

Church services resume at St Mark's



While St Mark's church is open for services, the cemetery is the next fix-it project after the Picton storm event in June 2016 damaged the church building and historic graveyard.

St Mark's Anglican Church in Picton will reopen on July 23 - 413 days after the storm event which wreaked havoc on the community and property. It's been a long road to the reopening which takes place with a service at 9.30am.

Congregation member, Brad Kitchen recalls that fateful day June 5, 2016. "I was leading prayers when the power suddenly cut out and microphone went dead," Mr Kitchen said.

"The service concluded amidst heavy rain, but no-one anticipated that two metres of water would surge through the building that evening."

Reverend Ben Boardman said reopening was a very anticipated event. "It has been a long 413 days, but we're thankful for the support of Wollondilly Shire Council, our insurers, and our builder, Pagewood Constructions.

"We're also particularly thankful to God for the resilience he's given to his people in the inconveniences and difficulties of the past year."

Rev Boardman highlighted it was not the "grand opening". "There is still plenty of

work to be done on the building, including storage, a bathroom and the reinstallation of a pipe organ.

"We will be sure to invite everyone along to celebrate with us when the refurbishments are finally complete."

Rev Boardman said one particular area that the church would like a helping hand with is the repair of the damaged grave sites in the Pioneer Cemetery, which has been estimated at \$70,000-250,000. "The cemetery has enormous historical significance and is not covered by any insurance policy.

"We're preparing to launch an appeal to crowdfund some of this work and details are available on our website: <http://pwac.org.au>."

After the reopening weekly services will again be held at St Mark's at 9.30am and everyone is welcome to join in on any Sunday.

The facility will also be open for special celebrations - baptisms, weddings and funerals. Following the church service on July 23, there'll be a barbeque lunch, history tour and festivities within the grounds.

Three steps to family succession planning

If you are thinking it's time to look at new horizons and you are in business - consider succession planning. Here are some of the immediate things to ponder:

Step 1 Initial meeting

Understand what is most important to you; Review your current situation and discuss your financial planning options; Gather the information required to prepare a brief for your lawyer; Compile all of the documents needed including those from other professionals such as your accountant, and Arrange a meeting with your lawyer.

Step 2 Meeting with lawyer

We facilitate discussion to ensure all relevant points are addressed; Brief your lawyer on your estate and your financial planning options; Clarify the meaning of any legal considerations raised by your lawyer; Co-ordinate timeframe with your lawyer for final legal documents, and Lawyer prepares documents and supplies them to you.

Step 3 Finalise details

Work with your lawyer so that your brief has been comprehensively addressed; Check there are no additional implications for your financial situation, and Your adviser can simplify the family succession planning process - answering your questions and helping you to work through the issues.

For more information about succession planning, contact your GFP Adviser.



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