

Fiore Chamber performed the song submissions. Photos: Amy Oliver.

YOUNG PEOPLE ARE OUR FUTURE...

## Inaugural **Archbishop's Prize** for Young and Emerging Composers

**The Melbourne Anglican Foundation was delighted to host the inaugural Archbishop's Prize for Young and Emerging Composers, a fundraising evening celebrating the depth of musical talent across the Diocese of Melbourne.**

The event was generously hosted by Archbishop Ric Thorpe and Mrs Louie Thorpe at Bishops Court, and the Foundation extends its deepest gratitude for their graciousness and generosity in welcoming over 70 guests for an evening of exceptional music and fellowship.

Entrants across both the Young Composers and Emerging Composers streams were invited to set Psalm 46:10 – "Be still, and know that I am God" – to music for SATB voices, with optional piano accompaniment. The calibre of submissions was outstanding, with finalists' works performed beautifully by *Fiore Chamber*, whose polished and dynamic delivery brought each composition vividly to life.

After much deliberation, the judges awarded the Young Composers prize to Oliver Mitchell (Year 10, Melbourne Grammar School) for his composition *The City of God*, and the Emerging Composers prize to Timothy Mallis for *The Lord Almighty is with us*. Both pieces showcased

remarkable musicality and a genuine engagement with the chosen text.

We're thrilled to share that the evening also reached its fundraising goal, with proceeds going towards making this a recurring fixture on the Foundation's calendar. Thank you to everyone who attended, donated, and supported this celebration of sacred music and emerging talent within our Diocese.



Archbishop Ric and Louie Thorpe.

## Your Gift, Their Future, Our Community

*"When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd."*  
– Matthew 9:36

**Young people in our communities are facing significant challenges, including uncertainty around work, disruption at home, loneliness and poverty. These are not abstract issues but daily realities that affect their wellbeing and future opportunities.**

The Melbourne Anglican Foundation supports local parish-led youth groups across Melbourne and Geelong that respond with compassion and practical care. Week after week, dedicated volunteers create safe and welcoming spaces where young people are known, valued and supported.

In 2024, the Foundation launched its first Youth Grants Round. Thanks to the generosity of supporters, \$177,700 has been distributed over two years to 30 local youth groups, impacting hundreds of young people and their families. The success of these grants has demonstrated the power of focused giving to create meaningful and measurable outcomes.

The Foundation is now preparing for its 2026 Youth Grants Round. These grants help youth groups continue their vital work by funding meeting spaces, meals, practical support and activities that build connection and hope.

By investing in young people today, we are helping strengthen the future of our communities. Your gift can make a lasting difference.

**Carolyn Clark OAM**  
Chair



**"BY INVESTING IN YOUNG PEOPLE TODAY, WE ARE HELPING STRENGTHEN THE FUTURE OF OUR COMMUNITIES."**

# Young People are Our Future

## MAF EOFY Appeal for Youth Grants Round 2026

YOUNG PEOPLE ARE OUR FUTURE...

**Young people are facing increasing challenges. Uncertainty around work, disruption at home, loneliness, poverty, and mental health concerns are daily realities for many across Melbourne and Geelong. Yet in the midst of these challenges, local Anglican parishes are creating places of hope, belonging, and support.**

The Melbourne Anglican Foundation partners with parish-led youth programs that ensure young people are known by name, valued, seen, and encouraged to thrive. In 2024, the Foundation launched its first Youth Grants Round. Thanks to the generosity of donors, over the past two years **\$177,700** has been distributed to **30 local youth initiatives**, impacting hundreds of young people and their families.

These grants support a wide range of programs, including youth groups, homework clubs, mentoring programs, youth camps, music and arts initiatives, sports teams, cross-cultural programs, after-school activities, and mental health support. Across our Diocese, grants have helped programs such as St John's Anglican Church, Camberwell's *Eat Read Play* after-school program (see *article below*), the Belonging creative arts space at Flinders and Balnarring, youth mentoring camps at Holy Name of Jesus Vermont South, the St Peter's Jieeng Youth Choir, and REACH West Anglican Church's multicultural soccer team (see *page 3*).

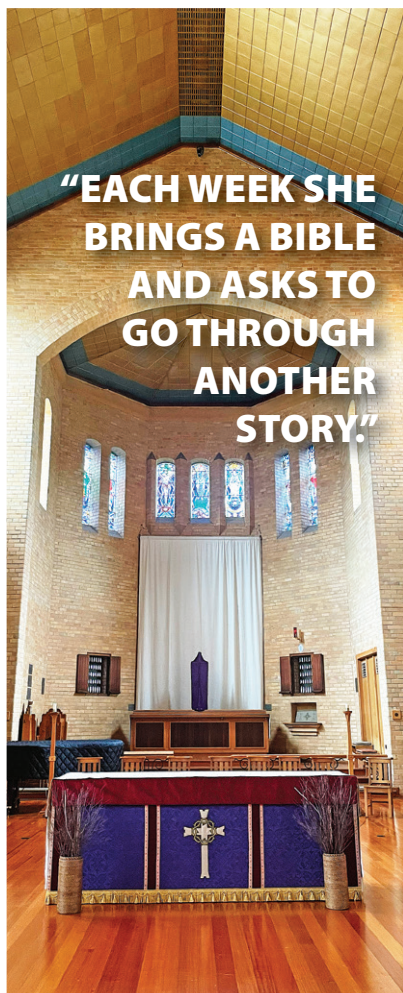
The impact is significant. One grant recipient shared that their program "fostered resilience, belonging, and well-being in young people," exceeding expectations and creating lasting change.



In 2026, the Melbourne Anglican Foundation will launch another Youth Grants Round. Your support will help keep programs running, meals prepared, friendships formed, and opportunities created. Together, we can invest in the next generation and build a stronger future for our communities.

**Your donation will enable a strong future for our young people.**

TO DONATE



**"EACH WEEK SHE BRINGS A BIBLE AND ASKS TO GO THROUGH ANOTHER STORY!"**

## Eat Read Play

**St John's Anglican Church, Camberwell is creating new pathways for children and families to feel at home in church life through a growing community initiative.**

Keziah Rankcom, children's worker at St John's helps lead *Eat Read Play*, an after-school program held each Wednesday. The initiative invites children from a nearby primary school into the church for a few hours of activities.

"There's this heart in this parish ... to grow it's children's ministry and to see more young people in this church," Keziah said. She adds that many in the congregation share the vision, but don't have the capacity or energy to run programs.

The program focuses on fostering a sense of belonging, particularly for children who may feel that church is not a place for them. Leaders regularly adapt activities to meet the needs of attendees, aiming to create a welcoming environment.

One young participant, a Grade 2 student from a non-Christian family, has been particularly engaged. Curious about Jesus, she began asking questions after seeing pictures of Jesus around the church. "Each week she brings a Bible and asks to go through another story," Keziah said.



Keziah Rankcom.

The success of *Eat Read Play* has led to the launch of a monthly Sunday school and a term-based family service designed to be accessible for those unfamiliar with church.

Held in the early evening, the service introduces elements such as prayer and worship in a relaxed setting, followed by a shared meal.

"My favourite part is having dinner with families afterwards," Keziah said. It's a positive for the St John's congregation to connect with the community because of *Eat Read Play*.

With support from the Foundation, *Eat Read Play* is able to have a dedicated children's worker in Kezia, ensuring the program can continue and that kids and families can enjoy this valuable after school space.

WATCH VIDEO





YOUNG PEOPLE ARE OUR FUTURE...

# Faith Warriors FC Building Confidence and Community in Melbourne's West

**A grassroots soccer initiative in Tarneit is helping young people find connection, confidence and purpose amid ongoing concerns about youth disengagement and gang violence in Melbourne's western suburbs.**

Faith Warriors FC began when a small group of REACH West (Epiphany Anglican Church) teenagers expressed interest in playing soccer. What started informally has quickly grown into a thriving program, now attracting around 50 young people from diverse cultural backgrounds, including Karen, African and Indian communities.

Archdeacon, the Revd Glenn Buijs, as team chaplain, says the program has provided an effective way to engage youth. The soccer field has become a space where relationships are built naturally. Spending time training and playing together has fostered trust, allowing deeper conversations about personal and family challenges to emerge.

Uniquely, the players themselves have taken ownership of the team. Teenagers led the process of sourcing equipment, designing uniforms and even choosing the team name and logo. They also selected a Bible verse to feature on their jerseys. Glenn described this initiative – particularly among typically shy Karen youth – as “transformative.”

Coach Chazelle Day said the program is about more than sport. “They come here, make friends and forget about other pressures. It helps them grow as people,” she said, noting increased confidence and communication skills among players.

**Support from the Melbourne Anglican Foundation has been crucial,** providing funding for uniforms and equipment. Glenn says the grant has not only



Archdeacon The Revd Glenn Buijs.

enabled the program to operate but has also given participants a sense of value and recognition.

This grassroots program empowers young people – many navigating new beginnings – with a passion for soccer, proving sport can transform lives and strengthen the local community.

Your donation will enable us to support initiatives like this:

TO DONATE



WATCH VIDEO



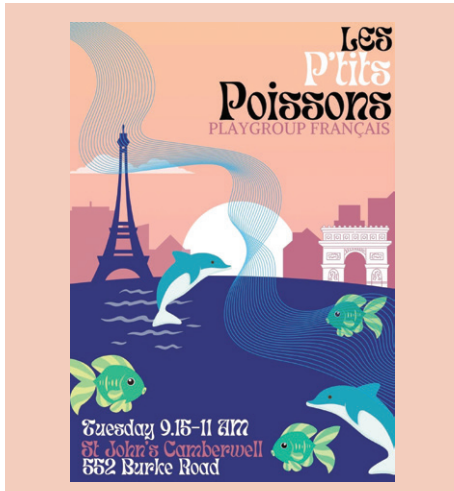
**“THEY COME HERE, MAKE FRIENDS AND FORGET ABOUT OTHER PRESSURES. IT [SOCCER] HELPS THEM GROW AS PEOPLE.”**



Chazelle Day sporting a Foundation funded uniform.

# Connecting with Local Youth

YOUNG PEOPLE ARE OUR FUTURE...



## Bubup French Playgroup

The Bubup French Playgroup at **St John's Camberwell** is a valued outreach ministry supporting young French-speaking families, particularly those who may experience social isolation due to language barriers. Meeting every Tuesday morning during school term, the playgroup provides a welcoming space for connection, friendship, and support.

Children enjoy a range of activities including free play, puzzles, craft, role play, singing, and feeding the fish in the courtyard. Parents and carers gather over morning tea, sharing knowledge, parenting experiences, and information about health and wellbeing.

The weekly sessions have fostered a strong sense of belonging for the four regular families who attend. Initial Foundation support in 2024 has allowed the playgroup to consolidate its work, and hopefully, fuel its community growth into the future.



## Housing Estate Camp

**St Jude's Carlton** recently hosted a four-day Housing Estate Camp at Phillip Island Resort, bringing together families from the congregation and the Carlton Housing Estate. The camp aimed to build connection and strengthen relationships across the two communities.

Eight families attended, including around 30 children and young people, supported by 20 volunteers from St Jude's. The program included a range of supervised onsite activities as well as a beach excursion.

Foundation is proud to have supported the camp in 2024 and 2026 enabling new friendships and meaningful connections, opening pathways for ongoing support such as homework clubs, tutoring, study assistance, and school holiday programs. Participants returned home with increased confidence and a sense of belonging.



## Drop-In Blackburn

**St Alfred's Anglican Church, Blackburn**, is building meaningful connections with local young people through its Friday Youth *Drop In Blackburn*, held during school terms.

The program provides a welcoming space where high school students can relax, enjoy food and a milkshake, play games and spend time with friends in a safe and supportive environment.

Through these informal gatherings, leaders have regular opportunities to engage in conversations about life and the challenges young people face.

Support from the Foundation has enabled the purchase of a new pool table, expanding the activities on offer and creating even more opportunities for young people to connect, belong and explore life in a welcoming community.

# Youth Leaders in Training Grant Round

## Confidence, Clarity in Faith, Capacity to Lead

YOUNG PEOPLE ARE OUR FUTURE...

In 2025, Ormond Anglican were beneficiaries for a Leaders in Training grant that allowed three emerging leaders to attend the 4-day Leaders in Training (LiT) Conference for Years 9-12 in July.

This immersive residential program provided focused Bible teaching, training and leadership development for the young people. Each participant engaged deeply with the content and returned with increased confidence, clarity in their faith, and a stronger capacity to handle the Word of God.

Since returning, all three teenagers have remained active in their ministry roles at Ormond, contributing to the life of the church through kids' ministry, youth leadership, and involvement in the 6pm service. Their presence and enthusiasm have encouraged their peers and strengthened our culture of youth discipleship and service.



The LiT participants from Ormond Anglican. Photo used with permission.



YOUNG PEOPLE ARE OUR FUTURE...

COMING UP

# Anglican Schools Forum

## Faith and Church in a Complex World

**On Monday 15 June, the Melbourne Anglican Foundation facilitated a day-long forum bringing together 175 students from Anglican Schools across Victoria.**

Together with their school chaplains and teachers, the students gathered in St Paul's Cathedral to share and explore their faith journeys with one another and with Archbishop Ric Thorpe.

Stepping away from the busyness of everyday life, students were invited to 'be still' and reflect on God, the world, the Church, and the place of young people within it.

Through round-table discussions, students explored the challenges facing young people in today's complex world and considered how faith and the Church can respond meaningfully. They shared thoughtful insights on how churches can better connect with and support young people, offering practical ideas for fostering engagement within their communities.

The Forum concluded with a panel discussion, where students' questions about God, faith, and the day's themes were explored, encouraging deeper reflection and conversation.

### Big School Sleep Out Friday 4 September

**A fundraising event for students to raise awareness and funds for young people experiencing homelessness and who are being helped by churches all around Melbourne.**

Students will fundraise throughout Term 3, culminating in a special 'sleep out' in St Paul's Cathedral. Spending the night experiencing the cold, uncomfortable sleeping conditions (albeit sheltered) and limited food will raise awareness of the experience of poverty that other people the same age as them are experiencing in these cold months.

Space will be given to interactive prayer spaces, highlighting work of churches and agencies alike in this field.

*Look out for how you can support students taking up this challenge in the coming months.*

## Sharing in Schools – What Love Looks Like

**In May, 2026, our Schools Engagement Officer, Reverend Amy Brown gave a talk at Camberwell Girls Grammar School for Years 7-9 and Years 10-12 chaplain's assemblies.**

Amy shared the message of God's love through the lens of exploring the question 'what does love look like?' From the love of our pets to the love of God expressed in Jesus, right through to the love people have for God expressed in their actions towards people who are disadvantaged, we explored what love looks like in our world today.

Amy shared the practical work of the Melbourne Anglican Foundation in enabling and supporting churches to love their local communities through stories of youth work happening around Melbourne. Beginning with an iconic image of the housing Estates in Carlton and the work of homework clubs and home tutoring through St Jude's Church volunteers, to the many programs all around Melbourne and Geelong that provide food and groceries to families struggling with the cost-of-living crisis.

Amy shared about the platform for youth advocacy regarding mental health created



**The Reverend Amy Brown is our Schools Engagement Officer.**

Interested in Amy sharing how students can practically be involved in supporting Anglican youth initiatives?  
0432 417 005  
[abrown@melbourneanglicanfoundation.au](mailto:abrown@melbourneanglicanfoundation.au)

by the new Testify music festival by Red Door Church, Caroline Springs in partnership with Headspace. Amy concluded with a very local example of a church just a little further down the street from their school. St John's Camberwell reach out to their local primary school with a free after-school kids club called *Eat, Read, Play*, that assists families with after-school care, reading, and creating

a sense of belonging, attracting children with neurodiverse needs (see page 2).

Helen Creed, School Chaplain and Head of Religion at Camberwell Girls Grammar School says, "Reverend Amy pitched her message perfectly for our students. She explored the question of "what does love look like?" in a meaningful, and explicitly Christian, way as well as providing examples of how local Anglican churches are reaching beyond parish doors."

At the end of chapel, two students from Year 7-9 approached Amy with great excitement, expressing interest in volunteering at *Eat, Read, Play*.

We hope this continues to build on an open partnership for students of Camberwell Girls Grammar to connect with their local church and gain a greater understanding of the outreach work Anglican Churches do to love their local community.

We are thankful for the support of Camberwell Girls Grammar and the opportunity to raise awareness of the work of the Melbourne Anglican Foundation in supporting local mission.

# Thank You

**"I was a stranger and you took me in"**

Jesus speaking in Matthew 25:34-36

Thank you for your help with raising \$8,000 for the Migrants and Refugees Settlement Fund.

This will assist: Sewing Clubs, Homework Tutors, Youth Camps, Youth and Business Mentoring, Carlton Estates Community Programs, English Language Classes and Community Events.

TO DONATE



WATCH VIDEO



## Stay Connected with Melbourne Anglican Foundation



**Would you like to learn more about how the Melbourne Anglican Foundation is supporting Anglican parish communities across Melbourne and Geelong?**

Stay informed by receiving our regular updates via email, Instagram, or Facebook. You'll also receive information about our strategic appeals and initiatives that help strengthen the ministry and mission of local churches across our Diocese.

To join our mailing list, simply email your contact details to [foundation@melbourneanglicanfoundation.au](mailto:foundation@melbourneanglicanfoundation.au)

Thank you for your interest and support as we work together to enable the good work of our churches to continue and grow.



Search Melbourne Anglican Foundation

## 2025 Annual Report Launched

The Melbourne Anglican Foundation has just launched its 2025 Annual Report which showcases its vital role in supporting the mission and ministry of the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne.

Through the generosity of donors, partners and volunteers, the Foundation is helping build a stronger Christian presence across Melbourne and Geelong while equipping parishes and ministries to serve their communities in meaningful ways.

In 2025, the Foundation received more than **\$518,000** through grants and fundraising campaigns and distributed over **\$671,000** in grants. Through **43 tax-deductible giving programs**, a further **\$821,000** was directed to local ministry initiatives, supporting **62 parishes**, **six diocesan programs** and **four church plants**.

This support has enabled a wide range of ministry opportunities. **Hope25** grants empowered **20 parishes** to launch new community outreach initiatives, while Youth Grants funded innovative programs focused on leadership development, wellbeing and faith formation. The Foundation also strengthened food relief services, crisis assistance programs, migrant and refugee support, chaplaincy ministries, and cultural projects that enrich parish life.

A significant focus has been church planting and revitalisation, with the Foundation supporting the Diocese's vision to plant 30 new churches and revitalise 30 existing congregations by 2030. New ministry initiatives across Melbourne and Geelong are already reaching hundreds of people with the hope of the gospel.

The Foundation also expanded its engagement with Anglican schools through a new partnership with Melbourne Girls Grammar and continued supporting initiatives that promote inclusion, community wellbeing and the prevention of family violence.

Together, these achievements reflect the impact of faithful generosity and a shared commitment to seeing communities transformed through Christ-centred ministry.

To download your copy of the Annual Report:



Melbourne Anglican Foundation Limited



Melbourne Anglican Foundation

209 Flinders Lane, Melbourne, VIC 3000

T 03 9653 4220

E [foundation@melbourneanglicanfoundation.au](mailto:foundation@melbourneanglicanfoundation.au)

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