

Discussion Forum 3



Ms. Denise Talbot

*Parish Advocate for Seasonal Workers,
Launceston Parish, Tasmania*

Parish ministry experiences with seasonal workers

Supporting Seasonal Workers, Northern Midlands Tasmania

St Augustine's Church
Longford Mass Centre,
Kings Meadows Parish

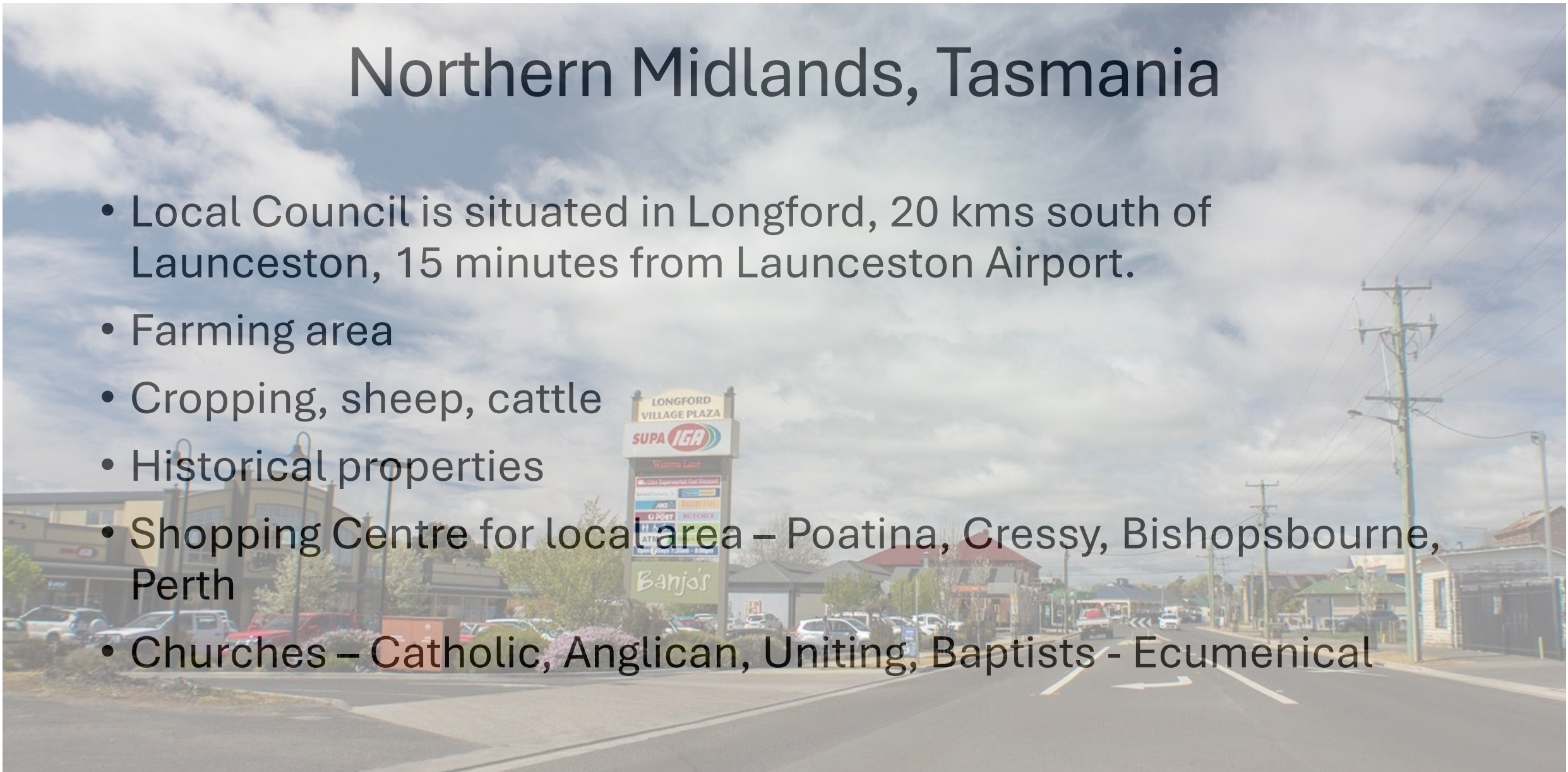


Introducing Denise



Northern Midlands, Tasmania

- Local Council is situated in Longford, 20 kms south of Launceston, 15 minutes from Launceston Airport.
- Farming area
- Cropping, sheep, cattle
- Historical properties
- Shopping Centre for local area – Poatina, Cressy, Bishopsbourne, Perth
- Churches – Catholic, Anglican, Uniting, Baptists - Ecumenical





Local Businesses Employing Seasonal Workers

- Mountford Berry Farm – Illawarra Rd Longford
- Burlington Berry Farm – Powranna Rd Cressy
- JBS Australia Meat Works – Tannery Rd Longford
- JBS Vegetable & Berry Farm - Cressy
- Tasmanian Quality Meats – Powranna Rd Cressy

Arrival Briefing Meetings

- By Invitation from Berry Farm Management
- Provide information on Churches' Service time-tables
- Support Facilities in the area
- Sporting & other Leisure Activities

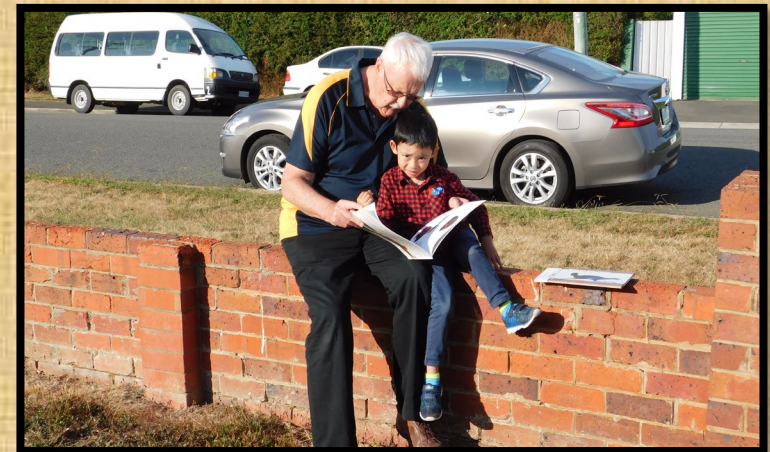
St Augustine's Catholic Church, Longford



- Part of Kings Meadows Parish
- 150th Anniversary celebrated in 2017
- Local Congregation, regular Mass attendees – 12-15
- Have welcomed mostly Timor Leste Seasonal Workers since 2019

Getting Involved With Seasonal Workers

- 2018 Workers had to travel to Kings Meadows for Mass
- Change of Mass time at Longford
- Welcome on arrival, assisting with prayer sheets, newsletters & hymn books
- Accepting their way of greeting
- Providing lighted candle at each statue & setting up Devotion candle sand tray
- Introduce liturgy involvement – offertory, hymns in language, readings





Liturgy



- Mass in language



- 1 January Mass

- Christmas Masses



St Augustine's Parish House



- Parishioner fundraising – Blessed & opened in 1988
- Provides 1 bedroom with ensuite, kitchen, laundry & large meeting room
- Provides Parish Hospitality, meetings, fundraising events
- A Retreat for Seasonal Workers - Sewing

Longford Community Welcome Party

- Theme: *Genuine Community and Parish Inclusion of Longford District Berry Farms Overseas Workers*
- 30 November 2019 on the Longford Village Green
- Hosted by Longford Catholic Parishioners
- Missionary Sisters of Service's "*Highways & Byways A Community of Service*" Small Grant - \$2,950.00



Babies

- Sheporio, born 15 March 2021
- Pregnancy Support
- COVID Border Closure
- Parish & Community Drive for Baby Needs
- A Baptism
- Celebrating birthdays



More About Babies!

- Stillbirth First Anniversary



AND MORE About Babies!

- Bety with Baby Erich, born 23 February 2024
- Mafalda with baby Hania, born 22 September 2022
- Vania's baby girl, Mavia, born 26 March 2022
- Lucas, son of Brigida & Soares, born 17 October 2021



Days for Girls Australia Ltd – Launceston Chapter

- Kit Distributions
- Sewing
- Supporting new teams in Dili & Bacau
- Teams being set up in Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, PNG, Tonga & Samoa

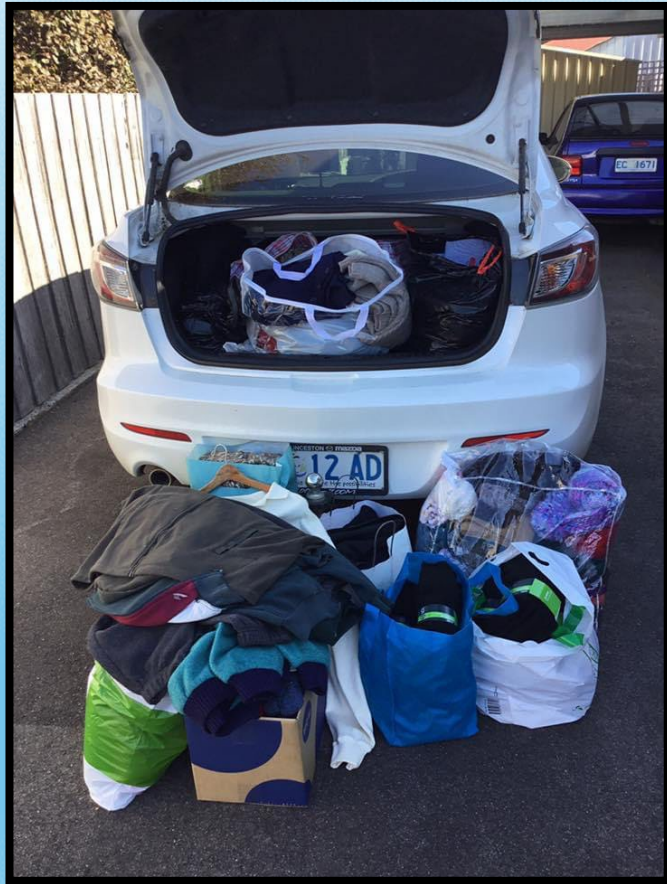


Agatha -Vanuatu



Bety – Timor Leste

Clothing Drives & Food Contributions



- Warm Clothes – Parish/Community Drives
- Longford Rotary Op Shop
- The Helping Hand Association Inc.
- Fresh Produce Donations



Rotary Club of Longford



- Maiton, a Dili Rotarian
- Musical Instruments - Solomon Islanders
- Rotary Community Shop



Community Celebrations

- Northern Midlands Council Event of the Year Award
- Community Baby Shower
- Longford Bowls Club 70s Night
- April Gathering



Sporting Involvement

- Soccer
- Rugby
- Volleyball



Community Pacific Festival in Longford



- Hosted by Northern Midlands Council
- Sponsored by Rotary club of Longford
- Donations from Local Businesses & Seasonal Worker Employers



Mum and Father

- Sharing Support & Love
- Scones, jam & cream
- Transport to Mass
- Furniture Move - Tongans



Mashing Potatoes



Sharing a farewell Timorese meal.





My Wish List and Highlights

- Community Networking
- More active Parish Involvement
- More suitable Sunday Mass Time at Longford
- Local funding for fuel costs & produce towards hosting of meals
- More Archdiocesan & Community networking

- Community Welcome Party - 2019
- Speaking on Radio & Examiner Newspaper follow-up story - 2020
- Sheporio's Birth & Baptism - 2021
- November Mass in Language with Fr Abilio - 2023
- Being asked by Bety to name her baby boy - 2024
- Community Pacific Festival -2024