

Holy Redeemer Church Murray Bridge SA

Stained glass
windows installed
to commemorate
the
Parish's Centenary
in 2011



Permission from the Ngarrindjeri Elders ...



The Ngarrindjeri Elders, with Chairperson Eileen McHughes, have given their approval to what I proposed and this has been officially minuted as part of the AGM meeting 4th August 2008. I appreciate the interest and suggestions made by the Elders because they very much enhance the symbolism of my design.

Michele Madigan rsj assisted greatly by enabling communication with the Aboriginal Elders.



Eileen McHughes, (nee Kropinyeri),

A Ngarrindjeri Elder is a keen student of her Ngarrindjeri language. She is on many committees and sees the importance of story telling and sharing to keep the Ngarrindjeri culture alive.

Eileen says, *"We were taught to have respect not to harm our ngatji."*

The cultural weaving is represented in the window by the women's gathering basket.

The weaving is done from the centre out

***"Stitch by stitch,
Circle by circle.***

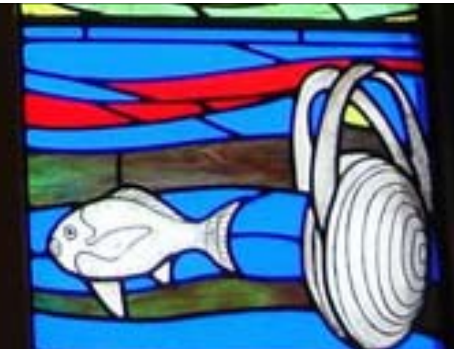
Weaving is like the creation of life.

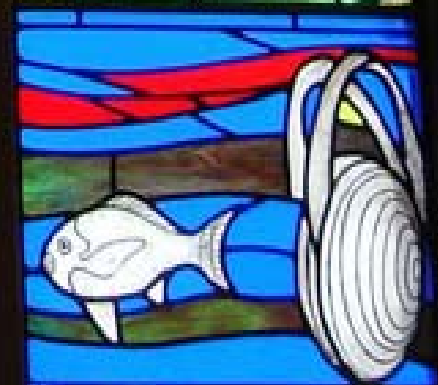
All things are connected."

Auntie Ellen Trevorrow

Sadly the fresh water rushes used for weaving are becoming harder and harder to find.

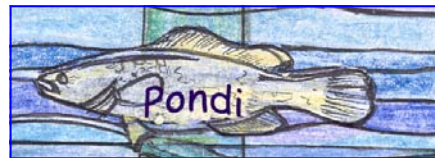
Photo of EllenTrevorrow's basket. Photo by Vesper





MURRUNDI (the River Murray) flows through undulating country.

The left fish is a Boney Bream ...
thukeri



The centre fish is the **Pondi**
(Murray Cod)

The right fish is a Black Bream ...
tjeri

The Ngarrindjeri Dreaming ...

Ngurundjeri created the Murrundi (Murray River) when he chased a giant Pondi (Murray Cod) through the South Australian countryside forming the river valley.

Near Murray Bridge, Ngurundjeri threw his spear transforming the Pondi into Long Island in the lands of Ngarrindjeri people.

Dying he thrashed around to create Lakes Alexandrina and Albert.
Ngurundjeri cut Pondi into pieces to become different fish in the Murrundi,
hence the thukeri and tjeri (As told by Ngarrindjeri Elder Stan Karpany)



The Murray bridge symbolizes connecting –**bridging the gap and reconciliation**.
The rainbow has the same idea .. *“When ... the bow is seen in the clouds I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature...”* (Genesis 9:16)



LEFT WINDOW

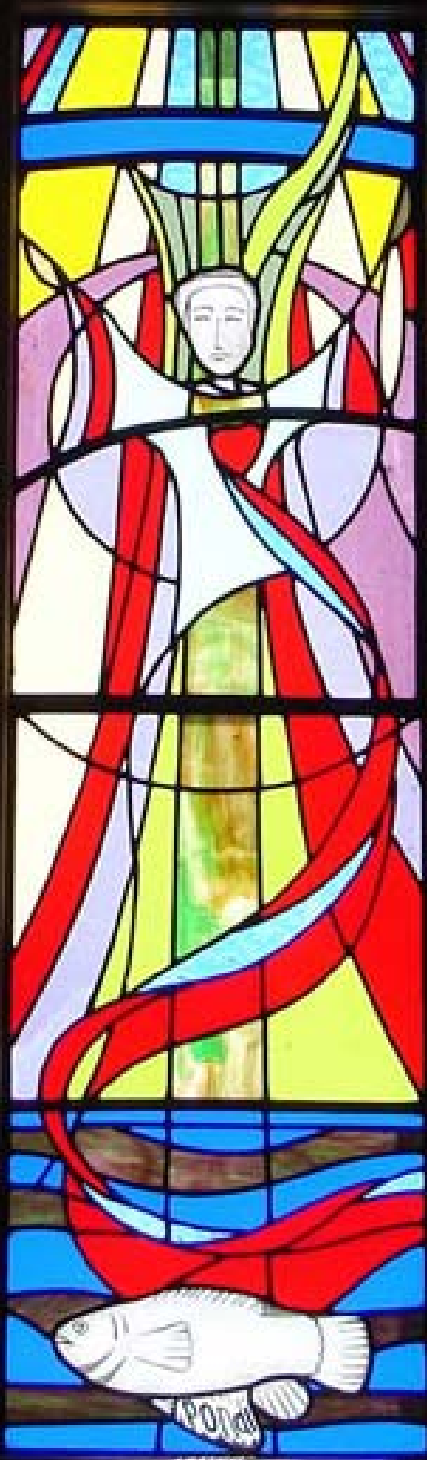
Fr Crowley
on horseback...
the expanse of
country through
which
he travelled...
also the railway lines
so important for the
Murray Bridge area



RIGHT WINDOW

Mary MacKillop with
children.
The traditional
Ngarrindjeri woven
basket represents
both Aboriginal
and women.

Holy Redeemer : Parish Patron



TOP CENTRAL WINDOW

As well as the pelican being prolific in area, the Christian legend that it feeds its young on its own blood and the story of Pondi all fit the Holy Redeemer theme.

CENTRAL WINDOW

Jesus, Holy Redeemer.

“The cross becomes the tree of life.”

“One of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear and at once blood and water came out” (John 19:34)

The birthing imagery of this indicate the nucleus of the believing community which is established at the foot of the cross at the “hour” of Jesus’ life-giving death.

The flow of blood and water (19:34) are highly evocative symbols of giving birth and the words of the Prologue resurface,

“He gave power to become children of God...” (John 1:12, 13).