Clarke Street, Wyndham, NSW

The Sapphire Coast Anglican Parish, which is the responsible governing body for Holy Trinity, has a proposal before it to remove the electricity service from the building in February 2013, transferring the once a month service to the Uniting Church, which is next door to the Wyndham Primary school, at some point in the near future deconsecrating Holy Trinity and eventually selling the building and land. The funds raised would be used within the Parish for Outreach purposes.

A short History of Holy Trinity Church. The building was built in 1888 with funds donated by the Wyndham and surrounding area community. This makes the building 125 years old next year. The Church was originally located somewhere in the area at the top of Stanton Lane Wyndham and was moved to its current location in 1947. To the best of knowledge the land in Clarke St was donated to the church by a person or persons in the community. This is the first church in Wyndham.

The building itself is in reasonable condition. It requires the exterior to be rubbed down and repainting. The roof and guttering at some point in time would need substantial attention but it does not leak at the moment. The building is always dry inside.

In the latest census the population of Wyndham (as laid down in the Census documents) was 610. Of these 92 are nominated as Anglicans.

The Wyndham and surrounds community has not been consulted at all on the above closure. The community is being given the opportunity to come to a meeting at Holy Trinity Church on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 10.00am to voice their opinions. The parish rector David Ruthven will be there to put forward the parish Councils plans and answer questions.

**If you feel strongly about this proposal to close a listed heritage building and facility in Wyndham come along and make your presence known.**

If you are not able to attend and wish to make representations you can do so by emailing us [andygrahame@bigpond.com](mailto:andygrahame@bigpond.com) or phone 6494 2067  
Andy and Grahame Cross

**From the December 2012 edition  
of the Wyndham Whisper**

### Save Our Church!



Yvonne Umback ringing the bell on the 124th anniversary of the dedication of the  
**Wyndham Holy Trinity Anglican Church**  
with young Abbey Grant looking on.

On Sunday February 17<sup>th</sup>, a sub-committee of Wyndham Progress Association met to discuss possible ways of keeping the church in the community. The preferred option is retaining a functioning church, which basically needs a larger congregation. Or the community could take over responsibility for the building, using it for community purposes?

**From the February 2013 edition  
of the Wyndham Whisper**

**Have Your Say  
on the Wyndham Anglican  
Church Issue  
(A Case of Use It or Lose It)**

Do you see the Church's value to the Community as;

1. a functioning Church?
2. a beautiful Heritage Listed Building for possible extended Community use?
3. both of the above?

**Are you passionate about retaining the Anglican Church as a public asset?**

Holy Trinity is a classically designed rural Anglican Church built 125 years ago with Community fundraising on land donated by members of the Community. However, it is currently in danger of being sold-off by the Parish Council and lost to the Community as a Heritage listed asset and local historic icon.

Our Community now needs to address the concerns expressed by the Sapphire Parish Anglican Church Council, regarding the buildings upkeep and the low attendance of Anglicans at Wyndham's unique ecumenical worship arrangement.

The Wyndham Progress Association is keen to retain the Church and has formed a sub committee to explore possible solutions. The sub-committee will discuss its ideas with the Wyndham Progress Association prior to meeting with the Parish Council in April when our proposals will be presented.

We would be happy to receive your ideas, offers of help or historic/family connections to the Church. We welcome all feedback, especially written submissions which we could include in our proposal.

**Committee Contacts are;**

Yvonne 6494 2113 Alida 6494 2832

Vivian 6494 2360 Bob 6494 2030

or put your support in writing to PO Box 9050 Wyndham.

**Monthly Services are held at Holy Trinity Church** on the first Sunday of each month at 2.30pm if you feel moved to attend. The Church is also available for Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals by calling 6495 4353

Contacts Rector; Rev David Ruthven  
Assistant Priest; Rev Joy Harris

**From the March 2013 edition  
of the Wyndham Whisper**

## **Appendix H - Extract from Canberra & Goulburn Anglican Community, Thursday 21 March 2013**

### **Prof helps pioneer revolution in rural ministry**

In what could herald a revolution in ministry for small rural centres, Director of St Mark's National Theological Centre Professor Tom Frame has been appointed to a 'tent-making' unpaid position overseeing the new Mulwaree Mission District.

"Having this ministry responsibility gives me credibility among ministry students. I will be sharing their struggles first hand," he said.

The new Mission District consists of four churches near Tarago, with the small congregation meeting one week per month at each building. The break with Bungendore parish was entirely amicable. "I'd like to think it has given Bungendore some new options," Prof Frame says.

The Mulwaree Mission District is not a one-off. In a parallel development the Diocese has also created the Sutton Road Mission District to be led by the Rev'd Dr Peter Grundy and a possible stand alone ministry in Marulan - at the initiative of Bishop Stuart Robinson.

A key factor in the strategy is that Prof Frame is already local. He lives on a property near Tarago and understands the rhythms of the local community. He is part of the community fabric such as the Rural Fire Brigade.

Prof Frame says the core idea behind the strategy is that Christian ministry should align with natural community.

"We relate to Goulburn not 'down the hill' to Canberra or Bungendore. Our natural alignment - social, political, economic - is with Goulburn. We shop in Goulburn. Our local Council is Goulburn-Mulwaree."

In just the past three months there has been an increase - albeit from a small base - in activities, money and membership for the new Mission District. Average attendance is up 50 percent from 10 to 15. They are planning outreach events and creative liturgies to re-engage with local people.

"[The new structure] helps people believe the Church is invested in their community," Prof Frame says. "They now see that they are resourcing a local endeavour."

A key part of the strategy is targeting villages that are becoming dormitory suburbs of Canberra such as Sutton, Collector and Currawang.

"It is about preventing the closure and sale of small rural congregations," Prof Frame says. "In one sense it's a holding operation for the future when these areas become more densely populated."

Nevertheless Prof Frame believes the strategy is entirely replicable in other rural areas.

"Any parish with four or more centres should have a think about this approach. Start by analysing the natural communities and working with and not against local allegiances," he said.

