ISSUE 152 COMMUNITY • FAITH • CONNECTION NOVEMBER 2026

Templer Talk



Reflection
Harald Ruff

Remembering our past and recommitting to what it means to be a Templer.



AGM
RSVP by Nov 17

Looking back on our first year under the new structure.



Teddy bears take over the Chapel!

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Temple Society Australia

Main Cover Image

Teddy bears lined up along the Chapel window for the Teddy Bears' Picnic Service. 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 Woi-wurrung; 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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REFLECTION • HARALD RUFF

Remember, reflect, refocus, recommit

As November brings a time of reflection and remembrance, we are reminded of what it means to be a Templer.

November is generally a busy month. We are drawn outdoors by the increasingly warmer weather and longer days (thanks to daylight saving), and the chance for a break from work over the Cup Day 'long weekend'. Our minds can be distracted by the prospect of summer holidays, and other end-of-year considerations begin to fill our heads (like Advent, the TTHA market and Christmas). November is also a traditional time of reflection and remembrance, with our now annual Remembrance service and the journey to Tatura to commemorate our members once interned there. In addition, a month later than previously, we will have our TSA Limited AGM, when we look back over our first year of operations under the new structure, consider plans for the coming year and beyond and think of members and friends lost over the last year.

All this thought of reflection and remembrance, and some subsequent conversations with family and friends (especially following our recent Presentation service in Bentleigh), led me to reconsider my purpose and that of my community. It's all too easy to be consumed by the minutiae and be distracted from the big picture and purpose. What are we Templers on about? What should we be looking back on and looking forward to? I have adapted my Presentation introduction to consider just that.

Place, connection, belonging

As humans, we tend to seek out the following: place, connections, community, belonging. These help us to feel secure and to gather understandings, and to make sense of the world and relationships and events. As in our acknowledgements of country at our services, we honour place and traditions, custodians and elders, the community and each individual member that it consists of. We seek nurture and comfort, shelter and understanding, in an increasingly complex and confronting world. We humans continue to find new ways to test each other, through ongoing and new conflicts, through polarised beliefs, through intolerance and injustice, through greed and selfishness.



Our oldest Templer, Bill Sawatzky, with two of our youngest and their mums at the October Presentation Service. Photo: Marianne Herrmann

Why community matters

We Templers regard the formation and cultivation of communities as essential, because our Christian-based belief can best be practised in a community of like-minded people working cooperatively. We are an independent faith community, free of fixed statements of belief. We are not affiliated with any other Christian church or denomination. We are non-dogmatic and have no fixed creed, liturgy or sacraments. We are aware and accept that we all are human and prone to err, so we encourage reflection and self-development, striving to establish and nurture fellowship and recognise a bond with all those who work for the good of humanity.

The Temple Society seeks to support each individual to experience and develop a deeper relationship with their understanding of the divine. This freedom of spirituality and religious thought allows the development of individuality and diversity amongst members. The values of trust, acceptance and respect are reflected in this freedom.

We humans determine so much of our life, including our environment, our context. We now clearly see and experience the impact of our decisions and actions on the world around us, on climate, on species, on our fellow humans. All of these elements are connected by the divine, but we have and retain the will and power – whether we have the right and accept the challenge and privilege is up to each individual, as is whether we accept that we have the responsibility to do so morally and ethically.

As Templers, our focus and reason for being is our work as individuals, but more powerfully as a community; our work in creating a better life and world for others as well as ourselves,

> **It is by our actions that we will be judged, and by them that we demonstrate our beliefs and values, not by mere words."**
>
> Harald Ruff

by creating and providing opportunities to learn from each other and to practise living together harmoniously – through activities. Our community is based on commonality of purpose, values and goals, while acknowledging that there is strength, breadth and depth in diversity. There is a place for various levels of participation, and all are encouraged to contribute as best they can. It is through active involvement that a sense of familiarity, togetherness and belonging develops. Truly, a community is the sum total of its individuals and their relationships with each other.

Living temples

At the bottom of our presentation certificates is printed the Bible verse from Ephesians, Chapter 2, Verse 22: *In Him you too are being built with all the rest into a spiritual dwelling of God*. As Templers, we believe that human beings have something of the divine within, and so we are the spiritual temples of the divine. Our name derives from these concepts:

- Each individual is called upon to recognise that they are a 'temple' in whom the divine dwells and lives (see 1 Corinthians 3: 16).
- People are called upon to act together as 'living building stones of the divine's spiritual temple' (see 1 Peter 2: 5a).

This reminds us that the divine is around us and within us all, and it is our choice whether to embrace it or not, whether we will be guided by it or not, through our conscience. It is by our actions that we will be judged, and by them that we demonstrate our beliefs and values, not by mere words and proclamations of faith. Thus, we try to follow the teachings of Jesus and his central message about the kingdom of God as recorded in the New Testament and as summed up by the twin commandments: "love God with all your being and love your neighbour as you love yourself" (Matthew 22: 37-39). In this central message of Jesus, the founders of the Temple Society saw a clear definition of humanity's task in the world. They believed, as we still do today, that this task can be carried out more effectively in communities of people with the same focus.

Our task today

The aim of the Temple Society and of its individual members is the fulfilment of what Jesus envisaged as God's kingdom on earth by putting his message of love into practice in daily life. Templers are people who accept the responsibility of conscientiously working towards the achievement of this aim, so, in the contemporary form of our motto, we might strive to 'work actively and cooperatively towards a fairer and more compassionate world, in harmony with our environment'. So, let us strive, both individually and as a community, to make the world a better place by seeking and helping each other to find the right path. Let this be our guideline as we, collectively and individually, gather this coming month to remember, reflect, refocus and recommit.

ANNETTE WAGNER-HESSE

From the Regional Head

> "When in doubt, let's err on the side of generosity and kindness of heart."
>
> Annette Wagner-Hesse



Words can kill and words can give life. How we speak to each other, to the world and also to ourselves carries immense power. Proverbs 18: 21 says, "The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit." Speech isn't neutral: careless or malicious words can ruin relationships and reputations. They can sap others' enthusiasm and dedication. And, importantly, people will eventually reap the consequences of the things they say, whether positive or negative. This verse encourages thoughtful, life-giving speech as opposed to ill-considered or angry outbursts. As we prepare for our Temple Society Australia AGM and the Victorian state election, let's be aware of this and not succumb to some of the destructive words and glib judgements we witness in the world today.

A busy October

October was a busy and varied month from the Blue Suede matinee, featuring the music of Roy Orbison and Elvis Presley in Bayswater, to the fun microgreens and pretzel making workshop in Bentleigh as part of Seniors' Month. We had great attendance at the online Community Town Hall meeting. In addition, there were two celebratory services involving our youngest members, as well as a thought-provoking online service from our President, Mark Herrmann. Harald Ruff presented Wren (daughter of Ingrid and Shath) and Bastian (son of Monika and Attrayoo). Thank you to Harald for coordinating this special service and speaking with such heartfelt consideration. All felt the absence of Wren's Oma, Renate Beilharz, but her spirit was certainly amongst us in a Bentleigh Hall full of community members, family and friends.

Jessica Blackwell did a wonderful job leading young and old in a unique Children's Service co-planned with Christine Ruff and featuring many a teddy bear or cuddly toy. Thank you to our youthful helpers Isabel, Jasmine and Nikita and all who contributed to the wonderful, shared afternoon tea. Please remember that everyone is welcome at all our services regardless of their focus. Building connections among the generations is something to which all can contribute. It's been wonderful to see every decade from 0 to 100 represented recently.

Lightening the load

As Templers we're not immune to the challenges we face navigating the modern world. I strongly believe that doing things together significantly lightens heavy loads that individuals may be bearing. In the month of remembrance, let's

keep in mind that we are often unaware of what others may be feeling, experiencing or doing. When in doubt, let's err on the side of generosity and kindness of heart. Shared moments of small joys make the days feel more manageable and less lonely.

I'm grateful to all who contribute to and participate in our multi-faceted community life. Each one of you can help to build a better world.

Welcome to our newest members

Martin Horn

Julia Riedel

Alrun Riedel

Ange Woodburn

We are so happy to have you commit to our community and to have you among us!

TEDDY BEARS' PICNIC

A beary lovely afternoon

Teddies of all shapes, sizes and ages came along to our relaxed Teddy Bears' Picnic Service, including one teddy that is 73 years old! And not all the cuddly companions were bears. See if you can spot one grandmother's favourite cuddle buddy, who looks more like a little koala!











Photos (this and previous page): Annette Wagner-Hesse and Nicole Seymour

A FAMILY TRIBUTE

From Jaffa to 99



Gisela Hoffmann surrounded by family on her 99th birthday

Longevity is a mysterious gift and can also be a challenge for body and mind. Born in Jaffa, Palestine, in 1927, Gisela Hoffmann is a Templer who lives in an Arcare residence for the aged on the Central Coast of NSW.

Gisela decided to retire from cooking, gardening and hosting friends and family in her suburban home when her husband and soul-mate, Peter Klaus Hoffmann, died in 2015. She moved to St Hedwig Senior Living, the former Templer-affiliated residence in Western Sydney. Undertaking this move as an alert 87-year-old saw Gisela retaining her craft activities and the social interactions she had always enjoyed.

She continued writing recollections of her childhood in Palestine connected with her dual Templer and Lutheran roots, the latter on her Swiss-born father's side. She also recorded wartime anecdotes from Tatura internment camp and highlights of adult life in Australia with ongoing Templer bonds.

The upheavals of COVID in 2022 sparked Gisela's desire to leave St Hedwig and move closer to her caring daughter Monika, then in Gosford.

Upon her 99th birthday last month, Gisela received a birthday card from the TSA. Her children, no spring chickens ourselves, were touched. This invitation to acknowledge our mother came from Nanne and Mark Herrmann, who recall a lively Gisela helping with pretzel sales at a Meadowbank spring market in 2018.

Indeed, Gisela's Australian Templer friendships and wider family attachments in Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Wangaratta and Coonabarabran are central to her long life. And while her own memories have all but vanished, we appreciate that those of you who recall a younger, vivacious Gisela hold dear your connections with her too.

Ingrid, Phil, Monika and Liz Hoffmann

NOVEMBER

Upcoming Services

SUN 1

Contemplation Service

10AM · BENTLEIGH HALL

ELDER: IRENE BOUZO

Join us for a faith reflection on Job 42: 1-6, 10, exploring his journey of suffering and loss, alongside the life story of one of my Templer ancestors. Sometimes we can say: I don't understand, but I can find renewal after a season of loss. There's always a new day.

SUN 8

Remembrance Service

11AM · BAYSWATER CHAPEL – IN PERSON AND LIVESTREAMED

ELDER: HARALD RUFF

This year our service begins at the traditional Remembrance Day time of 11am. You're welcome to bring a photo or meaningful item to commemorate a loved one who has died, and to light a candle and share memories in their honour. If you'd like to give a reading or share a memory, please contact me on 0407 850 833 or at haraldmruff@icloud.com. Drawing on these memories and items, we will reflect on the power of remembrance in facing change and challenge, honouring our loved ones and our community and learning from the past to strengthen our future.

CLICK HERE TO JOIN THE LIVESTREAM ON THE DAY

SUN 15

Volkstrauertag – Memorial Service

11AM · GERMAN WAR CEMETERY, TATURA

ELDER: HARALD RUFF

Our annual commemoration with the German Embassy. Bus from Bayswater; details and bookings on page 11.

SUN 22

AGM Reflection

10AM · BAYSWATER CHAPEL

ELDER: ANNETTE WAGNER-HESSE

A reflection to open our Annual General Meeting. See page 10.

SUN 29

Advent Service

10.30AM · MEADOWBANK HALL

ELDER: INGRID TURNER

Advent invites us to pause amid the preparations, reconnect with family and friends, and reflect on the deeper meaning of this special season. What spiritual nourishment can Advent offer us today? What meaning lies within its traditions and symbolism? And how might its timeless themes of hope, peace, joy and love bring comfort and inspiration in a world experiencing so much change and uncertainty? We look forward to a warm, thoughtful and enriching gathering, followed by our usual community luncheon.

TEMPLE SOCIETY AUSTRALIA

2026 Annual General Meeting

All Members of Temple Society Australia Limited are warmly invited.

WHEN	WHERE	RSVP BY
November 22 • 10am	**Chapel or Zoom**	**Tuesday, November 17**
Starts with the AGM Reflection	51 Elizabeth St, Bayswater	In person or online - and lunch!

What's on the agenda

- A look back at the year, including community achievements and financial reports
- Elections for Director and Committee positions
- Updates from across our community, groups and activities
- Opportunities for members to ask questions and have their say

The full agenda and documents are available at: templesociety.org.au/agm-2026

How to RSVP

events.humanitix.com/2026-tsaagm
or contact Kathryn at the Office at kathryn@templesociety.org.au or on 0468 864 906.

Joining online? Choose "online" and we'll send the Zoom link the day before.

Stay for lunch - $20pp

Goulash with *Spätzle* or vegetable curry with rice, green salad and homemade cakes.

Aprons on! We need you

We're looking for some lovely helpers for our AGM lunch. Whether you're a whiz in the kitchen, a champion plate carrier or a dishwashing superstar, we'd love a hand!

Saturday, November 21
- 11am–1pm: Food prep (3 helpers)

Sunday, November 22
- 11am–1pm: Food prep (4 helpers)
- From 1pm: Serving lunch (6 helpers)
- 2–4pm: Dishes and pack-up (6 helpers)

We'll be livestreaming the meeting straight into the kitchen so you won't miss a thing!

Please contact Bec Gilbert on 0483 823 688 or rebecca@templesociety.org.au if you can lend a hand.

Can't make it? Ask another Member to vote for you.

You can ask another Member to vote on your behalf by filling in a proxy form, available on the website or from the Office.

Forms must reach us by **10am Friday, November 20**. Unfortunately we can't accept proxies after that, including on the day.

VOLKSTRAUERTAG

Memorial Service, Tatura

Once again the German Embassy has invited us to join them at the German War Cemetery at Tatura for the annual *Volkstrauertag* (memorial service) on Sunday, November 15. The Elder is Harald Ruff.



Kormoran memorial Murchison. Photo: Doris Frank

The day (times approximate)

7.45am — ***Rosa* Bus leaves Bayswater**
Meet outside Changing Seasons Café
Driver: Winfried Beilharz

11am — **Memorial Service**
German War Cemetery, then wreath-laying at the Tatura Cenotaph

12-1.30pm — **Lunch**
Hill Top Golf & Country Club,
71 Gowrie St, Tatura

1.30pm — **Tatura Museum**

2.45pm — **Bus leaves for Murchison**

3.15pm — **Kormoran memorial, Murchison**

6pm — **Back in Bayswater**

BOOK NOW

Bus seat
Kathryn at the Office at kathryn@templesociety.org.au or on 0468 864 906

Lunch by November 7
Senior Chief Petty Officer Björn Stanislowski, mil-100@canb.auswaertiges-amt.de or via Kathryn at the Office.
Places at lunch are limited.

NEW THIS YEAR

The Kormoran memorial

This year we have something a little different. Sue Schmitke from the Tatura Museum has organised a visit to the Kormoran memorial at Murchison in the afternoon.

The memorial was built by survivors of the German raider HSK Kormoran, which sank HMAS Sydney off the coast of Western Australia in 1941, with the loss of all on board the Sydney. The Kormoran survivors were held as prisoners of war at Murchison and the memorial stands on the site of the old POW Camp 13. Michael Pearce has been invited to say a few words at the memorial.

Coming from Bentleigh?

Let us know. We'll explore transport options if there is sufficient interest.

KAREN REYES

Sydney Templers

This month in Sydney is busy with opportunities to gather and connect following the peaceful pause that last month offered.

Last month we held our *Lunch with Friends* at a new venue, 'The Kitchen' at Magpies Waitara. It was a great turnout and, from the feedback, the food was delicious and the atmosphere relaxing. On that note, I am collecting feedback on our lunch venues so that we can add them to the calendar next year. If you have a particular venue that you enjoy visiting (or not), please let me know!

On October 17, we celebrated Carers' Day thanks to a grant secured by Jan. It was a wonderful day filled with creativity, relaxation and togetherness. In collaboration with TAFE Meadowbank, our carers were treated to soothing free massages, followed by a delicious lunch at the Fork and Spoon Café in Meadowbank and a session of cyanotype printing. I couldn't stop smiling at the photos. It was truly heartening to see our carers get a chance to unwind and let their inner child play.

A huge thank you to Jan for organising such a special day for those who give so much to our community. We see you, and we appreciate you deeply.

On November 22, we will be livestreaming the AGM at the Hall. We hope you can make it and share in our usual tea, coffee and light lunch.

In the last week of this month, we will be holding our Advent service at the Hall, led by Elder Ingrid Turner. We'd love it if you could join us for what could be our last Advent in Meadowbank.

If you plan on attending any of the events happening this month, please contact either Jan or me so we can prepare for you.









Carers' Day with examples of the cyanotype printing process. Photos: Jan Johnson and Peter Liebeskind

MARTINA EATON

Community Care

As the end of the year draws near, please give me a call if you would like a visit or if there is anything bothering you that I might be able to support you with. November and December can be busy months for everyone, so I encourage you to prioritise yourself and take some time to stop and smell the roses.

Speaking of roses, join us for a picnic and lawn games in Gusti Orth's garden on Melbourne Cup Day (more details on page 25). This Community Garden fundraiser is a wonderful opportunity to relax and enjoy some time together before the busyness of the silly season sets in.

We also have a busy month ahead, including an event as part of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence. I strongly encourage you to invite your family members aged 16 and over to attend our panel discussion and learn more about coercive control (see flyer on this page).

I look forward to seeing you sometime during November.

e. martina@templesociety.org.au
m. 0433 335 815



GUESS WHAT'S

JUST AROUND THE CORNER?

Temple Society Australia

(PSST! IT'S TEMPLER COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS)

We're looking for Christmas stars of all ages



Sleigh us with your talent!
Love to sing, play an instrument or share a Christmas story or poem? We're calling on Christmas stars of all ages to help make this year's celebration extra special! Perform your own festive favourite or let us find the perfect song or reading for you. No experience needed, just a little Christmas spirit!

SAT 12 DEC

5.00–6.30 PM

51 ELIZABETH ST, BAYSWATER

Interested? Let us know by Friday, November 20

Michelle m. 0401 139 969 · e. makatz869@gmail.com
Bec m. 0483 823 688 e. rebecca@templesociety.org.au

Yule be sorry if you miss out!

MARK HERRMANN

Thinking about confirmation?





2020 Confirmation group at Bentleigh Hall.
Photos: Renate Beilharz

Our next Confirmation Program starts in February 2027, leading to the Confirmation Ceremony on Sunday, June 6. It's a chance for young people to explore Templer heritage, faith, values and what community means to them. Sessions run at Bayswater and Bentleigh, and you can also join online.

Come along to find out more:

Friday, November 13, 7pm
Bayswater Chapel

It's an informal info and discussion evening, and everyone is welcome: parents, grandparents and young people considering Confirmation (generally in Years 8–10 in 2026).

There's no obligation to sign up.

For questions, online participation or alternative arrangements, contact Mark at **mark@templesociety.org.au** or 0439 104 053.



Nanne and Mark celebrating her 25-year milestone at a special staff lunch. Photo: Martina Eaton

Celebrating Nanne's 25 years at TSA!

A very special thank you to Marianne (Nanne) Herrmann, who recently celebrated an incredible 25 years working at the TSA!

Nanne really is the backbone of our Office. She's kept the wheels turning in so many ways over the years, often quietly behind the scenes, but always going above and beyond what's expected and always ready to lend a hand.

Thank you, Nanne, for your incredible dedication, hard work and care for our community!

TEMPLER WEEKENDS • 2027

Summer, winter or both?

Two weekends with Templers from near and far. Tell us if you'd come and we'll plan around you.





Sommerfest

Bayswater · Sunday, February 21

Coming from interstate or regional areas? We're looking at free camping and caravanning, staying with a local Templer family, and airport transfers.

Local? Tell us if you could offer a spare room.

Winter in the Woods

Gilwell Park, Gembrook · Winter

A family weekend away with lodge accommodation, archery, climbing, flying fox and bushwalks.

Approx. $320 pp with meals or **$190 pp** self-catered.

Tell us by Sunday, November 22

One form covers both weekends. Tell us which weekend interests you, or choose both, and let us know what would help you come along.

Questions? Email Bec at
rebecca@templesociety.org.au

SCAN HERE

https://form.jotform.com/262710360689057

Temple Society Australia

CHAMPION
FOODBANK AND COMMUNITY HUB

Christmas Food Drive



COLLECTING DONATIONS UNTIL FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Christmas is a time for sharing, but for many families in our community it's one of the hardest times of the year. Your donations help us fill Christmas hampers and keep the CHAMPION Foodbank pantry stocked for families in need.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Drop off non-perishable food items or gift cards at one of our locations until Friday, December 4.

CHAMPION (Community Hub and Meeting Place in Our Neighbourhood) is a community food relief program in Bayswater run by the Temple Society Australia.

DROP-OFF LOCATIONS

CHAMPION - Temple Society Australia Bayswater Hub
51 Elizabeth St, Bayswater
Look for the brown building on the right of the driveway

Bayswater Library
Mountain High Shopping Centre
7–13 High St, Bayswater

Temple Society Australia Bentleigh Hub
152 Tucker Rd, Bentleigh

✔ **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

SNAPSHOTS FROM A BUSY MONTH!

October in Pictures

Blue Suede Matinee





Joe Piastrino's tribute to Roy Orbison and Elvis was a hit!



(Not the clearest photo, but it certainly captures everyone getting into the spirit of things!)

Presentation Service



Our newest presentees with their mums

Microgreens Workshop (... with pretzel-making!)





Plenty of hands-on fun at our Victorian Seniors Festival workshop

Lunch with Friends



Sydney Templers enjoying October's Lunch with Friends at The Kitchen, Magpies Waitara. Photo: Peter Liebeskind

Bayswater Working Bee



Working bee volunteers enjoying some well-earned cake and coffee

PROSIT!

Oktoberfest 2026



















Photos: Thanks to Cath Shelley, Ash Kennedy, Nigel Gohl, Ingrid Kuebler and Lucie & Kathy Braddon for capturing the night.

Notices

House and dog sitter wanted

Can you help? Sylvester the dog needs someone to look after him, and the unit, from late November to mid-December. If you're able to help, please call Renate Weber on 0400 001 856.

Member Update

Regina Imberger has moved to a different room within TTHA. Her phone contact details remain unchanged.

Bentleigh

Working Bee
Saturday, November 7 • 9am onwards

Join us for a morning of fresh air, friendly chats and a few jobs to keep our Bentleigh property looking great. There'll be a delicious morning tea to enjoy together, too. Whether you can lend a hand for an hour or stay for the morning, we'd love to see you!

Peter Ware (0417 371 684)

Rosters

FLOWERS	**Sunday, November 1** Monika Imberger
LAWN MOWING	**Saturday, November 14** Alastair Herrmann
	Saturday, November 28 Helmut Eppinger and Peter Imberger

Birthdays

Wir gratulieren herzlich zum Geburtstag unserer Mitglieder:

Ilse Birkner	**99**
Erika Christian	**76**
Karl Dierken	**85**
Rolf Edelmaier	**84**
Herbert Hirdes	**85**
Lottie Hohnholt	**89**
Denise Imberger	**80**
Erika Ley	**89**
Irene Ruff	**91**
Ingrid Thomas	**76**
Ruth Weller	**92**
Elisabeth Wennagel	**77**

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

Golden Wedding Anniversary

Enno & Gisela Schmidt married on November 6, 1976.

We offer them hearty congratulations

Town Hall recording

Missed our recent Community Town Hall on October 15? The recording is now available. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

Watch here: youtu.be/YziCgSOIVG0

ADVENTSFEIERN

Getting ready for Advent

BAYSWATER & BENTLEIGH

Weihnachtsgutsle – a Templer tradition

To give our older members, visitors and others the opportunity to purchase and enjoy this much-loved Templer tradition, please consider making a container or three of *Gutsle* to sell at our *Adventsfeier*.

Drop-off options:

Bayswater Office. Please ring Kathryn on 0468 864 906 in advance to arrange a drop-off time. *Gutsle* must be delivered by Wednesday, December 2.

Bentleigh Office. Please ring Nanne on 0407 271 764 in advance to arrange a time.

Bentleigh Hall. Bring your *Gutsle* on Saturday, December 5 at 1pm and lend a hand with the packing.



BENTLEIGH

Christmas crafts

A big thank you to everyone who has been busy making crafts for us throughout the year!

These can be left at the Bayswater or Bentleigh Offices, or brought along on the day. Ideally, please price your items in advance.

Can you help with setting up and packing down?

We are looking for helping hands on Saturday, December 5 from 1pm at the Bentleigh Hall. Tasks include setting up the Hall and craft stall, packing *Gutsle* and preparing the kitchen.

Thank you to those who are willing to stay at the end of the event to help with the cleaning and pack-up. With many hands helping, we can all get home at a reasonable time!

Spruce tree sprigs needed

Do you know anyone with a spruce tree from which we could cut a few sprigs to decorate our tables? Please let us know!



For more information:
Bayswater - Doris on 0427 181 027 or email dorisfrank543@gmail.com
Bentleigh - Marianne on 0407 271 764 or email nanne@templesociety.org.au



Temple Society Australia

Adventsfeiern

Advent celebrations in Bayswater & Bentleigh

Bayswater

Thursday 3 December · 7.30pm

51 Elizabeth Street, Bayswater

As twilight falls, join us for a traditional Advent Evening of carol singing, Christmas readings and stories that celebrate the warmth and meaning of the season.

BRING A PLATE

Please bring a plate of Christmas fare to share.

IN THE FOYER

Browse a small selection of handmade Christmas crafts, perfect for a little festive gift!

Where your support goes

Proceeds from the evening will be donated to the Borromeo Sisters in Jerusalem.

More information: Doris Frank
m. 0427 181 027
e. dorisfrank543@gmail.com

Bentleigh

Sunday 6 December · 2pm

152 Tucker Road, Bentleigh

Take a moment away from the bustle of the Christmas season and enjoy an afternoon of communal carol singing, performances by our Singing Group, and the sharing of Christmas poems and stories.

ENTRY $5 PER PERSON

Please bring a plate of Christmas fare to share for afternoon tea.

IN THE FOYER

Weihnachtsgutsle (German Christmas biscuits) and crafts for sale after the program.

Where your support goes

No raffle or door prizes this year. Your support will help us try out some exciting new programs for children and young people in our community.

More information: Marianne Herrmann
m. 0407 271 764
e. nanne@templesociety.org.au

REGULAR EVENTS

Every week

Drop in any week. No booking needed unless noted.

EVERY MON

In the Community Garden

10–11AM · BAYSWATER COMMUNITY GARDEN

2 Nov	**Spring into Planting** | Swap your best tips and get the garden ready for summer.
9 Nov	**Poppies for Remembrance** | Make felt poppies with our RSL friends.
16 Nov	**Bug Patrol** | Which plants bring in the good bugs and send pests packing.
23 Nov	**Make Your Own Advent Wreath** | From garden greenery.
30 Nov	**Saving Seeds** | Collect, dry and store seed for our seed library.





EVERY THU

Chair-based Exercises

2PM · BENTLEIGH HALL

A friendly afternoon of gentle exercises for strength, balance and flexibility. Bookings not required.



EVERY WED

Singing Group

7.30PM · BAYSWATER

New voices always welcome: no experience needed, just enthusiasm. The group prepares music for community events, and has fun doing it.

NEW MEMBERS ALWAYS WELCOME!

REGULAR EVENTS

Groups this month

Everyone is welcome, whether it's your first time or your fiftieth.

WED 4 & 18

Board Games

4.30PM · MEMBERS' CLUBROOM, BAYSWATER

Our Backgammon group now plays more board games. Old favourites, new games and a few laughs.



TUE 10

Frauen & Männerverein

12PM · BENTLEIGH HALL

Bringing members together for generations through friendship, conversation and shared traditions. Join us for lunch and fellowship.



FRI 13

Lunch with Friends SYDNEY

11.45AM · FORK & SPOON CAFÉ

Our monthly Sydney get-together. Please let Jan or Karen know you're coming.



MON 16

Heritage Discussion

1.30PM · CHANGING SEASONS CAFÉ

Temple Society history, traditions and stories in an informal setting. Bring your memories, questions and curiosity.



TUE 24

Coffee & Craft Afternoon

Kaffeeklatsch & Bastelnachmittag

11AM · BENTLEIGH HALL

Bring your knitting, sewing, crochet or favourite craft and enjoy a relaxed chat over coffee.



NO GERMAN CLASSES

There are no German Language classes on Monday 2 and Tuesday 3 November (Cup Day long weekend).

SPECIAL EVENTS THIS MONTH

Don’t miss



TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3 · CUP DAY

Open Day: Gusti & Reiner Orth’s Garden

TIME 11am–3pm
VENUE 20 St Huberts Rd, Coldstream

Bring a picnic and enjoy lawn games among the roses. A fundraiser for our Community Garden. $10pp. For late bookings, contact Kathryn at the TSA Office on 0468 864 906.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12

Seeing the Signs of Coercive Control

TIME 6.45pm arrival, 7–8.30pm
VENUE 51 Elizabeth St, Bayswater

A panel with lived-experience advocates for 16 Days of Activism. Free supper provided. More on page 13.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13

Confirmation Information Evening

TIME 7pm
VENUE Bayswater Chapel

An informal discussion evening. Everyone is welcome and there’s no obligation to sign-up. For more information, contact Mark on 0439 104 053.

Working Bees

Sat 7 **Bentleigh 9am onwards**

Lend a hand to keep our Bentleigh property looking great. Morning tea provided.

Sat 21 **Bayswater Property 8am**

Help with gardening, maintenance and general upkeep.

Sat 21 **Bayswater Community Garden 9.30am**

Help with general upkeep while enjoying some time outdoors together.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15

Volkstrauertag, Tatura

See page 11 for more details

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29

TTHA Christmas Market

TIME 10am-2pm
VENUE Bayswater

Browse festive stalls, discover handmade gifts and treats and enjoy the warmth of our community.

YOUR COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS

December & Christmas

THU 3 Dec

Adventsfeier

7.30PM • BAYSWATER HALL

A traditional Advent evening at twilight.

SUN 6 Dec

Adventsfeier

2PM • BENTLEIGH HALL

Our much-loved Advent celebration, featuring *Gutsle*, Christmas crafts and festive cheer.

SAT 12 Dec

Community Christmas

5PM • BAYSWATER CHAPEL

A joyful Christmas pageant for children and families, with performances from our community. See page 14 to get involved!

SUN 13 Dec

Christmas Service SYDNEY

4PM • MEADOWBANK HALL

A special Christmas service - the last at Meadowbank Hall - led by Elder Ingrid Turner, followed by a community dinner.

SUN 20 Dec

Christmas Evensong

5PM • BENTLEIGH HALL

A peaceful evening service led by Elder Renate Weber, featuring music, readings and thoughtful reflection.

FRI 25 Dec

Christmas Day Service

10AM • BAYSWATER CHAPEL

Come together on Christmas morning for a traditional service led by Elder Christa Lingham.

Share your Christmas Greetings!

Each year, we invite members and friends to add their names to our Christmas Greetings list in the December/January *Templer Talk*. It's a simple way to wish everyone in our community a Merry Christmas.

We usually ask for a $2 coin donation, which can be dropped off at either the Bentleigh or Bayswater Office, or handed to a staff member when you see them. We know getting a coin to us isn't always easy, so if that's the case, why not spread a little Christmas cheer by doing a small act of kindness for someone instead?

To be included on the list of names, simply email your name (or family names) to tsa@templesociety.org.au by November 15. No personal message is needed.

Thank you to everyone who has already contributed!





ttha accent HOME CARE

Christmas Market

SUN 29TH NOVEMBER 2026
10:00AM - 2:00PM





Step into the magic of Christmas and experience one of Melbourne's favourite festive traditions!

With something for everyone, there's plenty to explore, taste and enjoy!

The Temple Society Australia grounds will be transformed into a Christmas wonderland filled with shopping, food, entertainment and festive cheer. It's the perfect way to celebrate the season with family and friends.

Free Entry | Gold coin donation welcome ✨

Mark the date and bring your whole family for a magical day out!

Experience the joy of Christmas with:

- 65 festive stalls filled with handmade gifts unique treasures and Christmas delights
- Authentic German food and irresistible festive sweets and seasonal treats
- Live music and entertainment to fill the air with festive cheer
- Fun for the whole family, including a petting zoo, face painting, arts & crafts and a special visit from Santa!

FIND OUT MORE *Scan the QR code or please call TTHA on 8720 1333*

Market location: 51 Elizabeth Street, Bayswater (Entry via Victoria Road)

AT A GLANCE

November

Temple Society Australia

SUN 1

Contemplation Service
Bentleigh • 10am

MON 2

Spring into Planting
Bayswater • 10am

No German Language class

TUE 3

Cup Day Public Holiday (VIC)

Open Day: Gusti Orth Garden
Coldstream • 11am

No German Language class

WED 4

Board Games
Bayswater • 4.30pm

Singing Group (weekly)
Bayswater • 7.30pm

THU 5

Chair-based Exercises (weekly)
Bentleigh • 2pm

SAT 7

Working Bee
Bentleigh • 9am

SUN 8

Remembrance Service
Bayswater • 11am

MON 9

Poppies for Remembrance
Bayswater • 10am

TSA Limited Board Meeting
Online • 7pm

TUE 10

Frauen & Männerverein
Bentleigh • 12pm

THU 12

Seeing the signs of coercive control
Bayswater • 7pm

FRI 13

Lunch with Friends
Fork & Spoon • 11.45am

Confirmation Info. Session
Bayswater • 7pm

SUN 15

***Volkstrauertag* Service**
Tatura • 11am

MON 16

Bug Patrol
Bayswater • 10am

Heritage Discussion Group
Changing Seasons Café • 1.30pm

WED 18

Board Games
Bayswater • 4.30pm

SAT 21

Working Bee
Bayswater • 8am

Community Garden Working Bee
Bayswater • 9.30am

SUN 22

Annual General Meeting
Bayswater & Online • 10am

MON 23

Make your own Advent wreath
Bayswater • 10am

TUE 24

Coffee & Craft Afternoon
Bentleigh • 11am

SUN 29

TTHA *Weihnachtsmarkt*
Bayswater • 10am-2pm

Advent Service
Meadowbank • 10.30am

MON 30

Saving Seeds
Bayswater • 10am

For the latest information, visit templesociety.org.au/events or contact the TSA Office

Temple Society Australia Limited
(03) 9557 6713 • tsa@templesociety.org.au • www.templesociety.org.au