

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS CONNECT IN COOMA



Mon 18 March 2013

Back to Church Sunday (B2CS) - March 17 – saw a number of parishes using a focus on the Diocese's 150th anniversary to successfully connect with their local community

In Cooma, about 110 people attended St Paul's with the church service billed as a special celebration from the Diocese's 150th birthday. The usual Sunday congregation is around 60 people.

"The music was played by the 16 piece Cooma District Band", said local rector, the Rev'd Paul Cohen. "My expectations were exceeded, and I think the expectations of the Back 2 Church Sunday committee were exceeded too ... We had a large cake professionally made for the occasion and invited the local press to attend, which they did."

After the service, the 150th birthday cake was cut by a 95 year old parishioner from Jerangle church, using a 1865 sterling silver commemorative trowel given on the occasion of the laying of the foundation stone of St Paul's Cooma.

"Many congregation members told me they thought the church service and morning tea with 150th cake was wonderful - and that having the Cooma District Band playing in church made it a real occasion too", Mr Cohen said.

This Saturday the church is running a second 150th Celebration, this time for families who have had children baptised at St Paul's Cooma over the last eight years. This will be a short service of thanksgiving in the hall, followed by a BBQ with jumping castle.