

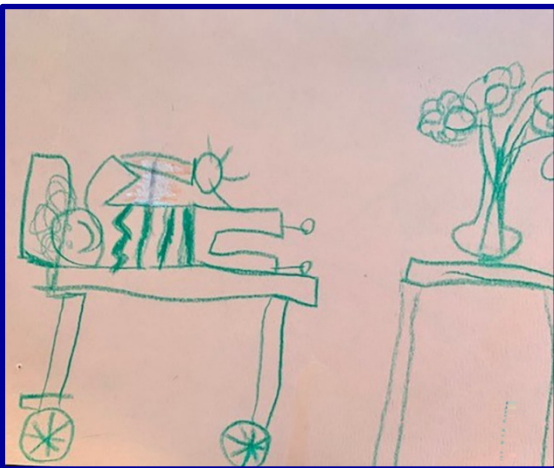


Looking Forward - Looking Back

Who could look at a small tribe of offspring and imagine them into the future?

Becoming a Grandparent is a joy, a reward for getting older and an amazing consolation for a long life lived AND a reminder that the memory can slip up sometimes.

How about those 21st century names mixed with older traditional ones? Grace, Ada, Louis, Riley, Emily, Rhys, Rosie, Finn, Clementine, Monty, Ned, Natalia, Jago, Milla, Ruby, Greta, Ruben - yes we have one of each! Now the memory crunch comes with the birthdays.



They tell many stories and give so much love. Like the question of why the farmer might “get rid of the rabbits that eat the pasture.” The wide eyed eavesdropper interjects “Oh no not the chocolate ones.” Or the beauty of a Prep grade story about her Gran in “hosdbl.” (illustration left)

When Sunday comes around and a glance through our community led by Fr John Fitzgerald and Fr John Corrigan, highlights the silver shades throughout: Like Moira Condon, one hundred years young this 2121 year. She held the door corner position, knows so many and was the first to greet us when we arrived new to the community many years ago; Like Bernadette McNerney organist extraordinaire and Mary McNamara for hospitality - all builders of our community.

Of course being an elder and/or a grandparent comes along with extra life concerns as we are left to grapple with a renewed set of issues - the health of small ones, their success at school, making the team and of course coping with Grandparents Day. Also add in our migrant families and these special days - Baptism, First Communion, school assemblies, sometimes we Grey Hairs become the Spare Gran with a new cohort to add to the tribe - welcome Doris and Nancy.

The rewards are manifested in so many ways but key to it all in our community is love. This is how we win in every way and gain all the blessings that “Love one another” includes, it’s the grand generation - such a blessing and the core of our life-giving community.



Marie Morgan – Warrnambool

Photo 1: Picnic on the veranda at Gran’s place

Photo 3: The treasure of children