

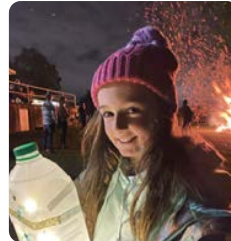
# Templer Talk



## What's On in May

So much to be part of

There's plenty happening this month. Come along and be part of it!



## Sonnwendfeier

June 20

Our winter bonfire is back – bigger this year. Let us know if you're coming.



Connection & community

## Main Cover Image

*Autumn colour starting to show in Bayswater.*

Photo: Nicole Seymour

## Contributions

We love hearing from our community.

*Templer Talk* is published 11 times a year, from February to December/January.

Contributions are welcome and close on the 15th of each month.

## Acknowledgement of Country

The Temple Society Australia respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we gather, the Wurundjeri, Woiwurrung; the Ngaruk-Willam clan of the Boon Wurrung; and the Wallumedegal Peoples. We recognise their spiritual and cultural connection to country, and pay our respects to Elders past and present.

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# Everything is connected



**A personal reflection on spirituality as a lived, evolving experience, shaped by moments of stillness, connection and gratitude. Drawing on faith, nature and community, it explores how a sense of meaning and belonging can sustain us through both joy and hardship.**

Spirituality is something that I am always exploring by looking within and around myself. How do I recognise spirituality, and how can I put it into words? The more awareness I have, the more I sense that everything is connected and life is unfolding perfectly.

My spirituality grows through inspiring historical teachings of Jesus the Nazarene, Jesus the man and Rumi, an ancient Sufi mystic and poet. When I sit quietly in nature, beneath a blue and white sky with gently shifting clouds, it becomes easier to meditate and open myself to my intuition. In those still moments I feel that I am part of a larger interconnected oneness. It is a feeling of

connection to other people, to nature and to something greater than me.

Sometimes I find the best words to explain these experiences in contemporary writings by scholars of religion. When reading Neil Douglas Klotz, an Aramaic scholar, I discovered the idea that Jesus' original Aramaic teachings speak of the breath of life – a living presence that fills all realms with sound, light and vibration. There have been unexpected moments of calm and silence when I have sensed unusual instances of sound, light and vibration within and around me; subtle yet powerful, extraordinary yet completely natural. If I had to describe those rare but

unforgettable moments, I would call them experiences of profound connectedness to something spiritual.

Just as food and water nourish my body, I feel grateful that the Templer community around me has nourished my spirit – through ordinary, everyday support; people standing by me in solidarity through my tough times; and acts of kindness that are never forgotten. Those are the things that make life meaningful by providing a sense of purpose and belonging. That is what I call spirituality; that is what sustains me in my best times of happiness and in my worst moments of despair.

In good times, when I notice beauty in the world around me and warmth in the smiles of people I meet, I feel compelled to express gratitude. Saying thank you to others and sometimes simply to the universe, deepens my sense of meaning in life. Often the person I thank may not even know exactly what I am thanking them for, but that hardly matters. Gratitude itself feels strengthening.

In my darkest moments of grief, when I have felt I could cry an ocean of tears, I eventually find comfort. It is in those lonely moments that I have sensed that my life is still progressing, just as it should. In my early Templer upbringing, I learned to trust that what happens is part of our destiny, even when we do not understand it. Life continues. In time, a quiet sense of order always returns to me. Then I feel that my life, and the universe that I am a part of, are unfolding perfectly.

When I feel uncertain or hesitant about what to do next, I hold on to the belief that something will improve. As a child, my mother told me I had a guardian angel watching over me. I could not see it, of course, but that

thought made me feel safe. I learned that when one door closes, another opens – and so far, it always has.

Nourishing my spiritual life does not mean I have arrived at perfection. I sometimes still struggle with my negative emotional reactions, and I aim to be mindful of the atmosphere I create when I speak, so I try not to be too impulsive. There was a time when I found it difficult to pray at all. I remembered that in the Gospel of Matthew 6:6, Jesus spoke of going into your chamber to pray, and I then understood that private prayer was enough. For a while, that was what sustained me.

As I grow older, I've come to see prayer as a kind of letting go. It's less about control and more about being still, finding a quiet sense of ease, even in the middle of everyday moments and conversations. It's also about slowing down enough to notice the natural world around me.

These days I'm sometimes asked to offer an opening prayer, and at other times I find myself being asked, quite spontaneously, to give thanks before a meal. As I continue to explore my inner spirituality, the words seem to come more gently and freely. When they do, I feel quietly strengthened, and at peace.

For me, spirituality is about paying attention to a sense of meaning, and to connection. If I'm outside at night, I almost always pause to look at the moon, noticing its phase, whether it's full or just a thin fingernail in the sky. It's a small moment, but it helps me feel part of something larger, part of the natural world.

And to those who've taken a moment to read this, thank you.

# How we interact as a community



Our website states, *“At the heart of Temple Society Australia is a simple aim – to help make the world a better place by living the Golden Rule: to treat others as we would like to be treated. We share a commitment to live thoughtfully, to act with compassion and to contribute in meaningful ways to our community and the wider world.”*

At the Q&A following the April 19 service in Bayswater, our commitment to building strong ethical standards across all aspects of our newly incorporated organisation was outlined. These standards shape not only our governance but also the way we communicate and interact as a community.

The way we speak, listen and respond to each other affects how supported and connected people feel. Each of us – whether a paid staff member, a Board member or a community member – helps shape this culture through our choices and behaviours. When we acknowledge each other’s efforts and viewpoints, we create the conditions for steady progress, and a community people feel confident participating in.

It is important to continually remind ourselves of the Golden Rule: treating others with the same respect, patience and understanding we hope to receive in return. Keeping this principle at the centre of our interactions helps us recognise that every person we engage with is part of the same community we care about.

We appreciate your support in upholding these principles as we continue this work together.

TEMPLE SOCIETY AUSTRALIA PRESENTS

# Until the Sky Falls Quiet



FILM SCREENING & Q&A

Gaza, documented by two Australian doctors who lived it.

A rare and compassionate glimpse into life on the ground — the humanity, resilience and care that exists amid conflict. Following the screening, join us for complimentary afternoon tea and a Q&A conversation to reflect and engage more deeply.

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**SATURDAY, MAY 16**

3pm - 6pm

51 Elizabeth Street, Bayswater

Tickets from \$5

A charity event — all ticket sales support Olive Kids, helping children and families affected by conflict.

If you're unable to book online, you can arrange tickets via [tsa@templesociety.org.au](mailto:tsa@templesociety.org.au).

**SCAN TO BOOK**



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PROUDLY SUPPORTING



# From the Regional Head

In a divided world, we have the chance to stand as one. Yes, we live in different locations, interstate and even overseas. Our shared objectives remain constant: contributing to a just world as living 'building stones' and striving to develop the best possible versions of ourselves, interacting with others with respect and integrity.

This month we're including an article about how Templers should strive to communicate and act. Please take the time to read it.

I hope Easter provided you with a chance to reset a little, be it through contemplation, time in nature or with family and friends. In May there is much on offer! Please take the time to note dates of the various upcoming services, events and activities. You might like to combine a family or friend get-together by inviting people to join you or planning a meal.

I'm looking forward to honouring aspects of our history at the *Frauenverein* (the ladies' social group) celebration later this month. It will prompt all of us to remember our mothers and grandmothers. While this group is not everyone's history, it is part of our collective background. I'm sure you will enjoy hearing the stories that have contributed to weaving "our Templer story". Even if you have not had a connection to this group before, do consider attending and hearing about the women who helped the Temple Society establish itself after displacement and various migration journeys en route to Australia.

Recently, some of our members have initiated new initiatives. We have the opportunity to view a film in the Chapel about the work of two

Australian doctors in Gaza, and early in June we're hosting a small, relaxed event to explore what National Reconciliation Week is all about. See the flyer on page 23 for more details.

Exciting times are ahead as we consider living our faith in increasingly diverse ways.

## New Members

At the last two Board meetings, the following new membership applications were approved:

**Walter Beck**

**Miranda Breisch**

**Gary Eaton**

**Josefine Hennel**

**Lisa Klink**

**Yvette Ulrich**

**Michael Wagner**

**Amalie Wilke**

**Peter Wilke**

**Karin Witnish**

I'm delighted to welcome so many new members to our community and look forward to engaging with them personally. I invite all community members and friends to act as a big welcoming committee.

Please recommend our new website to family and friends who may wish to find out more about us. It is very easy to apply for membership or just to register to receive *Templer Talk*, online bulletin and other publications.



Agape (above) and Easter Sunday (below) – sharing food, colour and community. Photos: Annette Wagner-Hesse



# Operations Update: Strengthening Our Foundations

Over recent months, there has been a strong focus on strengthening the organisation's operational and strategic foundations to support long-term sustainability.

A key step has been the appointment of a new insurance broker, Edgewise Insurance Brokers, following a review of our existing arrangements. This change will support a more contemporary and tailored approach to managing risk across the organisation.

In parallel, CBRE has been engaged to undertake comprehensive financial reporting and insurance valuations across TSA's property portfolio. This work is critical to ensuring we are appropriately insured and compliant with financial reporting standards, addressing an outstanding action identified in the 2024/2025 audited financial statements.

We have also undertaken a review and restructure of our banking arrangements. This

has included rationalising corporate credit cards, introducing a debit card framework to improve day-to-day operational efficiency, and transitioning our primary banking to Community Bank – Ferntree Gully. This move supports stronger alignment with our community focus, while also optimising access to grant and sponsorship opportunities for TSA and the broader Templer community.

Importantly, the property valuations are a necessary precursor to progressing the proposed sale of the Meadowbank site. While initial timelines anticipated further progress by the end of March, this remains a strategic priority and is expected to advance in the coming month, with a clear focus on achieving a market-led outcome.

Together, these steps reflect a deliberate and considered approach to ensuring TSA is well-positioned for the future.



Autumn colour starting to show in Bayswater. Photo: Nicole Seymour

# Services & Gatherings

## **Sunday, May 3 Service Bentleigh, 10am**

ELDER: MARK HERRMANN

Our text describes Jesus cleansing the Temple in Jerusalem, driving out merchants and moneychangers who were exploiting worshippers and turning a sacred "house of prayer" into a "den of robbers".

Jesus used anger as an impetus for change, causing a scene to make his point. Anger is a basic human emotion, and feeling angry is okay. Sometimes, anger can serve useful purposes. The challenge lies not in the emotion itself but in how we handle it.

## **Mother's Day Service Sunday, May 10 Bayswater • 10am Followed by morning tea**

ELDER: RENATE WEBER

Come and join us for our Mother's Day Service, then stay on for morning tea and time together.

I'm inviting a few people to share a short story or reflection about their mother or grandmother during the service. If you'd like to be involved, I'd love to hear from you. Please give me a call as soon as you can on 0400 001 856.

## **Heritage Day Sunday, May 31 Meadowbank • 10.30am**

DORIS FRANK &  
ANNETTE WAGNER-HESSE

There is much to celebrate in the life of the Sydney community over the decades. Come and enjoy a trip down memory lane with some of Doris' photo collection including pictures of past confirmations. There will also be the opportunity for a fun quiz. Mobile phones are needed for this. Please bring a plate to share for a joint lunch afterwards. Please check in with Jan on 0412 731 101 or Karen on 0422 923 211 if you have queries.

## **Founding Day Service and Community Afternoon Sunday, June 14 Bayswater, 2.30pm**

ELDER: IRENE BOUZO

In Mark 5: 21-34, a woman bravely reaches out and reclaims her dignity and voice. Later, at University of Tübingen, our founding thinkers questioned miracles and showed how scientific thinking, and the role of women, is more important than the supernatural.

We would welcome members to bring a plate for afternoon tea and coffee afterwards.

BOOK NOW!

# Spend *Mother's Day* in good company

Last chance to book

**Sunday, May 10**

- 10am - Service
- 11am - Morning tea

**Bayswater Chapel & Hall**

Come along for a beautiful Mother's Day gathering — beginning with a special service led by Renate Weber and continuing with a morning tea filled with conversation, connection and community.

After the service, enjoy something delicious and take a moment to connect with others. Whether you're celebrating a mother, are a mother, remembering someone special or simply feel like being around good people, you'll be warmly welcomed.

**Plus, don't miss our special raffle with a lovely door prize to be won on the day.**

**BOOK BY  
MAY 6**



To book offline, contact Kathryn on 0468 864 906 or [tsa@templesociety.org.au](mailto:tsa@templesociety.org.au)

Mother's Day 2025 at Bentleigh Hall. Photos: Theo Richter



# Supporting the next generation



Housing affordability and rental availability continue to place significant pressure on young people, particularly those trying to establish independence and save for their first home. As a community, this raises an important question – what role might we play in supporting the next generation?

Historically, the Temple Society provided practical assistance by making two units in Bayswater available to young couples as they worked towards home ownership. It was a simple but powerful way of building capacity, offering stability at a critical life stage.

There has been some early, informal discussion about whether a modern version of this approach could be considered – potentially offering rental opportunities for Templers under 30 who are navigating today's housing challenges. Before any

further planning, we are keen to understand whether this reflects a genuine need within our community.

We'd really value your input. Please share your thoughts with me at [tsa@templesociety.org.au](mailto:tsa@templesociety.org.au)

You might like to consider:

- Is there current demand for this type of support?
- Would this be valuable for young members or their families?
- Is this idea driven by real need, or is it more aspirational?
- Could this encourage stronger connection to community – or even attract younger members?

Your feedback will help guide whether this is something we explore further as part of our strategic thinking.

# Community Care

## Heritage discussions update

There is a change to our TSA Heritage Discussions (not to be confused with sessions held inside TTHA for residents). Please read carefully as this may affect you.

We now meet monthly on Zoom at 3pm and monthly in-person at 1.30pm at the Changing Seasons café at TTHA. Many enjoy the in-person catch-ups, while Zoom keeps those further away connected.

New members are always welcome. Bring your heritage questions or stories. If you would like to join, either in person or on Zoom, please call so we know to expect you.

Upcoming dates: May 11 (online) and May 25 (in person). See the website calendar or the back of your *Templer Talk* for monthly details.

## Frauenverein celebration

The *Frauenverein* is celebrating over 70 years of friendship and tradition, and we would love you to join us on Saturday, May 23 in Bentleigh for afternoon tea. A dedicated volunteer team has created what promises to be a beautiful celebration of the *Frauenverein* and its history. Bookings close May 8. Book here: <https://events.humanitix.com/frauenverein70>

## Would you like to be part of an LGBTQIA+ social group?

I'm exploring the idea of starting a new LGBTQIA+ social group and would love to hear from anyone who might be interested – whether you'd like to help plan activities or simply come along. If this sounds like something you'd be interested in, please give me a call on 0433 335 815.



# Come & Get Your Flu Shot!

## FREE FLU VACCINE

**Wednesday 6 May**  
**11.30am to 1.30pm**

~~~~~

You'll find CHAMPION at the  
Templer Community Hub (Hall)  
51 Elizabeth Street, Bayswater

### NO BOOKINGS REQUIRED

Bring these with you!  
Medicare card + Photo ID

Provided by



SAVE THE DATE

# Sonnwendfeier 2026

**Saturday, June 20**  
**5pm onwards**  
**Bayswater**

*Sonnwendfeier* is back on June 20 – our much-loved winter solstice bonfire.

This is a free event, but we'd love you to register. If you're coming – especially if you'd like a meal – please let us know numbers and likely meals. We sometimes risk running short of food, so this will help us plan seating and catering.

We're expanding the program this year, with more activities being added to the line-up, so it's shaping up to be bigger and better, and we're expecting a strong turnout from the local community. Registering will help us make sure our Templer community is well-looked after.



**Register here**



## Seed Raising Workshop

### & COMMUNITY GARDEN MORNING

Join Christine, our gardening expert, for a hands-on seed raising workshop, sharing practical tips for growing healthy plants from seed. All experience levels welcome. Stay on afterwards for a relaxed community garden working bee and lunch.

**9.30 AM – 10.30 AM**

**Saturday, May 16**

**Bayswater Community Garden**  
**51 Elizabeth Street, Bayswater**

All abilities welcome

For offline bookings or more information, please contact Martina Eaton on 0433 335 815 or email [martina@templesociety.org.au](mailto:martina@templesociety.org.au)

SCAN TO BOOK  
YOUR SPOT



**Free!**

## Old friends, new memories

**Thursday, June 11**

**12pm**

**Changing Seasons café**

Reunion lunch for octogenarians, nonagenarians (and beyond)... and anyone who would like to join us. Let's meet while we are still able.

As in the past, to help with service on the day, please pre-order your meal when booking. Please book before June 3 with Nelly Spieth on 0439 390 513 or Helga Anderson on 0437 704 072.

We look forward to seeing you.

## Member updates

Reinhold Orth is now in TTHA (room 511). For details, please contact Gusti, who remains in the family home.

Irene Blaich is now in TTHA (room 522). Her mobile and email remain the same.

Rosemarie Asenstorfer has moved into residential aged care, c/- Charles Young, 53 Austral Tce, Morphettville SA 5043. She is no longer contactable by phone.

Anita and David Cross have moved to Queensland. Their mobile numbers and email addresses remain unchanged.

Herman and Helga Löbert are now in TTHA (rooms 628 and 626).

## Incredibly Busy Mind of Bowen Bartholomew Crisp

At the recent service conducted by Jessica Blackwell, this picture book written by Paul Russell, was read by Alex Glenk.

The book inspires the reader to embrace diversity in engaging our full potential. It is a reminder that the strength and uniqueness of every child should be encouraged, to help them find their place in the world and to flourish.

Another picture book that may be of interest to families is *Egg* by Clare Atkins. It's a unique book about a newcomer arriving to an island inhabited by superstitious eggs. This story raises gentle questions about displacement, environment, xenophobia and climate refugees.

## Bentleigh Roster

### FLOWERS

Sunday, May 3

Monika Imberger

### BENTLEIGH LAWN MOWING

Saturday, May 2

Peter Ware and Paul Weberruss

Saturday, May 30

Manfred Weller and Tim Weller

KAREN REYES

# Sydney Templers

I hope everyone has enjoyed the many holidays we've had over the past month. It's certainly been a busy and festive time.

At the end of last month, we held a Palm Sunday service led by Mark Herrmann, followed by some traditional egg dyeing, which Jan mentioned in the last issue. It was a lovely, relaxed get-together and a great way to start the season.

Our Lunch with Friends was held at a new venue this time, at North Ryde RSL. As always, it was wonderful to catch up with familiar faces and to meet Debbie, who runs the monthly dementia café at the Hall.

We're getting ready for our Heritage Day celebrations on Sunday, May 31. As part of the preparations, we're hoping to gather photos of past confirmations from 1951 through to 2023. Doris Frank has done an amazing job tracking down many of these, but we're still missing photos from 1973 and 1979. If you were confirmed in those years, or happen to have any photos tucked away, we would love to hear from you.

I'm also looking forward to seeing some of you at our upcoming Newcastle get-together. And if you're feeling a little spontaneous, you're very welcome to join us this weekend, May 2-3!

Palm Sunday Service at Meadowbank Hall. Photos: Karen Reyes and Peter Liebeskind



TEMPLE SOCIETY AUSTRALIA

# GAMES NIGHT

**FAMILY**

Bring your favourite games!

Come along for a relaxed and welcoming Games Night.

Bring your favourite board games, card games or something new to share. It's a chance to unwind, have a laugh and connect with others over a mix of classic and modern games.

Whether you come with family, friends or on your own, you'll find a table to join and people to play with.

**ALL AGES ARE WELCOME!**

**FRIDAY  
MAY 29  
FROM 6PM**

152 Tucker Road, Bentleigh



TO BOOK OFFLINE, PHONE NANNE ON 0407 271 764

## Birthdays

Wir gratulieren herzlich zum Geburtstag unserer Mitglieder.

|                             |           |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Krista Allan</b>         | <b>86</b> |
| <b>Rolf Beck</b>            | <b>89</b> |
| <b>Ilse Beilharz</b>        | <b>90</b> |
| <b>Eberhard Frank</b>       | <b>86</b> |
| <b>Ulrich Hoefler</b>       | <b>85</b> |
| <b>Inge Jones</b>           | <b>90</b> |
| <b>Doris Katz</b>           | <b>87</b> |
| <b>Gretel Krockenberger</b> | <b>93</b> |
| <b>Helga Kuerschner</b>     | <b>90</b> |
| <b>Marianne Neve</b>        | <b>78</b> |
| <b>Renate Steller</b>       | <b>84</b> |
| <b>Sunni Weller</b>         | <b>78</b> |

und wünschen auch allen hier nicht angeführten Geburtstagskindern alles Gute und Schöne zum neuen Lebensjahr - Happy Birthday!

## Wedding Anniversaries

### GOLDEN

Peter & Lynette Haar were married on May 8, 1976

### DIAMOND

Werner & Hannelore Steller were married on May 7, 1966

We offer them a hearty congratulations

# Building more than a landing



Helga with Winnie, Bernie and Paul. Helli, Winnie and Tony working on the footings. Photos: Nicole Seymour

The transformation of the Bayswater Clubroom entry is steadily taking shape, thanks to an extraordinary group of volunteers who have generously given their time, energy and skills. Over recent weeks, progress has continued despite Melbourne’s unpredictable autumn weather – ranging from heavy downpours to warm sunshine. Through it all, the team has worked tirelessly, embodying a genuine sense of mateship and a shared “can-do” spirit that has been a pleasure to witness.

What has stood out most is the depth of practical trade skills within our community. From formwork and concrete pours to precision carpentry, the level of craftsmanship has been both impressive and reassuring. This is not a simple project, and the complexity involved in improving accessibility to the Clubroom has become increasingly evident as the work progresses.

A special moment captured this week includes Helga Anderson overlooking the site, reflecting on the works to date. Like many, she expressed both her delight in the progress and her surprise at just how much construction is required to bring such an important accessibility upgrade to life.

This project is a true testament to what can be achieved when community, skill and goodwill come together.

As we move into the final stages of the project, we’d love to welcome a few more helping hands. If you’re able to assist, even for a short time, please get in touch with Paul Haar on 0409 011 335. Every contribution makes a real difference.

# Food relief community programs



NEST cooking program — instructors and participants. Photo: Martina Eaton

## “Warm smiles and a community feel.”

It’s a simple comment from one of our visitors, but captures the atmosphere we aim to create at CHAMPION each week.

Here’s a snapshot of what’s happening across our programs this month.

### OzHarvest NEST program

Our recent OzHarvest NEST program, supported by OzHarvest and the Goodman Foundation, brought people together over six weeks to build practical skills in budgeting, healthy eating and simple cooking. A great program filled with learning, connection and shared meals.

### Free flu vaccinations

We are offering a free flu vaccination session with Terry White Chemmart Knox. See the flyer on page 13 for full details.

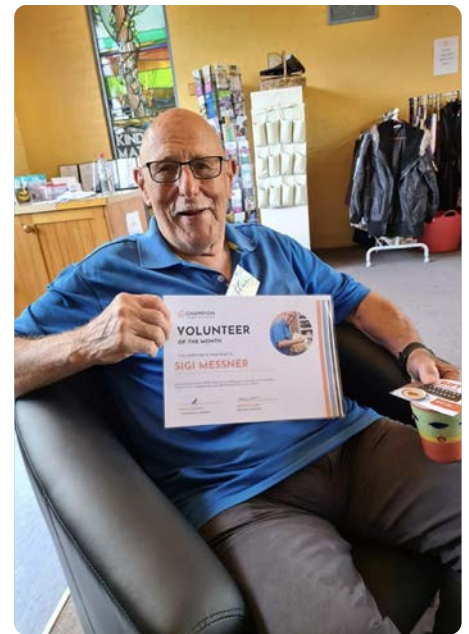
## Winter food and toiletry drive May 1 – June 17, 2026

As winter approaches, demand increases and we are collecting essential items including tinned food, soup and toilet paper. Every small contribution helps keep someone supported this winter. See the flyer opposite for drop-off locations.

### Community Garden Activities – Term 2

Join us each Monday (10-11am) in our community garden for a relaxed session to learn something new, enjoy a cuppa and connect with others. You can find our upcoming sessions in the calendar on the last page of this issue.

We look forward to seeing you around CHAMPION and the community garden — come along when you can and be part of it, with what one visitor described as “friendly people and help when I need a lift up”.



# Celebrating our volunteers

This National Volunteers Week (May 18-24), we thank the incredible volunteers who make CHAMPION possible. Whether you are sorting donations, supporting sessions or simply showing up each week, your care and consistency make a real difference. Because of you, people feel supported, connected and not alone. We are deeply grateful for all that you do.

Clockwise: Di, Lyn, Sigi, Mark & Tony, Gary. Chrissy and Hayley.  
Photos: Martina Eaton



WINTER



**CHAMPION**  
FOODBANK AND COMMUNITY HUB

# FOOD & TOILETRY DRIVE

**COLLECTING DONATIONS  
UNTIL WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17**

## **YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

As winter settles in, many people in our community are doing it tough. CHAMPION, our community foodbank, relies on donations like yours to keep shelves stocked and support those who need it most.

## **HOW YOU CAN HELP**

Drop off food and essential items at one of our locations between May 1 and June 17.

Our most needed items:

- Tinned vegetables
- Tinned fruit
- Packet or tinned soup
- Toilet paper

CHAMPION is an initiative of



**Temple Society**  
Australia

## **DROP-OFF LOCATIONS**



### **Bayswater Community Hall**

51 Elizabeth St, Bayswater

### **Bayswater Library**

Mountain High Shopping Centre

7-13 High St, Bayswater

### **Bentleigh Office**

152 Tucker Rd, Bentleigh

### **Terry White Chemmart Knox**

Level 2, Knox City Shopping Centre

Burwood Highway, Wantirna South

✓ **Local pick-ups available**

**HAVE A QUESTION OR NEED A PICK-UP?**

Please contact Lisette Pine on 0468 375 808 or email [champion@templesociety.org.au](mailto:champion@templesociety.org.au)

# A weekly visit that became something more

When I first met Roberto in May 2024 neither of us quite knew what to expect. We had been paired through the volunteer program with a simple but meaningful intention: Roberto was hoping to connect with someone who shared his Italian background. What began as a cultural connection quickly evolved into something far richer – a genuine friendship built on conversation, creativity and companionship.

From the very first visit, there seemed to be an immediate rapport between us. We spoke about family, traditions, food and the familiar rhythms of Italian life that have shaped us both in different ways. Over time, those conversations expanded into something deeper. Now, these visits have become a constant we both look forward to.

What I most enjoy is that Roberto has a remarkable creative spirit. His unit is a testament to this – alive with colour, texture and the quiet evidence of hours spent immersed in his passions. He enjoys quilting, painting by numbers and tending to plants in

the garden. Whether he's carefully stitching together pieces of fabric or adding detail to a painting, there's a sense of focus and pride in everything he creates.

Our time together isn't just about conversation; it's about shared presence. Sometimes we talk at length, other times we simply sit side by side while he works on a piece, exchanging the occasional comment or laugh. There's a quiet value in that kind of companionship – something often overlooked but deeply felt.

Volunteering in aged care is often spoken about in broad terms, but it's in these individual relationships where its true meaning becomes clear. It's not about doing anything extraordinary – it's about showing up, consistently and sincerely. In many ways, my visits with Roberto are simple. But within that simplicity lies something powerful: the reassurance that someone is seen, heard and valued. And sometimes, that's exactly what matters most.



TTHA resident, Roberto

**Watch the video of  
Leo and Roberto**



**Link: <https://youtu.be/6D7sEvgp-Ew?si=CmQbd26k6UnLqMf2>**



# Reconciliation Week 2026

Wednesday, June 3 • 7.30-8.30pm • Bayswater Chapel

## Music, stories and shared commitment

Reconciliation is about strengthening relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-Indigenous Australians — for the benefit of all.

National Reconciliation Week invites us to learn about our shared histories, cultures and achievements, and to reflect on how each of us can contribute.

In 2026, the theme *All In* calls on all Australians to play their part. Learn more at [reconciliation.org.au](https://reconciliation.org.au).

We'd love you to join us for a relaxed evening of music, conversation and culture, reflecting the Templer shared commitment to a just and inclusive world, and to loving our neighbours as ourselves.

## On the night

- Music (with the singing group) and reflection
- Guest speaker sharing First Nations perspectives
- Short video stories on reconciliation

The evening concludes with light supper (wattle seed scones, jam, tea and coffee) and time to connect.

**Tickets: \$10 per person**



For offline bookings, please contact Kathryn Buss on 0468 864 906

**Proceeds support the Boorndawan Willam Aboriginal Healing Service**

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## FRI 1

Newcastle Weekend starts

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## SUN 3

Newcastle Weekend ends

Service

Bentleigh • 10am

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## MON 4

Community Garden:  
Gift Card Making  
Bayswater • 10am

German Language School  
(Weekly)  
Bentleigh • 5–7.30pm

TSA Limited Board Meeting  
Online • 7pm

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## TUE 5

German Language School  
(Weekly)  
Bayswater • 5–7.30pm

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## WED 6

Singing Group (weekly)  
Bayswater • 7.30pm

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## THU 7

Chair-based Exercises  
(Weekly)  
Bentleigh • 2.30pm

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## FRI 8

Lunch with Friends  
Camden Valley Inn •  
11.45am

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## SUN 10

Mother's Day Service  
Bayswater • 10am

Mother's Day Morning Tea  
Bayswater • 11am

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## MON 11

Community Garden:  
Lessons from Our Mothers  
Bayswater • 10am

TSA Heritage Discussion  
Group  
Online • 3pm

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## TUE 12

*Frauenverein*  
Bentleigh • 12pm

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## WED 13

Backgammon (fortnightly)  
Bayswater • 4.30pm

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## FRI 15

Men's Advance starts

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## SAT 16

Working Bee  
Bayswater • 8am

Seed Raising Workshop  
Bayswater • 9.30am

Community Garden  
Working Bee  
Bayswater • 10.30am

Film Screening:  
Until the Sky Falls Quiet  
Bayswater • 3–6pm

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## SUN 17

Men's Advance ends

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## MON 18

Community Garden:  
Soup with Christine  
Bayswater • 10am

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## SAT 23

*Frauenverein* Celebration  
Bentleigh • 1.30–4pm

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## MON 25

Community Garden: Create  
Your Own Herb Garden  
Bayswater • 10am

TSA Heritage Discussion  
Group  
Changing Seasons cafe •  
1.30–2.30pm

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## TUE 26

Coffee & Craft Afternoon  
[*Kaffeeklatsch &  
Bastelnachmittag*]  
Bentleigh • 11am

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## FRI 29

Games Night  
Bentleigh • 6pm onwards

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## SUN 31

Heritage Service  
Meadowbank • 10.30am

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