



## LEST WE FORGET



### A Special Commemoration for Ron Leckie

Ron took part in the Anzac Day march in 2021. He is the only surviving member of Squadron 31 (the Beaufighters) in Sydney. With his son, who carried the banner and grandson, who pushed his wheelchair, Ron was able to maintain the presence of his Squadron, and the recognition of so many brave airmen who are no longer amongst us.

Ron, who celebrated his 99th birthday on Anzac Day this year, gave an interview to Channel 7 and was able to share what the Day means to himself.



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**Editor:**

Julie Sekhon  
Mob: 0400 631 739



margaret\_sekhon@bigpond.com

**Connection layout:**

Linda Brown



gibbsbrown@optusnet.com.au

**From the Editor**

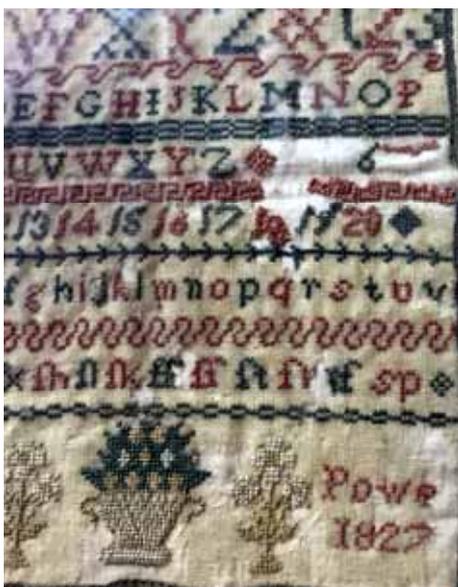
In this issue there is much looking back: looking back to the year the pandemic struck; looking further back to remember fellow church members with whom we shared our pilgrim journey, and further back to the early days of European settlement.

Macquarie Place, in the city, has a plaque commemorating the first church service held in New South Wales – 3<sup>rd</sup> February 1788, just 8 days after the First Fleet disembarked. That is, 8 days after an 8 month voyage in a confined, ever-rocking, smelly ship, wondering what would greet them when they arrived (*if* they arrived).

Perhaps it should be no surprise that the text for the first sermon by Chaplain Richard Johnson was: 'What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me?'

Of course, that was not the end of challenges for the first settlers, but it was time to look back and give thanks.

In the article 'Pandemic Church', I ended by saying 'We have been blessed'. There will still be challenges ahead to face, but we give thanks for present blessings and fellowship of the past. **Julie Sekhon**

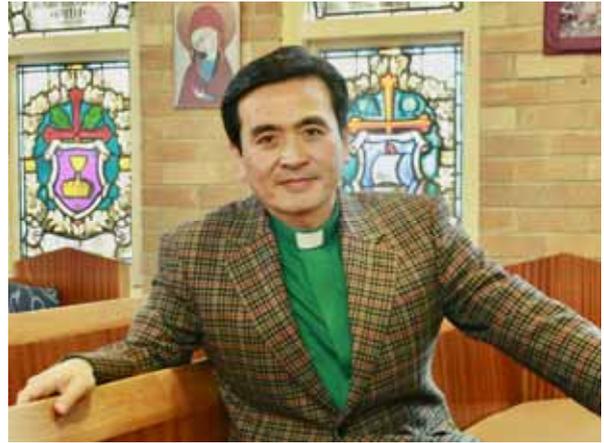


Part of a sampler by Emma Powell 1827  
Ancestor of Linda Brown



## From the Minister's Desk.

In our human experience, there are certain memories we can always bring to mind. These things are what we call life-long memories; some things we just cannot forget. It might be our wedding day, the joyful reconciliation we had with an estranged family member or friend, or perhaps it was the day we lost one of our dearly beloved.



Memory is a curious concept. The art of remembering shapes who we are today, or at least how we perceive ourselves to be. Being conscious and mindful of our past experiences and events allows us to rediscover who we truly are. However, this all depends on how we practise remembering, an art form that requires patience, purpose and faith.

There are certain things from my childhood and younger adult life that I may remember at that time as meaningless suffering, but as I look back on it many decades later, I see it was a catalyst for growth and joy. I sacrificed three years of my life to endure the cruelty of mandatory military training in Korea, only a few years after I got married. I missed out on many moments with my two sons, Richard and Peter, who were only toddlers. After my second son Peter was born in Sydney in 1989, a few months later, we promptly travelled back to Korea to commence the suffering that was military training.

I still have random nightmares of such torturous and turbulent times. I spent countless nights away from my wife and young kids. I am sure all of us have had such moments of suffering, which we at that time may have seen as meaningless. We may have asked and bargained with God, "Lord, why are you allowing this suffering?"

We as a church community have endured visible, and not so visible, suffering, in large part due to COVID, and other matters beyond our control. It has tested our unity, strength and faith. Hindsight has always allowed us mere mortals to provide certain meanings on events with a more 'objective' lens. When we recall our memories, let us be disciplined and faithful in the art of remembering, and see our suffering through the lens of our Christian faith. We may never understand fully why we have had such experiences, good or bad. [Our faith teaches that our experiences, whether tormenting or triumphant, are designed to bring us closer to God through our faith in Jesus Christ.](#)

It is my sincere prayer, that we individually and collectively as Killara Fiveways Uniting Church, continually recall our past through the lens of faith, and see that our experiences in the present are all part of the providential plan that God has for us all.

**Yangrae Son [Minister of the Word]**

## Pandemic Church – the year that was

**Julie Sekhon**

In March 2020, when anxiety was greatest about the virulent and silent threat of COVID-19, Synod issued a very strong recommendation that our churches should not meet in person.

Immediately, church as we knew it, ceased. Our beautiful building stood empty. Chris Richardson and I (Julie) met with Yangrae in the Church to discuss the implications of the cessation of all our regular gatherings. This had left us in a situation not unlike the early church: no structure, no building in which to worship, and our life and witness as Christians in uncharted territory.



Yangrae made it known that he was available for fellowship or pastoral support as he sat on the seat outside the church at 9.30am each Sunday, and threw himself into learning to 'Zoom'. With Sue Mitchell, he produced the first online service, and as weeks progressed, the Zoom services became top viewing for our church members. Music was an important part of the services, and a lovely resource was developed when soprano Anita Kyle accompanied by Paul Whiting freely gave of their talents to record some of our favourite hymns.

Although the church stood empty, it bore silent witness throughout Easter: palm branches at the door for Palm Sunday, a potent message on the noticeboard for Good Friday, and flowers, bread and wine marked the triumph of love and grace on Easter Day.



*thanks to John Middleton*

## Guidance as we went into lockdown

**19 March 2020**

Dear fellow Councillors,

You will all be aware of the Synod's strong urging, which has left us with no alternative than to close down all our Church gatherings. Chris and I met with Yangrae today to discuss the implications of the cessation of all our regular gatherings. This has left us in a situation not unlike the early church: no structure, no building in which to worship, and our life and witness as Christians in uncharted territory.

**Pastoral care will be paramount:** both Yangrae and the Pastoral Carers are aware of this: Some church members may welcome a face-to-face visit; others may need the distancing of a telephone call. All of us as Christians – whether pastoral carers or not, can show help and concern to our neighbours in the community. Telephone before you visit a neighbour: ask would they like a visit.

**Communication.** Yangrae is investigating technologies for recording devotional messages and making them available to church members. The Church's website is being revamped and will be mounted on a system which is easier to maintain. This will suit particularly those comfortable with electronic devices. This is a developing situation: gradually we will learn the best ways to communicate with all our members.

Yangrae is investigating suitable communication tools for the Church Council to use as we interact with each other.

**Spiritual nourishment.** We are all responsible for nourishing our own spiritual life, and to seek opportunities to grow spiritually. Yangrae is eager to help us, and is ready to meet us in our homes – small family groups, or perhaps one or two neighbours: however the initiative must come from us. We must invite him, decide the circumstances (meet indoors, or in the garden, serve tea, coffee or avoid food altogether etc).



**Pandemic Church – the year that was**



House churches were established, lovely times of fellowship with the Minister and each other.

The Pastoral Carers met regularly and also organised coffee mornings to keep strong the links of fellowship. Meetings of Groups and Committees in private homes provided further sharing – the Knitting Group and Book Club met regularly.

The Church Council met through Zoom, and in the church itself.

Thank you Yangrae for your ‘Zooming’, and reaching out in fellowship; thank you Pastoral Carers; thank you church members, for opening your homes.

Thank you, health workers and public servants who kept us safe. It was a strange year, but we have been blessed.





## Judi th Bi dencope (Judy)

24th May 1932- 17th March 2021



Born Judi th Kingsbury, Judy was the youngest of three children. Her brother John died tragically at the age of 13, and although Judy was only 5 at the time, it is thought that this memory stayed with her, as she was particularly mindful of any risk threatening her own children.

Growing up, Judy was an intelligent student showing academic promise. She would have liked to take up law as a career, but

the family did not consider it a suitable vocation for a young woman. Instead, Judy became a physiotherapist.

She met her husband Peter through a romantic 'pulling of strings'. Judy was returning from a working holiday in England on the ship Orsova. Peter's parents and sister Cynthia were on the same ship, and his mother wrote to Peter saying that they had met 'a nice young lady whom he might like.' Peter followed up the hint and, delightfully, the meeting led to love and marriage.

Judy and Peter had three sons: Ross, Chris and David. Although shy and retiring by nature, Judy could also be spirited in maintaining her rightful place in the otherwise all male household. She was a loving and caring mother, and later, grandmother, and the sons and grandsons remember the interest she took in all their doings.

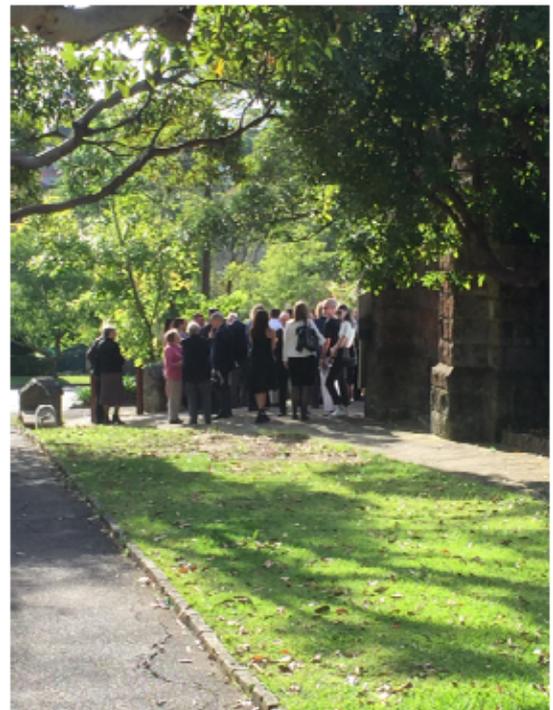
Yangrae Son, speaking in Judy's funeral service, saw faithfulness as the hallmark of Judy's life: Judy was faithful to her family and to her church: she cared about her community and her country. Above all, Judy and Peter were a loving couple whose marriage was blessed with loyalty and shared values.

Our sympathy goes to Peter for his great loss.

The 23rd psalm was chosen for Judy's service:

*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,*

*and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord  
for ever.*



## Kaylin Simpson-Lee

17. 7. 1923-20. 2. 2021



A life elder of Lindfield (formerly St David's) Uniting Church, Kaylin was a woman of impressive accomplishments. She trained as an accountant, and became a chartered secretary when very few women held such a role.

Being one of a small number of women in her field, Kaylin was encouraged to work with other professional women on issues important to women. She joined the National Council of Women and was on its NSW Executive for 18 years: years when they lobbied for equal opportunity and workplace change, achieving changes which are now taken for granted. She was a founding member of the Chinese Women's Association, a life member of the Pan Pacific and South East Asia Women's Association and served on other community groups in various capacities. In 2004 she received the National Council of Women Award.

Kaylin was a committed and faithful member of Lindfield Uniting Church. She helped organise the fortnightly 'Open House' fellowship event which reaches beyond the doors of the Church, and was active until her latter years, when frailty intervened.

Kaylin lived a life of service with cheerfulness and friendliness. Her faith was her bedrock, and she is now in God's care.

### MEMORIES OF THE LESSLIES

The deaths of Pat and Russ Lesslie mark the end of a lifelong friendship for me.

My parents, Pat and Phillipa Esplin, built their family home in 1934 at 84 Nicholson St Strathfield, four doors up from the Lesslie family home at No 78. Opposite at 77 another home had a lovely lawn tennis court where both families and other neighbours had regular social games.

My father died of war injury in 1976 aged 49 and my mother sold the family home, had a tree-change and down-size, and moved to a "Parkview" unit in Marian St. Killara. Here she started doing the book keeping for Pam Marsh (of Lindfield U C) in her Physiotherapy Practice at Grandview St. Pymble. One of the Physios there was Pat Lesslie.

Another link with the Lesslie family was the engagement in the early days of WWII of Russ's niece Helen to John's uncle, Hector McKenzie Middleton, the younger brother of his father. Sadly Hector was killed in Ismailia, Egypt in Nov 1942.

My mother was a keen bridge player and one of her bridge fours included Pat Lesslie and Gwen Morgan (David's Mother) both members of Killara Uniting Church. My Mother died in 1986 and somehow I was co-opted into playing bridge with these ladies who by now included Thora Geddes. Thora and Ivor were also regulars at KUC.

In those years Pat and Russ lived at unit 3/23 Arnold St and the bridge alternated between their unit, Gwen's at "Chilton" Pacific Highway Killara and Thora's 4 Luton Place St Ives.

When Pat and Russ moved to Canberra to be near their only child Rob, other bridge players from KUC filled in. A regular was Judy McCorquodale and if we were desperate, John.

Just digressing, Thora was a great friend of Mavis Graham (Peter's Mother) who had a wonderful celebration for her 100th Birthday. Thora never admitted to being "99": she always explained how many months, then weeks it was to her 100th. Sadly she didn't quite make it dying 13th May 2011, Gwen having predeceased her, dying 26th July 2010 aged 96 both keeping up playing bridge till near the end.

Back to Pat and Russ whom John and I visited year after year first in their Villa Unit at Calvary Retirement Village where Pat created a magnificent garden and where Russ loved to share his love of family history and all things Scottish. He was particularly proud of his Lesslie tartan. When the garden became too much for Pat she moved into the aged care facility. Russ was lost in the Villa without her and decided to move across the street too. His room was on one side of the corridor Pat the other, one better for winter sun the other with a better outlook.

Sadly their beloved son Rob died aged 57 back on 28th March 2014. John Addley had always kept in close contact with them and he drove Julie Sekhon and me down for the funeral. At the wake I met up with many Lesslies including a John who told me it was he who had to break the news to Helen that her fiancé had been killed.

On all these occasions Pat would reminisce about her lovely contact and friendship with my mother: now just a special memory.

**Margaret Middleton**



## Lovely blankets created by Alison Scott

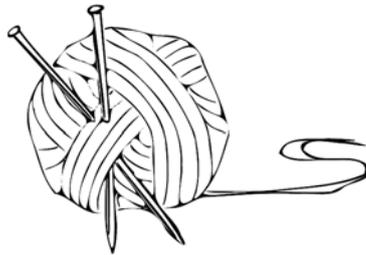
Alison is pictured here with two of the many beautiful hand-knitted blankets which she has made and given to the Church Knitting Group over the past year.

While many of Alison's blankets have been directly donated to charity, two have been used as raffle prizes at recent Lindara Markets and three more have been sold privately with the money raised also going to Lindara.

If you are interested in purchasing one of Alison's blankets, please speak to June Wait.

They are very warm, very attractive and made with much love.

Thank you, Alison!



Present	Absent	Aboligos
Alison Scott	Henry Fogarty	Bernie Russell
Alison Scott	Donna Carter	Maggie Young
Jean Cunningham	Jean Gallich	Paul Graham
Karen Brown	John	Bernie Riddett
John Brown	Ann Small	Row Littleman
Ruth Richards	John Stannell	Pat Stewart
June Wait	Renee Lyster	Mark Hancock
June Wait	Cecily Quigg	
Mary Stewart	Margaret Shedd	
Rosemary Young	Janet Todd	
Rosemary Young	Ann Wright	
Frances Smith	Brian Riddett	
Margaret Maddison	John	
John Maddison	Margaret Weatherbee	
Agnes Todd	Soyie Fogarty	
Ray Kalfoper	Paul Graham	
Bernie Riddett	John	
Sheila Lane	Reg Burroughs	
Kathy Lane	Edna King	
Genevieve Macindoe	Bernie Riddett	
Paul Garrett	Mae Anderson	
John Geddes	Mae Anderson	
John Fogarty	Mae Anderson	
Neil Williamson	Kyrie Berners	
	Paul Blenner	

## A page from the past.

This attendance record from the Killara Uniting Church Meeting of the Congregation, 14th March 1993 is perhaps a companion piece to Margaret Middleton's reminiscence about the Lesslies, and other people of the past.

Those with long memories will find many familiar names in the attendance record: many of whom have left us, although we recognize some still part of our congregation.



## Ebenezer Church

The photo and caption were contributed by Peter Bidencope



In 1802 the ‘Coromandel’ settlers arrived in Sydney and in 1803 began as pioneer families on the Hawkesbury River at Portland Head (Ebenezer).

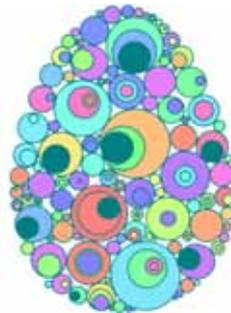
After five years of worship in the open air and at the homes of Dr Thomas Arndell and Owen Cavanaugh, these settlers, with seven other families, covenanted in 1808 to build a church and school and to call a minister to facilitate their faith.

Ebenezer Church was built in 1809. It is the oldest existing church in Australia.

*(Editor’s notes: The name Ebenezer refers back to the Biblical text, 1 Samuel 7:12: Then Samuel took a stone, set it up between Mizpah and Shen, and said, “The Lord has helped us all this way” – and he named it “Stone of Help” [Ebenezer])*

### Yangrae Son

This year we marked the solemnity and darkness of Easter with a Tenebrae service at Lindfield Uniting Church and Good Friday services at both Lindfield and Killara. Easter Day was a joyful celebration of the resurrection, made special by contributions from the Son family: beautifully decorated Easter eggs from Michelle, a wonderful and lavish spread of (Covid safe) goodies for morning tea, courtesy of the whole Son family and our first glimpse of Julian Son, who had begun life in such a precarious condition. Julian is now a lively little boy, bringing great joy to the family.



### Celebrating Easter



# LEST WE FORGET

## Commemorating Anzac Day



Anzac Day 2021 had several very special commemorations:

as part of our Church service, John Middleton led the remembrance segment, honouring, in particular, fallen servicemen and women from both Killara (Congregational) and Tryon Road Lindfield (Methodist) Churches.

Guests Cameron Hogan, bugler and Anthony Wicht, piper, made the service especially memorable.



During the service, wreaths donated by Ron Leckie were laid at the front of the Church by Margaret Middleton and Arthur Krust.





**Biggest Morning Tea**  
(Support of Cancer Council)  
Starting at 10:30am  
Thursday  
27th May, 2021  
In the church hall  
Cnr Arnold St & Karranga Avenue  
Killara

