



Dear Friends,

You might wonder why I have included this picture in my Pastoral Letter. I have three stories from the floods.

The first is about a horse, loved very much by its owner but hurt during the floods and the wound is not healing. The owner is a woman of great faith, a woman who is tireless in working for those who have been impacted by the floods, who has been removing mud from homes and at the same time loves her horse and is greatly concerned for him. She would love prayer for him – I believe he was created as we were by our loving God, and I will pray for him.

The next story is about a 1-year-old kitten. His owner hasn't been able to go back to his property to see if his kitten has survived. This gentleman lives on his own and his kitten means the world to him. I do not know the gentleman's name, but can still pray for him, and all others who are wondering about their beloved pets.

Lastly, I sat with a woman yesterday who told me her story. She had three little dogs, and they were her "family", someone left the gate open, and one escaped onto the road and was killed. She said she doesn't care about the flood damage and the things she has lost, but it is the losing of her little dog that has upset her the most.

There would be many people feeling the loss of pets, and this on top of all the other losses they've experienced, is almost too much to bear.

[ALL THINGS BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL - Bing video](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bjbktnTuV30>

This is an old hymn that we've sung since childhood; the first YouTube clip is traditional, and the second one is by John Rutter. I trust you enjoy them both and remember "how great is God Almighty, who has made all things well."

Refrain:

All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful:
The Lord God made them all.

Each little flow'r that opens,
Each little bird that sings,
He made their glowing colors,
He made their tiny wings. *Refrain:*

The purple-headed mountains,
The river running by,
The sunset and the morning
That brightens up the sky. *Refrain:*

The cold wind in the winter,
The pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden,
He made them everyone. *Refrain:*

He gave us eyes to see them,
And lips that we might tell
How great is God Almighty,
Who has made all things well. *Refrain:*

In our prayers let us remember those who are without homes, those without power and water, those whose lives have been impacted for the second time in a year along the Hawkesbury Region. Those who are trying to make sense of it all. Those who have lost pets, their farmlands, their chickens etc. We all need to remember the impact on children, the very young ones don't understand what is happening, but older children do, this is the second flood in just under a year.

Our Gracious and Loving God, there are times when words fail us. We bring to you those impacted by floods all down the east coast of Australia, those who are not able to go back to their homes because their homes have been destroyed. Lord, many of us have never experienced the floods or fires that ravage our land, help us to be compassionate, to listen to the stories we hear and find words of comfort and hope for those who are hurting. *Lord in Your mercy and love: hear our prayer. Amen.*

In Christian love,

Lyn
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