

Welcome to our beautiful old St George the Martyr Church, it was 50 years ago in February 1972 when I first walked into this church with my husband David and our three small children. My first impression as I walked down the aisle was the magnificent stained glass windows behind the altar, with the sun reflecting the beauty and depth of the colour. On deeper reflection I discovered they depicted the life of Christ. I am not sure I remember the sermon that day but I knew here was a place I wanted to come back to and take a better look at the windows and read all the interesting plaques.

The preservation of St Georges is very important to me for many reasons, firstly as a place of worship, a place where we can go for quiet reflection, a repository of the early history of the Borough, the stained glass windows by the famous Scottish leadlight craftsmen James Ferguson and James Urie particularly the beautiful window that I was first attracted to, these windows imagined and paid for by Judge Fellows, a member of Parliament, the second Mayor of the Borough of Queenscliff and an enormous benefactor of the construction of this Church. To my right you see a memorial to him that simply states "If you seek my monument look around." He died at 55 years of age and achieved so much in a short life time. Great stories Christmas day etc

On the West wall the three panels depicting Matthew, Mark, Luke and John and the Holy Trinity was given by the first Doctor and Medical Doctor at the Heads and first Mayor of the Borough Dr David Williams. The window on the left of St John the Baptist is in memory of the first Chemist Charles Simpson, Charles was also the first secretary of the vestry and also one of the early photographers in the Borough. So much early history. I could go on

As Jenny mentioned, the gentleman responsible for the high piece of ground St Georges occupies was non-other than Governor La Trobe who originally had a cottage on this site, until recently the only mention or Memorial to this significant man in the Borough's history was on your left as you walk up the path to the Church door. La Trobe's vision for a good and stable community was that it must have a Church, a library, a School and open recreational space. All of this he achieved the first School was at our St Georges Old School Hall, as it is known today.

St Georges is not only a place for the Celebration of the Baptisms, Marriages and Funerals but also a place where believers and non -believers can come and sit quietly for deep reflection, enjoy the quiet time away from the stress and business of their daily routine or just come to take in the history and the beauty of the magical stained glass windows with the story of the apostles from the

magnificent windows around the walls and some other great stories of the Borough's History

But, the church has problems, St George The Martyr desperately needs the communities support to help preserve this fine example of Gothic Architecture and the historical artefacts contained within, as the Patron of this appeal I urge you to make a donation, remember no donation is too small to help preserve this very important part of the Borough's history for future generations to treasure and to keep St George the Martyr available for our community and all who wish to enter. As Patron , I encourage you to support this project and encourage others to do the same, this piece of our history is too precious to neglect.

Val Lawrence

28/05/2022