



Grateful thanks for your Knitting

My name is Noeline Nagle from Blue Mountains Refugee Support Group. Recently I took delivery of the most gorgeous hand knitted goods. The care, love and expertise that has gone into these beautiful rugs, jumpers, gloves, and more is extraordinary. I would like to share with you a moment when I gave a rug and fingerless gloves to a Tamil man on a very hot day in Western Sydney.

Ravi was badly hurt in the Sri Lankan Civil War. He has lost both legs and has various other injuries. He can't even have an MRI as he has too much shrapnel in him. He is always very happy when we visit and even happier if we take him out. I placed the beautiful rug over him (he is in a wheel chair) and put the gloves on him.

He was absolutely delighted. The smile was as big as I have seen. You will see from the photo he is a big man. After we talked about the beautiful colours and how clever the person was that made it I suggested it was a bit hot using it today. Perhaps He should keep it in the bag I had for him. No way! When I left some time later, he was still sitting with it over him. The gloves are very important for him. He uses sticks to get around (with great difficulty) and his hands give him constant pain. I will take down another pair next week as I can see how therapeutic it is for him.

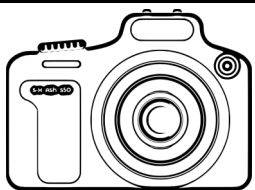
On the way home I called into another "visitor" from BMRSRG. She was very excited as she took a rug for a bub due in the new year and jumpers for the baby's 2-year-old sister.

Many of the goods will be kept until next winter. It's a child's right to be loved and kept warm. You have made this possible for many. As a group we look after many families. We assist with rent, legal matters, food but our most important act is one of friendship.

Thank you so much on behalf of all the folk who will cherish what you have done.

LIFE's BLESSINGS

In this ISSUE vote for the People's Choice in the Killara Uniting Church 2021 Photographic Competition.



Ravi appreciates the remarkable rug and has given permission for this photo to be published.

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**From the Editor**

The beginning of a new Church year is opportune. We are very ready to turn from the cares and preoccupations which have weighed us down and welcome the new season of hope and expectation.

Hope should not be underestimated. Some years ago, I remember reading some of the prophecies given to Israel, and thinking that the glorious future did not materialise: the old Jewish kingdom had a pretty miserable time. More recently, I have thought again about hope: it is the vein of gold running through our history. The prophets brought hope.

The glory of the past is not always apparent at the time: only a few people heard the angels' song on that night in Bethlehem long ago, but down through the centuries thousands, perhaps millions have caught the echo and sang 'Glory to God in the highest! In its time, the birth of Jesus had no inherent beauty in its surroundings or trappings, but we see its beauty in the purposes of God laid bare in that place. The medieval painters who painted the nativity scene in gold and jewelled colours had this vision.

This issue honours the memory of some who have served our Church. They would not have considered themselves exceptional, but we look back and see their lives as precious gifts to us.

Our world has far to go before it becomes a place which 'blossoms with freedom and justice', but let us lift our spirits as we enter Advent, the season of expectation and hope.

Julie Sekhon



From the Minister's Desk.

“An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel.”

Matthew 1:20-23



Judaeo-Christian traditions have a unique understanding of time. The starting point is God's creation, and all His creatures move toward the final point, the Day of Judgement. This linear understanding of time is different from other religions' cyclic understanding of time that teaches the idea that human life can be reincarnated after our biological death, possibly in another physical form.

Christians believe that Jesus Christ, God's only Son, intervenes in our present through His providential plan, and transforms our present, past and future.

When I was preparing for my son's wedding, and my grandson's birth, my past life flashed into my present, as I thought about my own father, and grandfather. I endeavoured, and still do, to give the best to my sons and their children.

As I am keeping my eye on my young grandson, and another eye on the blinking cursor of my laptop, what we are experiencing in the here and now, is a precious embodiment of the past, the present and the future. To live in the present, is to believe deeply that it is the here and now that is the most important. Without the here and now, there will be a different future, and without the past, there would be a different here and now. Where are we in the unfolding metatheatre of drama that we call life?

As we commence a new year, we are bound to remember that here and now we are in the presence of God whose name is ***Emmanuel***, which means God-is-with-us.

Yangrae Son [Minister of the Word]

Saints – those who have graced our lives

Julie Sekhon

(talk given on All Saints' Sunday 31st October)

In John's Gospel, chapter 17, Jesus prays for the followers he would shortly leave behind. This is known as Jesus' High Priestly prayer. I notice that he does not pray for the leader who would take over from him – but for his church. Leaders did emerge, of course, but the church gifted with His Spirit, is chosen to carry his message from century to century.

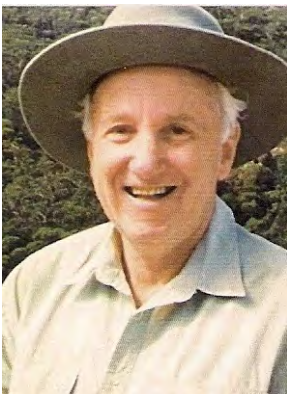
As we remember our own saints –those who have enriched our fellowship – part of the 'glue' that bound us together, few would have seen themselves as leaders, but all contributed their own special gifts. We think of Janet Bryant, the woman of prayer, tiny in frame but noble in spirit – Janet, who, when living was a burden and she was almost blind, would ask her carer Jan 'Now, who should I be praying for?'.

We think of Lindy Richardson, who spread sunshine wherever she was, bravely accepting her grave and fatal illness; and David Eastwood - talented David, faithful servant of the church, meticulous, loyal. Then, those of us who knew Keith Smithers must remember him gathering us together, hand in hand to sing, 'A new commandment I give unto you, that you love one another, as I have loved you...' – words that Keith himself lived out totally.



Lindy Richardson

Over the past three years, we have lost many with gifts of friendship, others who gave themselves to create and share times of fellowship, and some who gave many gifts, and gave widely and richly: I will read their names: Edwin Burton, Helen Pearson, Janet Bryant, Ross Hornibrook, Peter Rehn, Enid Fleming, John Addley, Jean Brierley, Phillip Langley, Michael Moore, David Eastwood, Jane Sanders, Keith Smithers, Lorna Stephens, Vic Cooper, Judy Bidendope, Judith Williams, Rosemary Brown, Lea McNeill, and – remembered in affection from our past: Pat and Russ Lesslie.



Keith Smithers

This very week, Yangrae received an email from Susie Noble, whom some will remember as Susan Harvey. I will read it:

Thank you for this enabling of us to join in your Zoom service this morning. This church was a very important part of my growth as a child, especially after my 3 year old brother died when hit by a bus outside our home when I was in my early teens. Both my parents, Bill and Margaret Harvey were active members of the congregation from early/mid 1960's to late 1990's. My Dad was an elder and church secretary for the minister for many years. We still know of members of congregation that are still there actively involved, John and Margaret Middleton and Julie Sekhon, and probably others like Bidendopes. My husband Graeme and I were also married in the church in April 1978 by Rev. Mervyn Kelly. So thank you again for your message and allowing this so we could be a part of the service also. We live in Armidale, NSW, and we attend St. Peter's Anglican Cathedral here!



Janet Bryant

Certainly, those of us who were part of the Church in the period Susie mentions, remember Bill Harvey. He was Church Secretary and much more: the face of Killara Uniting Church to many, an encourager and pastoral carer for the minister. We remember Bill, and Margaret his wife, who was, and still is, a woman who displays lovely Christian characteristics of grace and goodness – now somewhat frail, and living at Turramurra.



Margaret and Bill Harvey

An unspoken presence in the story Susie tells, was Dr Albert Himmelhoch, who, with compassion for the parents grieving for the loss of their little son, introduced them to Revd Mervyn Kelly, - and so begun an era of fellowship and service – for the Harveys and blessing for us.

We remember our Ministers –Mervyn Kelly, Hugh Proctor, Robert Smith, Chris Udy, Ian Pearson and latterly, David Gill. Particularly we think of Ivor Bailey's tenure which was cut short by his death – but not before he had sparked us to lift our vision beyond what it was to what the Church can be and do in the world.

I remember the words spoken of another person at another time, "The head gardener has laid down his tools: we must take them up". For us, there have been many who have given particular gifts to our particular circle of disciples. We honour our saints for the part they have played in the living, breathing church that was, and still is, Killara Uniting Church. May God give us grace to be gardeners in the garden which is His Church.



David Eastwood



Albert & Jean Himmelhoch



UPDATE ON MAHBoba'S PROMISE

Liz Giles

*Collecting Water Supply*

I'm sure some members of the congregation will recall Mahboba's Promise, an NGO supporting women and children in war torn Afghanistan. Following my visit to Afghanistan in July, 2005 (as a member of that organisation's Management Committee), KUC adopted Mahboba's Promise as one of our charities. The support that Killara gave was nothing short of astounding and thousands of dollars were raised across a number of years.

Following the fall of Afghanistan to the Taliban in August this year, Mahboba (with a great deal of assistance from various sources) managed to evacuate 17 people (including 10 children) to Australia for resettlement. This good news story was well covered on television and in the print media.

To read the latest, go to: www.mahbobaspromise.org

*Lunchtime at Hope House**Driving to the Panjshir Valley**Liz Giles Teaching English at Hope House in Afghanistan**Woman begging in Kabul Street*

Thank you Liz for providing these extraordinary photographs from your trip. For security and sensitivity, identifiable faces have been blurred.

Peter Bidenceope

Longtime Killara Church member and friend to us all, Peter Bidenceope left our district to move to Avalon on September 23rd. He had attended Killara church from the age of 8 years – 85 years ago!

Linda Brown, Peter Gibbs and Ian Neilson, who have had close contact with Peter through the Property Committee, contributed to this tribute.

Peter Bidenceope has been the backbone of the Fiveways congregation for ages – our resident expert on our property and its functioning. He has known so much about it and has always quietly worked away fixing and mending things. His thoughtful attention to detail and responses on the Property Committee have been appreciated.

Ian Neilson comments:

I joined the Property Committee fairly recently and it soon became obvious that we were lacking our “**Church Encyclopaedia**”. I asked Peter if he would join the committee, purely on an **advisory** basis. Needless to say - he accepted...but it wasn't long before he was doing a bit more than advising.

What a stalwart!

We don't know what we would have done, or will do, without him. His fount of knowledge and problem-solving ability extends over a wide range of activities. Should the buildings need repairs to:

**Heating
Electrical timers,
Lighting
Fire protection
Organ
Foundations
Guttering & drainage
Woodwork, pews, & doors
Audio-visual guidance and support
to name a few.**

All we had to do is call Peter and know that it would be fixed.



A congregation isn't about the church it is about people. Peter has had a long and significant history with Killara and has himself been a major part of it, caring about individuals and sharing concerns. We will miss him.

Peter, we wish you well for your next move which I'm sure is well considered and gives you some well- deserved relaxation with family.



Walking group update

On 9th November, the walking group went to the Wildflower Garden at St Ives. We thoroughly enjoyed a walk amongst the bushland listening to the birds. We finished with coffee and a chat and John Giles kindly bought some lovely cookies for everyone.



Next walk will be a visit to up to 3 parks in Lindfield.

Email Linda.BrownGibbsbrown@optusnet.com.au for more information or if you need a lift to the starting point.

Park near Queen Elizabeth Reserve Corner Charles Street and Bradfield Road, West Lindfield. We will be catching a 10:25am 565 bus up to the Highway and walking downhill.

If the weather is too rainy we can just enjoy a coffee and chat at Café 153 Moore Ave West Lindfield

**NEXT WALK Tuesday 14
December. Arrive by
10:10am**

Lea McNeall

20 January 1939—30 August 2021



Lea Kingsborough McNeall (née Keller) was born in Mudgee, coming from a background of ‘down-to-earth’ country folk, who had strong principles and held to them: an attitude Lea showed throughout her life, by her strong commitment to the community and to her church.

Lea came to Sydney for study, firstly to MLC School as a boarder, then to the University of Sydney, where she was a resident of the Women’s College. At University, Lea studied Science, and, on graduation became a microbiologist, at Johnson & Johnson until her early marriage.

Her two children – Richard and Sara - were born in the following years, and as they grew up, Lea’s commitment to the community was evident. She joined the Infants’ School Club, became Vice-President of the Parents’ and Citizens’ Association, and President of the Scout Group.

In all her community involvement, her leadership skills were apparent, and she gave unstintingly of her time. *She was always contributing!* Lea’s faith was very important to her, and she was a Scripture teacher for 12 years. She loved music was a regular in the Church choir at Tryon Road Uniting Church, and later was a regular attendee at Killara Uniting Church until no longer able to do so.

Lea was a good neighbour, welcoming newcomers to the neighbourhood. As far as the family was concerned, Sara testifies that Lea ‘was always there for me’. Lea was generous and thoughtful, ready to support family and friends with unexpected gifts that showed insight for their particular needs.

Lea loved dogs and had Labradors and poodles at various times. They gave her much pleasure and she excelled as a dog trainer –becoming Chief Instructor of the Metropolitan Mid-Week Dog Training Club.

In her middle and later years, Lea faced personal sadness in her marriage breakdown, and a series of serious illnesses which undermined her health. Throughout, she was always struggling to get on top of things, and was unfailingly cheerful.

Her son’s tribute is ‘grace under adversity’.

It is a testimony to Lea that her qualities shine so brightly in remembering her.



Annual Congregation Meeting 21 November 2021



On 21 November the annual congregational meeting was held. Reports were presented from Church Council, Treasurer and Property Committee

Acknowledgement was given for all past and present members of the Congregation who volunteer in an official capacity

Following the church elections the following positions are held:

Representative to Presbytery:

Peter Graham

Chair of congregation:

John Sanders

Secretary of Congregation:

Julie Sekhon

Church Council:

Nicky Dhillon*

Carolynn Everett*

Carol Field

Chris Hare*

Annette Harman

Rosalind Hobbes*

Arthur Krust

Sue Mitchell

Ian Neilson

Julie Sekhon

Yangrae Son

Paul Wait

Andrew Wines*

*First term councillors, elected to the Council on 21st November.

Ian and Jennifer Neilson were re-elected as Joint Treasurers



Dr Manas Ghosh inducted as minister at St John's Wahroonga.

At his induction service on 31st October, Dr Manas Ghosh, a formerly Minister of Lindfield Uniting Church, his wife, Nita, daughter Naomi and son, Solon were welcomed to St John's Wahroonga.

Naomi, who is a physician, has joined Medecins sans Frontieres and will shortly be leaving for six months' deployment in Kenya.



Snippets and Remembrances

Rosemary Brown, former Killara UC member and active in its women's fellowship groups, died on 27th September at the age of 96.

We remember her fondly.

Mark the Date for a ZOOM Meeting to view the photographic competition

Then nominate your favourite photo for the People's Choice

+++++

At 7:00pm on Monday 13 December, 2021
Entries in the 2021 KUC Photographic Competition "Life's Blessings"
Mark your calendar for this EVENT. It will be an enjoyable online exhibition of the entries in the Photographic Competition. They will lift your heart and truly represent Life's Blessings.

Topic: PhotoCompPreview Mon 13 Dec 7pm

Time: Dec 13, 2021 07:00 PM Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87384114373?pwd=ZlITYmdleXE2K2xMNHFYT2JzbDR5QT09>

Meeting ID: 873 8411 4373
Passcode: 924980





LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY HANSARD – 25 NOVEMBER 2021

KILLARA UNITING CHURCH COMPETITION

Mr JONATHAN O'DEA (Davidson)—During the recent lockdown, Killara Uniting Church, in my electorate of Davidson, launched a photographic competition on their website. Members have been asked to submit entries with the theme of 'Life's Blessings', with the winner receiving a certificate in a 'Judge's Winner' and 'People's Choice' category. I was pleased when they approached me to be a judge, and have enjoyed viewing the many entries submitted. Initiatives like this are particularly important for people in local communities, as they facilitate community activity and engagement, even when people are unable to interact in person.

I also note the Church's valuable support of groups, including the Lindara Family Program, which provides support to the homeless, and their Dementia Support Group.

Congratulations to Killara Uniting Church for their ongoing initiatives to promote community engagement and support for vulnerable groups.



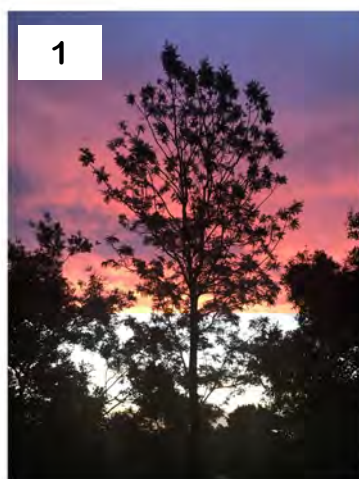
Photographic competition “Life’s Blessings”

Below are the wonderful entries in our 2021 Photographic Competition. There will be a zoom exhibition held on 13 December at 7:00pm where you will be able to see the photos in stunning resolution. Please nominate once only for the “People’s Choice Award”.

There are 4 ways to nominate:

- * Email Linda Brown giving your name and number of your favourite photo
gibbsbrown@optusnet.com.au
- * Telephone or SMS Linda on 04 32 32 32 75
- * Complete the slip on last page and place in the Box in the door of the Secretary’s office
- * Mail slip to Killara Uniting Church PO Box 345 Killara NSW 2071

Nominations **close 10 January, 2022** and we’re hoping the Hon Jonathan O’Dea MP will present prizes at a morning tea in February. There will also be limited edition gift cards featuring the commended photos for sale.



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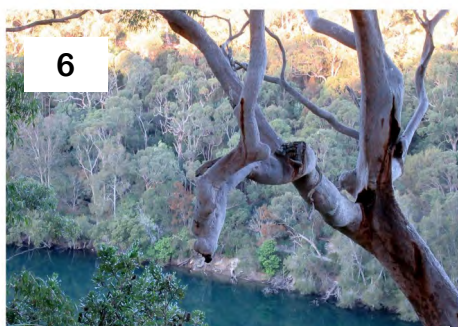
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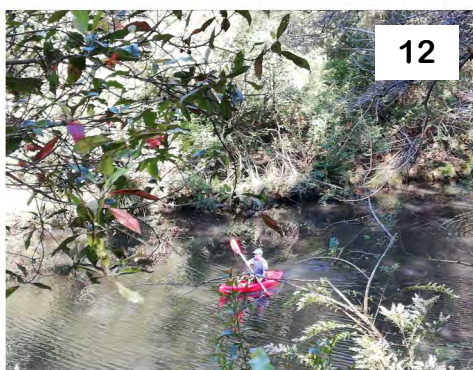
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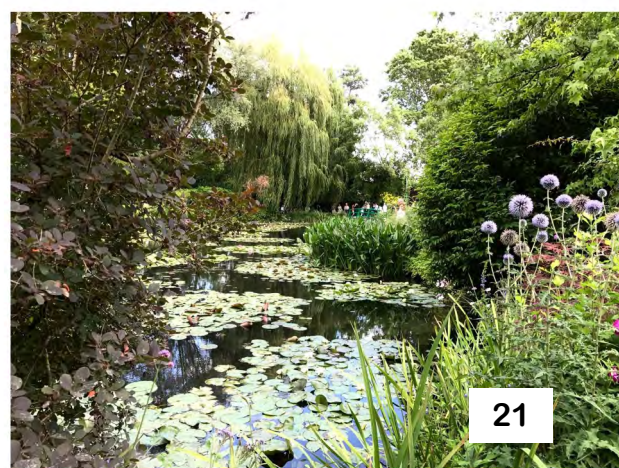
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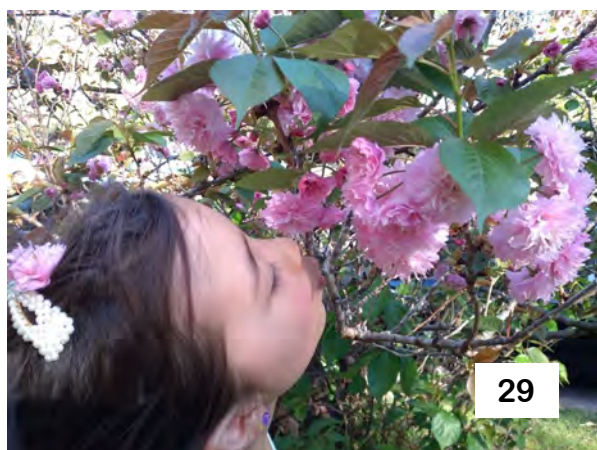
Join Zoom Meeting

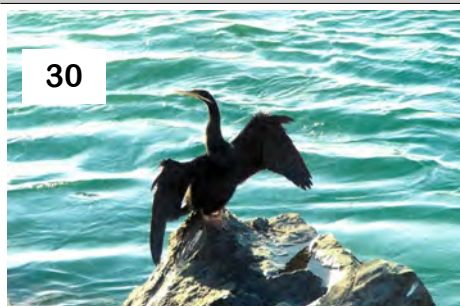
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**Meeting ID: 873 8411 4373
Passcode: 924980**



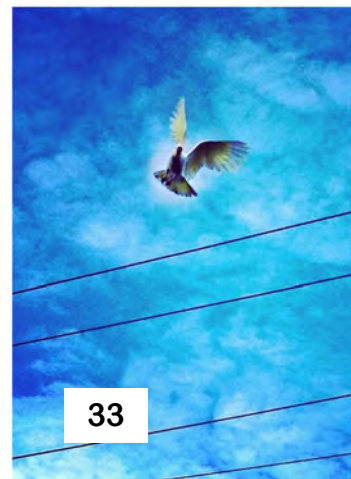




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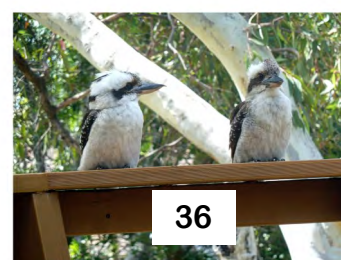
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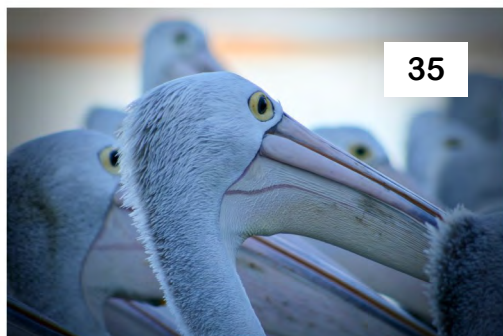
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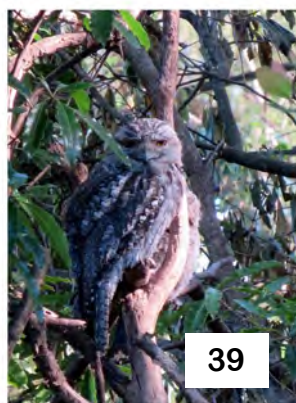
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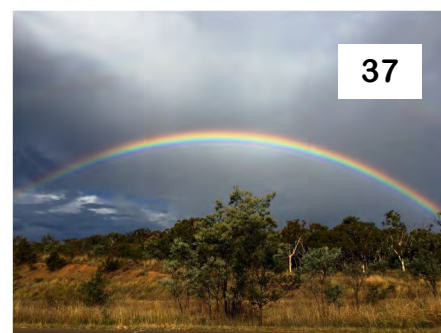
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Email, phone or submit this coupon to nominate your favourite photo



Your Name:

Number of photo:One word Description to Verify.....
For example "Bird"