

Popular local couple Kaye and George Hanks arrived in Cobden from Meeniyan near Leongatha in June, 1997, to take over Keith Donnelly’s milk-bar (now David Steel Real Estate) as a sea-change. It has certainly turned out that way although maybe not in the way they expected.

Intoducing Reverend Kaye . . . a Christian trail-blazer

Today’s Connecting Cobden talks with Kaye Hanks who explains how her life has travelled in a particular direction . . . and we congratulate her for it.

Kaye, tell us what you have achieved in recent times?

On February 22nd 2014, I was ordained into the Anglican Church ministry.

Is this something you’ve always wanted to do?

No, George and I were married in 1971 in the Anglican Church but I had no real affiliation with the church other than being baptised as an infant. It wasn’t until I decided to have our boys confirmed that I thought I should do confirmation classes. You could say that that was the catalyst.

When did you decide to become a fully-fledged Anglican minister?

I didn’t actually consciously make that decision. Three different priests (in Gippsland and at Cobden) asked me to test a vocation that they saw in me and I started to do that about six years ago. I went before six different priests at a vocation day in Ballarat and had an interview with an archdeacon. When we had a new bishop, I had an interview with him and he asked that I do a course in church history with a priest. I also had to go before a psychologist from the Melbourne diocese and pass three important tests.

What was your involvement in the church before being ordained?

In Gippsland, I was a licensed pastoral assistant, a parish councillor, a warden and on the lay readers’ board for the diocese. When we moved from Gippsland, while I went to church every Sunday, it was a very new diocese and very different but, before I knew what was happening, I was a licensed lay minister in Cobden which I have been for 16 of our 17 years here. Of course that ceased in February when I became a clergy person.

Are there other women ministers locally?

In December last year, Robyn Shackell (Warrnambool) and Anne McKenna (Stawell), who were deaconed five years ago, were the first two women priests in this diocese - two amazing women who waited patiently for their priesting to come in God’s time.

Why have you taken it on?

My question would be, why not? I believe in the Risen Lord Jesus Christ, I am a people person, I like being able to help people and I feel that I can ease a burden for someone I may come across in this position. That may not happen if I was still a lay person. I feel called into the vocation of being a deacon who is challenged “to strengthen the faithful, teach the young, search out the careless and indifferent. Encourage the members of Christ’s body by word and example, ministering among the sick, the needy and all who are oppressed or in trouble.” I hope and

pray that in some small and humble way I am able to do these things.

What was the process to becoming ordained?

Three of us to be ordained had to be brought forth from our congregations by our priest and parish councils to the bishop, and we all went through the process explained earlier. Just before the ordination, we were taken to the monastery at Camperdown for a three-day retreat led by Father Graham Snell from Colac. We went to Warrnambool’s Christ Church for a rehearsal and, next day, we answered the bishop’s questions in front of a packed church of family, friends and members of our congregations. It was an amazing day.

How much time will you put into ministry every week?

I would hope that every day, no matter where I am, I will be doing ministry whether it is amongst my own family or whenever I am down the street or with friends. I don’t see a time when I will not be doing ministry because ministers don’t work just a 40 hour week.

Did your family come with you to Cobden?

We left our three sons in Gippsland but two of the boys - Craig and Matthew - followed us within a couple years. We now have five grandchildren. Son Craig, his wife Fiona and Abbie, Riley and Brodie live at Jancourt, Jason, Molly and Jack live at Toora and Frankston, and Matthew is in Apollo Bay.

What did you and George do at Leongatha?

George was working for a fertiliser company and working way too hard, then we brought the milk bar and were open 15 hours a day - bit of an oxymoron! I was a school cleaner for 14 years and I loved my job. The staff were fabulous and the children were great.

Apart from the church, what are your other interests?

I have been involved in Quota (no longer though), I am a Red Cross volunteer, George and I are both friends of Rotary, and I guess most of the things I do revolve around church. I facilitate the parish partnership with Anglicare and St Mary’s, the casserole bank for patients who are suffering or going through cancer treatment.

I am on the strategy committee for Anglicare in the Ballarat Diocese, I am on the LinC committee, I do the parish pew sheet each week and, at the moment, I am the parish council secretary.



I am also a member of our guild and, the most important thing for me, is my family so I help out with reading at the primary school when I am needed by my beautiful daughter-in-law.

Thoughts about Cobden?

Cobden has been very good to us, not only when we

were in business but afterwards as well. Two and a half years ago, I was very ill with clots in the lungs (twice) and pneumonia. With me being hospitalised five times in two years, it was to say the least very trying for George and our family and the community was amazing with food, cards and well wishes. Cobden really is a very caring community when people are in need. Thankyou, Kaye, may God bless your ministry.

Alright, he’s been running our supermarket for the last five years but how much do we really know about him? Let’s go back a sentence - in fact, he has been “hobbling around” our supermarket for most of the last five years - the staff actually run the supermarket. That’s pretty obvious!

Exposing the real ‘HERM’ BREBNER



Ritchies IGA staff Karen Dudderidge (left), Tom Rantall, Yasmine Carrigan (former employee), Denise van den Eynde, and Wendy Allan help ‘Herm’ Brebner celebrate his Store Manager of the Year award

Test yourself about the award-winning manager who’s ultimately responsible for what many of us eat. That’s scary when you think about it.

1. ‘Herm’s’ real name is (a) Peter (b) Paul or (c) Mary?

2. Origins of his nickname (a) He liked the song ‘No Milk Today’ by Herman’s Hermits (b) He is related to Herman Munster or (c) Gerry Clark’s late brother ‘Spin’ gave it to him as a 3 year-old because young Paul liked singing a song with the word ‘Herman’ in it?

3. From age 15 to 27, he worked (a) at the abattoirs in Camperdown (b) in the mines in WA or (c) at Safeway in Mt Gambier?

4. ‘Herm’ has worked at (a) one Camperdown pub (b) two Camperdown pubs or (c) three Camperdown pubs?

5. Before joining the inside supermarket staff, he was employed by Lees as (a) a maintenance man for ten years (b) a fresh food tester/taster for a week or (c) a trade union leader?

6. His long-suffering wife Vicki once ran a Camperdown business. It was (a) clothes shop (b) a fish and chip shop or (c) a sporting goods store?

7. ‘Herm’ attended St Pats’ primary and secondary schools and Camperdown High School. True/False?

8. His favourite subject was (a) Maths (b) English (c) Science (d) French (e) Geography or (f) Sport?

9. He was born in (a) 1952 (b) 1956 or (c) 1960?

10. He is a life member of (a) Camperdown Fire Brigade (b) Camperdown District Basketball Association or (c) Camperdown Golf Club?

11. He won the Judd Cup - Hampden FNL under 18s best and fairest - in 1973. True/False?

12. He played 113 senior games with Camperdown and coached (a) St Pats’ Under 18s (b) South Purrumbete or (c) Nirranda?

13. ‘Herm’ and his still long-suffering wife have four sons - Josh, a builder with Jamie Horan; Dean, a Brisbane Spartans basketballer; Simon, a security officer at Avalon and Paul Jnr, a chip off the old block. True/False?

14. How many full-time and part-time staff do Ritchies employ? (a) 50 (b) 40 or (c) 35?

15. About three years ago, ‘Herm’ was tired of hobbling around the supermarket so he had work done on a (a) hip (b) knee or (c) ankle?

16. ‘Herm’ Brebner’s advice for young people: “Head down, bum up. Work real hard, respect who you work for and learn everything you can.” True/False?
- HOW DID YOU GO?

1. (b) Paul. Don’t call him ‘Mary’.

2. (c) ‘Spin’ Clark used to dink young Paul to his baby-sitter near the Camperdown butter factory.

3. (a) Camperdown abattoirs.

4. (c) Three Camperdown pubs. In his spare time, ‘Herm’ estimates he has catered for drinks at more than 100 weddings and 21st birthdays so he understands the hospitality industry.

5. (a) A maintenance man. Stan Lee offered ‘Herm’ a day’s work after watching him with plumber Leon Clark at Stan’s house. “Been here ever since,” he quipped. Also on the maintenance staff for some years was the brother of ‘Herm’ - Michael ‘Lick’ Brebner.

6. (b) Fish and chip shop. Guess who ate the profits?

7. True. By his own admission, an “ordinary” student.

8. (f) Sport, of course!

9. (b) 1956 - 58 years-old this year . . . to save you working it out.

10. (a) and (b). By his own admission, a “shocking” golfer.

11. True.

12. (a), (b) and (c) Three times runners-up at Nirranda; early in his first season at South Purrumbete, the ‘Beaters won their first match for three years, defeating Lorne.

13. False - only three sons. There’s no Paul Jnr thankfully. All other information is accurate.

14. (a) 50 employees, about 25 of whom are under 20 years-old.

15. (c) A complete reconstruction of his right ankle.

16. Absolutely true!
- ## COBDEN CALENDAR
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| Sunday 8th June: | Cobden Football Netball Club Silver Circle. Civic Hall. |
| Monday 16th June: | 7.30pm CopRice Spring Festival meeting. Heytesbury Room. All welcome. |
| Sunday 29th June: | 2pm “The Wannabees” Cobden Senior Citizens’ Hall. |
| Monday July 7th: | Twenty20 Vision Community Plan Report-back. |
| Senior Citizens’ Hall: | Bowls 1pm Mondays. Cards 1pm Mondays, Thursdays, Saturdays. Hoy 1.30pm first Saturday of the month. |
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