Profiles of the
Gold Coast Hinterland
Parishes of
Mudgeeraba
and
Nerang

2021
Both with access to beaches and rainforest in
Less than 30 minutes.
The Locations and proximity of our two Churches
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A summary of our two Parish’s Finance

When examined individually, neither Parish is in a financial position to easily afford a full time Priest. However when the two Parish’s incomes are combined, the possibility of a full time incumbent, looking after both Parishes' becomes highly feasible.

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<tr>
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<th>Mudgeeraba</th>
<th>Nerang</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>$ 91,389</td>
<td></td>
<td>$ 203,410</td>
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<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>$138,144*</td>
<td>$ 101,336</td>
<td>$ 239,480</td>
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* includes a substantial donation
The Good Shepherd Mudgeeraba

Finding Us

The Parish Office
Rectory and Church:
4 Tarrant Drive,
Mudgeeraba

Postal Address:
PO Box 332
Mudgeeraba 4213

Phone: 07 5525 1018

Office email: Mudgeeraba@anglicangoldcoast.org.au
www.anglicangoldcoast.org.au/mudgeeraba

Head out of Mudgeeraba on the Springbrook Road. Keep ahead at the Hardy’s road lights, and first left after the School. We are just up the road on the left hand side.

The Rectory is at 4 Tarrant Drive and is currently let to long-term private tenants

Our Op shop has been successfully relocated to unit 4/55 Railway Street.
Mudgeeraba is a town and suburb in the City of Gold Coast, Queensland. Its essential character remains one of a nineteenth-century village, and contains important evidence of its earlier form and building. Mudgeeraba is a remnant of the type of township that characterises the rural hinterland of the Gold Coast. Subdivision of land was conventional, and buildings were traditionally rural or rural commercial. The Mudgeeraba Anglican Church began in the front room of dairy farmers Gladys and Fred Sands, situated roughly where the Mudgeeraba Somerset College is located today. After growing and moving to several venues the current site in Tarrant Drive was purchased in 1997. A building was relocated from Chirn Park, Southport in 1998. and the Church of the Good Shepherd was born.

**One of the strengths of The Church of the Good Shepherd is its’ location.** It is situated in a wooded area on the outskirts of the town. When people visit us for the first time, they are usually impressed with our location and the beauty both externally and internally of our little Church. Mudgeeraba and the adjoining Worongary, Tallai, Reedy Creek and Bonogin have seen a considerable increase in population over the last 20 years. In the 2016 census, Mudgeeraba had a population of 13,624 people. The Mudgeeraba Electoral Area has a population of 56,410, or some 15,425 families.

Of these some **9,236 people indicated that their religion was Anglican!**

Target areas for the Church of the Good Shepherd would be:-

- Mudgeeraba and Bonogin Population 18,832
- Reedy Creek 8,170
- Worongary and Tallai 8,096
- TOTAL 35,098

This represents 62.2% of the Mudgeeraba electorate. Assuming that respondents who profess to be Anglican in their beliefs are distributed equally, there are some 5,747 possible worshipers in the immediate area! Additionally we have an on site Childcare Centre with 72 full time places, and we are adjacent to Mudgeeraba Creek School with some 750 enrolled students.
In addition to our weekly worship in the past our Parish, had many additional functions every month. These included weekly bible study, (which is still continuing) men’s (and women’s) breakfasts, fish and chip nights, jumble and car boot sales, pet services and regular visits to parishioners, picnics, and a choir and youth orchestra for Sunday services, together with a regular Sunday School for children.

The Church of the Good Shepherd is fortunate that it has 2 honorary Priests. They are supported by 4 lay assistants who lead the intercessions. The readings are given by lay people, and the Parish has a long term Secretary/Treasurer together with the 2 Wardens who assist in the administration of the Parish.

With a Parish Roll of around 50 mainly aging Parishioners, we have about 35 regular attendees. Although not everyone is able to attend each week, we normally have approaching 30 attending our Sunday Service.

During 2018 the Diocese, carried out a review of our premises and its’ required maintenance.

With this maintenance came the identification of several inadequacies in the standard of the buildings, and with the Health and Safety Acts in mind, the Diocese insisted that these repairs were professionally evaluated and rectified. With little income, and the Diocese’s estimate expenditure of in excess of $100,000 the future for the Parish looked bleak.
Moving forward!

In early 2019 Father “Hurricane” Harry Reuss, a very experienced and dynamic Priest was appointed as (initially) honorary Priest in Charge of the Parish. The then current Wardens, John Hosking and Mark Stevens and members of the Parish Council all confirmed they would stand for a further term of office.

A draft Business Plan was prepared.
The objectives were prioritized as follows:-
1. Carrying out the necessary maintenance requested by the Diocese.
2. Creating a mission statement
3. Increasing the awareness of the existence and location of the Church.
4. Increasing extracurricular functions.
5. Providing more outreach to the community.
6. Improving the average attendance at services
7. Creating enough revenue to eventually provide a full time Priest.

1. Carrying out the necessary maintenance requested by the Diocese.
Firstly we needed to establish exactly what needed repairing to comply with regulations. Fortunately Father Harry’s contacts, and his ability to encourage, coerce and motivate meant that the evaluation and repairs were carried out either pro bono or at minimal cost. By the end of the 2019 all urgent repairs had been carried out, and to date (June 2021) with the exception of one “work in progress” we are up to date.

2. Creating a mission statement
The parish motto is 'building a healthy community', and although this holds the key to the focus of this parish, the writer believes that this should be revised to “Building a more caring community”.

3. Increasing the awareness of the existence and location of the Church.
Word of mouth has proved the most effective means of “advertising”. Slowly but surely our congregation is growing, and average Sunday attendance has increased from the lower to the upper 20’s.

4. Increasing extracurricular functions.
Covid19 restrictions have somewhat limited any increase in this area. Rather than providing what we think the community needs, we should find out by research what the community is seeking. As an example, we asked our existing parishioners if they would prefer a later service to enable Fr. Harry to travel to us after the Nerang service. Whilst the majority said they would still come, they stated they much preferred the early (8:30) service.

5. Providing more outreach to the community.
Father Harry is very much a believer in getting out into the Parish and talking to people in their homes. However, time restraints and his two day capacity limited this important outreach. In the short term, and once we have determined what we have to offer, our faithful flock should be encouraged to spread the word to their friends and neighbours. Pre Covid19 we held a stall at the Mudgeeraba Show where we publicized our Church and our Op Shop.

6. Improving the average attendance at services
Understandably we tend to seek from people what they can give to the Church. However, most prospective parishioners will be looking to see “what the Church can do for me!” To build a congregation we need to find out what people are looking for, and what they expect from us. Hopefully involvement in our community will convert them into givers rather than takers.

7. Creating enough revenue to eventually provide a full time Priest.
This is really a “chicken and egg” situation! An effective full time Priest should be able to carry out these objectives and increase the numbers in the congregation, thus increasing the Parish income.
Who should be our next Parish Priest?

We are in what at first appears to be an all too frequent situation with Anglican Parishes – aging Parishioners, declining numbers, deteriorating income and the general apathy or acceptance that the situation cannot be improved. In fact, up to 2 years ago this was much the case at Mudgeeraba and many felt that it was likely that we would have to consider closing our doors.

However, as will also be seen from the comments in this Profile, thanks to the fortunate appointment of Father Harry Reuss as our joint Priest in charge, and the perseverance of members, we are now ready to recover and grow.

The Parish of Mudgeeraba is seeking a quite extraordinary person as our next Parish Rector. In addition to the normal expectations of skills in ministry, leadership, communication and organizing ability, we seek an entrepreneur—someone who can understand and grasp the opportunities for our Church and its’ congregation!

Mudgeeraba has great potential with a growing populating presenting opportunities for expansion. The 2016 census showed that in our area over 9000 people professed to be Anglican in faith, We are located next door to the Mudgeeraba Creek State school, with over 900 pupils, and the Childcare Centre on our premises has space for 72 full time places. However, attendance from these obvious targets are minimal.

It is perceived that one of our problems, is that many people do not know we exist, and many of those that do, do not know who we are, what we do, or what we would like to do!

Our new Priest needs to be a self-starter with great people skills, happy and positive thinking, and have a great sense of humour.

To bring this Parish to its’ optimal potential is indeed a challenge, but the spiritual rewards and self-satisfaction will be immense.
Parish Profile

St Margaret’s’s Anglican Church
Nerang

*Our Parish Vision*

*Our Parish Vision is to express the love of God, to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ and to do this in the power of the Holy Spirit*

*Brief Parish History*

2021 marks 143 years of St Margaret's Nerang. Articles relating to the church built as 'St. Margaret’s Church of England in Nerang Street, Nerang' date back to 1877. The historical church building became too small for the increasing population and was sold in 1992, the site was also sold. The original heritage listed church building was moved to the Evandale grounds of Gold Coast City Council, restored and is used as a non-denominational chapel for weddings, as a community hall, and evening meetings for non-profit organisations. A new church called 'St Margaret's Anglican Church' was built at 167-169 Beaudesert-Nerang Road, Nerang in 1996.
Hopes and Plans for the future of our Parish.
To increase the number of regular, active worshippers within our Parish
To achieve greater outreach and to be a faithful and caring community, open to change while actively encouraging greater involvement with youth and families in our community.
To continue to be financially viable and secure

Who we are:
St. Margaret’s is a small parish which dates back to 1877 although now removed from the original site. We are debt-free even though we have recently engaged in connection of sewerage and renovations to buildings which now deliver us a regular income in balancing our giving. Yes, we are small BUT a viable parish in our situation of searching for a share priest with Mudgeeraba.

Presently, we hold two Worship Services a week, Sunday and Wednesday. This will allow commitment to any development programs/demands in growing our parish. In the past, we have experienced Friday night Family Services with Kids' Club, Taiza held one Sunday evening per month plus Messy Church, so there is much opportunity for growth once Covid-19 has been overcome.

We are seeking a leader who can inspire and lead in keeping us going forward.

Our 2019 Income was $112,021.00  Our 2020 income was $101,335.92

Grounds & Buildings
We own a large property with all sections sewered.
Parking facilities are extensive with one area shared with a neighbouring Childcare complex.
Electronic Signage at the front of the property promotes activities organized by the parish.
A large shed provides ample outdoor storage at the rear of the property.
The parish administrative office is located near the church.
**Existing Strengths and Community Activities**

St. Margaret’s provides a welcoming, faithful warmth within its congregation, developing a strong sense of family.

Fellowship: A Meditation Group meets weekly of a Monday followed by a Coffee/Tea Gathering. Morning Tea is provided following Worship Services of the Sunday and Wednesday; visitors are most welcome.

St. Margaret’s has representation on the Local [School] Chaplaincy Council in Nerang. The Parish also coordinates programs of support to school students re provision of uniforms and food parcels to needy students and their families. Food Hamper are provided by congregation donation. Domestic Violence persons are issued with Personal Health Packs.

**Challenges and Opportunities**

Ageing of Parishioners limits numbers with involvement in physically-demanding activities within community help; an injection of younger parishioners could see exciting opportunities accepted

Declining numbers place an increased burden upon Giving

Absence of young families: a previous Kids’ Club closed when the Parish reverted to one Sunday service where families move away because we offered nothing pertinent to the young

Maintenance or replacement of ageing facilities/infrastructure could add seriously to out-goings unbalances in the budget.

**Risk Management**

St. Margaret’s fully supports the Diocesan Risk Management Policy for the Protection of Children and Youth. An Officer holds this position.

Management of Blue Cards is recorded within Parish Administration.

Workers have been trained to Diocesan requirements

**Parish Staffing and Administration**

Staff presently consists of a Locum appointment as Priest-in-Charge. His role is supported by Wardens [Priest and People] who meet regularly with Councilors to conduct Parish business.

Support is given by two retired priests attached to the Parish plus a Deacon

Office Administrative duties are catered under a volunteer system.

The Parish website [www.anglicannerang.com] and a Facebook Page [Anglican Church Nerang] have been established.

The only paid position within the Parish is that of Priest-in-Charge.
Facilities Available in Parish Locality

Public and Private Hospitals plus doctors and other practitioners are located within a 15-minute drive or via public transport.

Childcare, Pre-school, Primary and High Schools, both Government and Private, are in proximity while TAFE and Tertiary Education are available on the Gold Coast.

Emergency Services from Police, Ambulance to Fire Brigade are based in Nerang

The small business center of Nerang is also home to a varied and expanding Commercial Community.

Nerang is by the M1 Motorway with Brisbane in the north [60 km] and NSW border in the south while Rail Services also provide easy access to the major air terminals of Brisbane and Coolangatta.

Surrounding Sporting Clubs, for all ages and abilities, are available to the enthusiast, from the public swimming pool to bowls, cycling and contact sporting competition.

Local hotels, clubs and restaurants cater for excellent dining.
Summary

At first glance the Profiles of the two Parishes of Nerang and Mudgeeraba might appear to be very different. However, after meetings between Wardens, Nominators and Parish Council Members, our aims are very similar.

Father Harry has shown that it is very possible to run the two Parishes with efficiency and effect. The interaction in preparing this joint document has also shown that there are many areas where we can cooperate with each other in religious, community and social gatherings.

Both Mudgeeraba and Nerang believe that the future of our Parishes can be improved greatly by an incumbent who can cultivate this cooperation.