



WEEKLY NEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
DAPTO ANGLICAN CHURCH

THE MATILDAS: SPORT AS PUBLIC RELIGION

REV. DAVID RIETVELD

Last Tuesday I was at Sydney Airport. It was the morning after the Matildas won 2-0 against Denmark at Stadium Australia. The airport was awash with people wearing gold and green soccer tops. Saturday night's quarter-final saw the Matildas break TV rating records, being the most-watched event since Cathy Freeman won gold at the 2000 Olympics in Sydney.

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There is far more going on here than just the rise of female sport, or soccer over other sporting codes. In our secular and pluralistic society, sport is filling the void of shared public religion.

Durkheim (1858-1917) believes religion provides the shared beliefs, values, symbols and stories that allow a disparate group of people to become one people, sharing one culture. It is the 'glue' that holds them together.

Modern Australia has sanitised itself of public or civic religion. Religions are now perceived as facilitating tribalism and oppression, not unity and fraternity. The causes are multi-factorial, but our society increasingly feels divided as we struggle and split around sensitive topics. In such a moment, the FIFA Women's World Cup has brought Australia together in a way we haven't seen for years.

Identity is presently both craved and elusive. This is not just an issue for women and Barbie. It's an issue for our nation – given multi-culturalism, our strained relationship with first nations peoples, and post-colonial guilt, it is unclear what it means to be Australian. Identity is both individual and corporate. We find ourselves both by looking inside and around ourselves. We yearn to be part of something bigger than ourselves. These past few weeks, we have felt good about being Australian – because the Matildas were winning games and smashing records.

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I love sports. I just completed my 47th season of competitive soccer. I have enjoyed years of exercise, friendship, and affable rivalry and competition. Oh, and I do like winning and scoring goals. But to ask sport to be more than this is to turn a good thing into an idol. Idols inevitably disappoint, and take more than they give.

By all means, get on board the Matildas bandwagon. But we will only find our meaning, values, and identity in deeper wells than sporting field, and in more inspiring figures than athletes.

Trivia Night Fun for the Whole Family



Trivia Night has been rescheduled for the 2nd of September!

For those who have registered for Trivia, your registration will carry over to Saturday the 2nd of Sept. For those who cannot make that date let Christine know in the office, and we'll arrange a refund.

If you haven't registered yet, there is still time! Please consider joining us on **Saturday the 2nd of September, from 5pm**. This is an event for the whole family and includes dinner, for only \$15 per person. Children under 12 can enter for free. You can book a table of 10 or join a table on the night. Money raised will be going towards our new dishwasher and a child-safe fence out the front of the church.

Visit www.dapto.church/events/trivia to register. Come along and test your knowledge while having fun with your family and friends!



Dapto Anglican's Annual

Quilt, Art & Craft Show

Brought to you by Creative Connection

Fri 6th & Sat 7th, October, 2023 | 10am till 3pm, \$6 entry | Moombara St, Dapto



Connect Men at Kiama Blowhole

Gather with us at the iconic Kiama Blowhole for a time of connection, camaraderie, and growth. Whether you're a regular attendee or new to the group, you're warmly invited to join in.

Feel free to bring your packed lunch or grab a bite to eat in Kiama before we convene at the Blowhole. For those taking the train, there's a convenient option: catch the 11:15am train from Dapto, arriving at Kiama at 11:47am. This gives you ample time to enjoy a meal before strolling up to the blowhole. If you prefer to drive, meet us there.

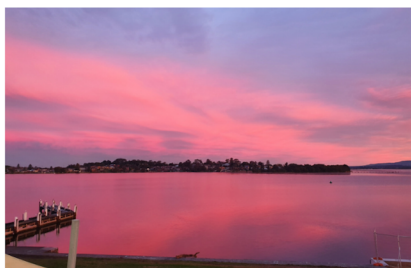
For more information, please contact Warren.



Empty Nesters by the Lake

Join us for a leisurely stroll along the Illawarra Yacht Club Walk, where you can take in the stunning views and enjoy the fresh air. This event is specifically designed for Empty Nesters, so come along and meet like-minded individuals while getting some exercise and fresh air.

The walk will take place on Saturday, September 9th, starting at 2:30 pm, followed by some afternoon tea inside the club from 3:30pm. Afterwards, why not stay for dinner and continue the conversation with new friends? To RSVP and secure your spot, please contact Ruth Finney at 0409 746 255. We look forward to seeing you there!



Safe Ministry

Dapto Anglican Church is committed to Safe Ministry Practices. If you have a question or concern, we are here to help.

Please contact:

- Julie Houghton, Parish Safe Ministry Representative, by confidential email safeministry@daptoanglican.org.au or through our church office on 42611001
- Anglican Abuse Report line on 1800 774945



PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Lord God, give us the will to dedicate all of our life to you; in our daily work, our study, our recreation, our relationships, help us to set aside the desire to make the priority our performance, our pride, our pleasure, and help us instead to honour you and to seek to show your power and love and so to point others to you the King of glory. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

EXPECTANT PARENTS

Tara and Nathan O.

VILLAGES/NURSING HOMES

Please continue to pray for our people in Residential Care Homes: Jean W, Kath H, Phyllis D, Audrey & Alan R, Gae & Allen Q, Elsie N, Barbara L, Pamela B, Betty B, Gordon M, Beth W (Piper House, Dapto); Robyn K (Digger's Rest, Corrimal); Helen S (Marco Polo, Unanderra); Ella H, Trevor W (Warrigal Care, A.P.); Wendye C (Farmborough Uniting, Unanderra); Cheryl T (Hammond Care, Horsley); Graham S (The Links, Wollongong); Brian B (William Beach Gardens, Dapto).

8AM / WED 2PM

Please continue to pray for Deb P's son, and her brother.

10AM

Pray for Elizabeth L who will be having a procedure on her foot this week. Pray for good results. Continue to pray for Phillip P that his health will improve. Also for Andrew W as he continues with his treatment.

6PM

Please continue to pray for Jael and Seb R, that Jael's health will improve.

CAFE CHURCH/CREATIVE CONNECTION

Please continue to pray for Lynne N that her health will continue to improve, and also continue to pray for Lynne's brother, Stephen, that he will have positive results from his Targeted Chemo.

