

PRESBYTERY UPDATE



DATES 2021-2022

Group booking of contractor services, email due
November 2021

Treasurer and Property Officers Meeting
Zoom [link](#)
10am Tuesday, 23 November 2021

The Commissioning Service as Pastor for Gedeon Tito Rutabura and Justin Ndengeye Bugegeri
Wesley Uniting Church, Wollongong
1:00pm for a 1.30pm start Sunday, 5 December 2021

Induction of Rev Stephen Everist
Gerringong Uniting Church
2pm Saturday, 11 December 2021

Operation Christmas Child
Shoobox collection closes
11 December 2021

Retreat Yourself, Pulse Team Youth event
Chittick Lodge Gerringong
4 – 6 February 2022
[Link for Information](#)

Illawarra Presbytery AGM
Bowral-Mittagong UC
10am Saturday, 12 February 2022

National Church Life Survey Day
13 February 2022
Order your survey kit to participate [link](#)

Walking Between Worlds Seminar
10am Saturday, 26 February 2022
Port Kembla

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which our office and congregations stand and we pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

We acknowledge the sorrow of the Stolen Generations and the impacts of colonisation on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

We also recognise the resilience, strength and pride of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

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Office: 5/32 Addison Street, Shellharbour Village

All underlined, blue items in this newsletter are active links.
Click to connect

Presbytery Celebrations

Three Presbytery celebrations are planned over coming months.

The Commissioning Service as Pastor for Gedeon Tito Rutabura and Justin Ndengeye Bugegeri at Wesley Uniting Church.

Music and celebrations will kick the day off at 1:00pm Sunday, 5 December. The service will begin at 1.30pm.

Gedeon and Justin are leaders of the Afternoon Service for the Congolese community, held weekly at Wollongong Mission.

The Commissioning will be attended by approximately 170 people and celebrate this wonderful Uniting Church community.

The Induction of Rev Steve Everist as Minister of the Word at Gerringong Uniting Church is 2pm Saturday, 11 December 2021.

After so many delays due to the COVID lockdown, the congregation is looking forward to officially welcoming their minister.

Illawarra Presbytery AGM is 10am Saturday, 12 February 2022.

The AGM will be hosted by Bowral-Mittagong UC and held at Bowral, 28 Bendooley Street Bowral.

The day will include the Commissioning of Presbytery Bookkeeper, Pauline Doyle and the annual election of Presbytery committees.



Operation Christmas Child

It is time to think about getting your Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes in. Shoebox collection closes 11 December.

This year the shoebox gifts are going to Cambodia, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Madagascar and Vietnam.

The shoebox gifts are possibly the first gift that child ever receives.

After they receive their boxes they are invited to do a 12 week discipleship course "The Greatest Journey" and doing this many children and their families come to know the Lord and many new churches are formed.

If you would like to know more or want resources contact Robyn Johnson
Mobile 0414307910



Presbytery Committees Continue Working through Lockdown

COVID-19 and the postponement of the AGM has not stopped Presbytery committees from continuing to work for congregations.

If you are interested in contributing to the Presbytery and the future of the Uniting Church in the Illawarra, join a Presbytery Committee. Contact [Vi Richardson](#) for more information before the AGM, 12 February 2022.

Here are just a few of the activities of each of the committees.

Presbytery Standing Committee

- Progressed the placement of the Presbytery Minister – Mission and the Illawarra Presbytery's Strategic Mission Plan
- Contributed to Synod decisions regarding various insurances for UC congregations
- Participated in a discussion with Synod regarding parish missions and Future Directions

Presbytery Finance and Property Committee

- Communicated with congregations to help them with the health and safety compliance of buildings, offering financial and other assistance including 'group buy' of contractor services.
- Progressed the sale of the Lloyd Rees Building. The Presbytery is seeking a replacement property to create a more sustainable income source in support of the mission of the Presbytery and its Congregations.
- The Strategic Property Task Group has worked, in some cases with congregations, to investigate various UC properties that may have potential for better revenue generation to support missional activities.
- Supported congregations with the services of the Presbytery Bookkeeper, Pauline Doyle.

Pastoral Relations Committee

As part of its administrative duties the PRC was involved with:

- The placement of Rev Steve Everist as Minister of the Word at Gerringong Uniting Church
- 3rd phase conversations, Vital Ministry and Life & Witness consultations with a number of ministers and congregations
- The process to determine that Pastor Lucy Earl has satisfactorily completed her Period of Discernment

Presbytery Strategic Mission Committee

- Produced Options for Developing a UCA Presence in West Lake and Calderwood paper, to be submitted for Presbytery consideration at the AGM, 12 February 2022
- Worked extensively on renewing the Illawarra Presbytery's Strategic Mission Plan
- Worked with congregations to approve submitted mission plans
- If you would like to talk to someone about mission planning, please be in touch

Presbytery Education Committee

- Initiated the Governance Toolbox Zoom for Illawarra Church Councils, which will now be repeated in other presbyteries
- Organised the Illawarra Treasurers and Property Officers Zoom meeting, with eight Synod guest speakers
- Researched congregational requirements for Safe Church Awareness Training and communication equipment. Planning for ways Presbytery can assist congregations with these matters.

Ordination of Lyall Reid

Last newsletter included congratulations to former Bay and Basin UC member, Lyall Reid on his ordination in the Ballarat Uniting Church in August 2021. Due to the COVID-19 lockdown, Lyall's ordination was postponed.

Presbytery can now congratulate Lyall as his ordination has finally taken place at Ballarat Central Uniting Church on 16 October. Lyall will grow his skills and experience in pastoral ministry in the joint placement of Ballarat Central Uniting Church and Ballarat Regional Healthcare Chaplaincy before taking up duties as a Navy Chaplain.



Lifeline South Coast News

Lifeline South Coast (LLSC) were delighted to receive \$30,000 from the Illawarra Presbytery which was used to offer ongoing support of financial counselling services and building capacity within the Shoalhaven.

LLSC CEO, Renee Green commented "Lifeline South Coast is a local service that supports the coastal region from Helensburgh to the Victorian border. Your support is of paramount importance and we thank you for helping us to make a difference in our community."

The money has been used to assist a Student Intern complete her Diploma of Financial Counselling and become an Associate member of Financial Counsellors of Australia. LLSC Financial Counselling Manager, Anne Marie Sharkey noted "We gratefully acknowledge the Uniting Church support of funding towards this capacity building."

Following the bushfires and with the first COVID-19 lockdown, during 2020 LLSC:

- Answered 25,000 calls on the 24-hour telephone line
- Trained more than 650 people in suicide awareness
- Made 342 free face-to-face financial counselling appointments
- Assisted in 90 emergency suicide interventions

LLSC has been working in collaboration with Anglicare to provide additional financial counselling services to the communities of the Shoalhaven impacted by bushfires. LLSC also partnered with Family Services Australia Nowra to deliver Financial Literacy Program Money Minded.

During the COVID-19 lockdowns LLSC have been able to work from home and use technology to facilitate financial counselling appointments for clients.

Treasurer and Property Officers Meeting

10am Tuesday, 23 November 2021

[Zoom Link](#)

A great list of guest speakers from the Synod office will attend the next Treasurer and Property Officers meeting.

- 10.00am **Welcome:** Rev Diane Anderson, Presbytery Chairperson and Ross Johnson, Presbytery Treasurer
- 10.10am Kingsley Murphy, Presbytery Service Manager
- 10.30am **Sales Proceeds Process:** Cameron Eccleston, Mission Facilitation Consultant at UME and Linda Johnson, Head of Partner Solutions and Support - Treasury and Investment Services, Uniting Financial Services
- 10.45am **Update on Cheques Phase Out:** Linda Johnson
- 11.00am **Details of new key Synod staff and their roles and general Synod updates:** Albert Olley, Synod Chief Operating Officer
- 11.20am **Insurance Valuations and ACNC Annual Reports:** Gary Grantham, Director, Finance, Risk and Systems and Daniel Hogan, Insurance Manager, Risk & Compliance
- 11.40am **Record Keeping** – what do you have to keep and for how long: Barry Kirk, Records Manager
- 11.50am Questions & Wrap Up

Luke Lee, Director Strategic Property will be present to answer property questions.

Times are approximate and subject to change

The Zoom will be recorded, and a link for the recording will be available from [Vi Richardson](#) after the meeting.

Presbytery Finance and Property Committee (PFPC) – Assistance for Congregations



PFPC has written to Church Councils offering to include all congregations in group bookings of contractor services. The aim is to receive lower fees with the power of 'bulk buying'.

At present services will include thermographic and Residual Current Devices electrical testing, together with Fire Safety Statement inspections and fire safety services.

If your congregation is interested in potentially saving money on these services, please email [Vi Richardson](#).

In the same letter, PFPC offered additional assistance to congregations to explain the requirements in AESC building inspection reports and in developing a plan to complete building compliance tasks.

Synod's Governance Toolbox and Website

Is your church council looking to spend less time on governance?

Synod Risk Manager, Bel Ritchie has developed a Toolbox and website of tips, shortcuts, templates, guidance documents and more.

Click these links for the [Governance Toolbox](#) and the [Website](#) and the [Work Health & Safety Toolbox website](#)

What Can the Toolbox and Website Help You With?

- A range of administration requirements
- Compliance activities throughout the year with people, property and finance governance
- Planning risk and safety
- Quarterly compliance checklist, to take the guesswork out of what's due when.

Topics for help include: cyber security, managing your volunteers, reducing risk when planning events, cash handling, bush fire readiness and many more.

Is this Just More Red Tape?

No! Bel and her team have reduced previous lengthy documents to easily adapted tools.

The Risk Team wants to work collaboratively to build a strong culture of risk management and safety where care for each other and protection the people and children of the Uniting Church is paramount.

Email [Vi Richardson](#) if you would like the link to the recorded Zoom of the meeting with Illawarra UC members and Bel Ritchie.



**CONGREGATION
GOVERNANCE
TOOLKIT**

THE TOOLS YOU NEED TO PROTECT YOUR
PEOPLE, AND PLAN RISK, ADMINISTRATION AND
COMPLIANCE ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

Berry Uniting Church Wins Inaugural Climate Activism Award

(report from Insights, Wed, 3rd November 2021 by Jonathan Foye)



On Sunday 31 October, Berry Uniting Church was presented with the Five Leaf Eco-Awards' inaugural Climate Activism Award, along with the Basic Certificate and Eco-Worship Award. These awards recognise their commitment to action and advocacy for the environment.

The new award is open to all churches. It recognises and encourage churches to advocate for climate action in their communities, and to local politicians.

Berry Uniting Church's advocacy includes participating in the 'Sacred People, Sacred Earth Rally' and ringing their bell to sound the climate alarm in March, and the 'Faiths 4 Climate' Day of Action in October. The congregation also installed a new banner on the church to declare their concern about climate change. Congregation members have also met with their local MP.

The congregation has also taken practical actions, including completing an energy audit, installing energy efficient lighting, switching to Greenpower, implementing paper saving measures, a beeswax wrap making workshop, Season of Creation services, and installing solar panels.

John Brentnall received the awards on behalf of the church.

"It has been a long journey but I'm proud and absolutely thrilled that our little faith community has achieved so much and been rewarded with these Five Leaf Eco Awards," Mr Brentnall said.

The awards were presented virtually by Five Leaf Eco-Awards Director, Jessica Morthorpe. On presenting the awards, Ms Morthorpe said she was encouraged by Berry Uniting Church's long commitment to advocacy on climate change.

"We need many more churches to do the same," she said.

"After all, this is the greatest moral issue of our time. Thankfully, love of our Creator God and love of neighbour is indeed pushing many churches into taking action. We hope many of these churches will apply for our new award, so we can encourage them on the journey and connect them with other churches taking action."

In addition to the award presentation, the service included prayers for a successful COP26 meeting.

"We just don't have any more time to waste," Ms Morthorpe says.

The Five Leaf Eco-Awards are an ecumenical environmental change initiative for Australian churches and religious organisations founded in 2008 to assist, inspire and reward churches for environmental action. The Five Leaf Eco-Awards are non- competitive, with churches completing task from a list of flexible criteria to earn each certificate. There are currently seven awards of varying difficulty available. The Five Leaf Eco-Awards operate nationally and across denominations.

If your congregation would like to get involved in taking climate action, there are events and resources on the Uniting Earth website [link](#)



Congregational Name Changes

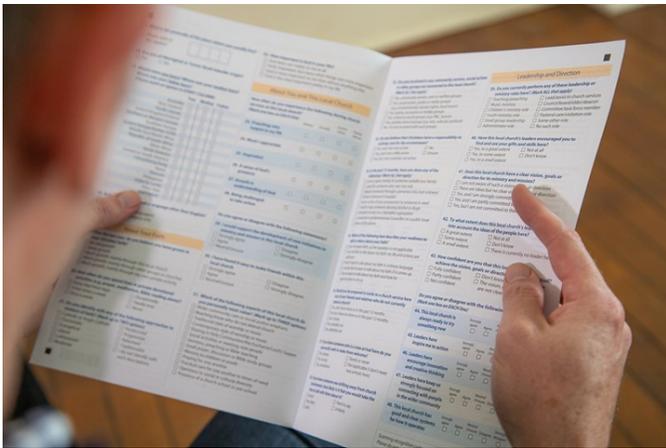
Please let your congregation know of the name changes of two congregations within the Presbytery (reported in the August Presbytery Newsletter).

Following the Amalgamation of Bowral and Mittagong congregations in July, the newly formed congregation is known as Bowral-Mittagong Uniting Church, abbreviated to BMUC for Presbytery use.

Corrimal Region UC has changed name to Corrimal Uniting Church, abbreviated to CUC for Presbytery use.



13 February - National Church Life Survey Day



Due to the lockdown disruptions to normal operations of congregations, the due date for completion of National Church Life Survey is now 13 February 2022.

This data on church life will provide a mission planning guide for the next 5 years so it is essential you return your Survey to assist the Uniting Church into the future.

If you have placed your order, the Survey Kit with the Surveys and instructions should have arrived in the mail late October, please keep in a safe place until it's needed.

If you haven't placed your order, it's not too late, go to the [website](#)

Contact Julie Tuesday-Friday if you need help with the Survey email: ncls@nswact.uca.org.au



Walking Between Worlds - working with LGBTQ people of faith SEMINAR

10:00 am to 4:00 pm Saturday, 26 February 2022

Central Church, 4 Fitzwilliam Street, Port Kembla

[Click for Flyer on the Workshop](#)

[Link to register](#), if you have not already registered and would like to attend.

Saltbush – Uniting the Scattered Community

Saltbush – Uniting the Scattered Community, seeks to encourage and connect Uniting Christian communities, irrespective of size or location. The team work to build relationships across vast distances and support people who are willing to explore new and creative ways of gathering as a Uniting Christian community.

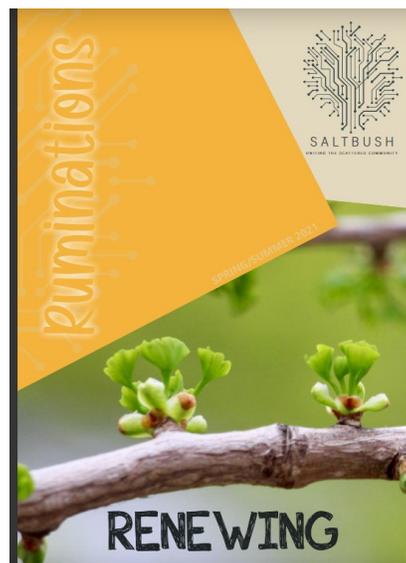
Saltbush connects and encourages in life and faith in far-flung Uniting Church communities through their online café, Zoom church services, and Scattered Community Gatherings.

Saltbush's triannual newsletter, Ruminations tells the stories of scattered Uniting Christian communities and the people who give them life. Ruminations also seeks to bring a genuine theology and Biblical reflection for our contemporary life and world. You can access the full edition of [Ruminations online](#).

Each edition of Ruminations has a single word theme, deliberately chosen to be difficult and challenging while holding on to a sense of hope.

The themes for 2022 are Family – Death – Land.

The current edition theme is Renewing.



Congregation Missional Activities Can You Help?

The last Presbytery Newsletter included many missional opportunities across the Presbytery seeking donations and volunteers. If you would like your congregation's activities in the next IP newsletter, email [Vi Richardson](mailto:Vi.Richardson@presbytery.org.au).

Summary of Needs

Donations

- Non-perishable foods (Bay and Basin UC and Wollongong Mission)
- Toiletries (Bay and Basin UC and Milton-Ulladulla UC)
- Kids Activity items (Milton-Ulladulla UC)
- Clothing, Manchester for Op Shops (Bay and Basin UC, and Corrimal UC)
- Money or grocery gift cards (Corrimal UC, and Milton-Ulladulla UC)

Volunteering

- Serve Meals (Wollongong Mission)
- Craft Shop one day per month (Wollongong Mission)
- Op Shop (Corrimal UC)
- Enz Meet Café (Corrimal UC)

Contacts

UCA Wollongong Mission

Wesley Community Centre Karen Zaini on 4229 2117.

Court Lane Craft Shop open from 9.30am—3.00pm Wed to Fri
Rachael McGarry on 4229 2117.

Corrimal Uniting Church

Corrimal Uniting Op Shop ph 4284 5356

Enz Meet Café Wednesdays

Living English Classes Thursdays in school terms.

Corrimal Men's Shed Monday

to Thursday ph 4283 4994

Bay and Basin Uniting Church

Huskisson Op-Shop and Community

Food Pantry. Vi Richardson can

connect you with Bay and Basin UC.

Milton Ulladulla Uniting Church

Reaching Out Group and Uniting Outreach.

Vi Richardson can connect you with Bay and Basin UC.



Share Your Hall Hiring Ideas

Presbytery is aware that some congregations are doing well hiring their church hall to outside groups. Other congregations are struggling to get groups and would like to develop this helpful income source.

If your congregation hires out your church hall or other spaces, could you please email [Vi Richardson](mailto:Vi.Richardson@presbytery.org.au) a list of the types of organisations who hire your hall. This will give other congregations in the Illawarra ideas as to which organisations might be interested in hiring their hall.

If you 'promote' your hall for hire on websites or in other ways, please email Vi those ideas to share across the presbytery.

Your hiring arrangements may be purely commercial. However, if you make missional connections with your hiring groups, we would like to share those ideas also. For example, have you asked dance groups to perform at church functions or held events that have involved your hiring groups?

Congregations seeking to hire out their spaces may be interested to read an Insights Magazine article on UCA partnership with Vennu, a digital marketplace for community spaces. Berry UC, Wollongong Mission UC and Chittick Lodge in Gerringong have already signed up.

For more information on Vennu, [visit their official website](https://www.vennu.com.au)

Read the full [Insights Article](#) here.



Uniting World Catalogue Out Now

Choose a gift this Christmas that makes a donation to communities supported by Uniting World.

Uniting World partners provide local resources such as farm animals, access to clean water and teacher training. Families are given a chance to build an income, beat disease and keep their children in school. To view the catalogue, choose a gift and read other Uniting World news view the website here [link](#)



Synod Website

Browse the Synod website to find

[News](#) – building developments, church and services in support of cashless gambling in NSW, church flood response and much more

[Shared Resources](#)

[Risk Bites](#)

Monthly quick reads designed to assist you with a range of issues like managing your volunteers, cash handling for congregations, planning a large event, browsing the web safely.

[Social Justice and the Uniting Church](#)

including the campaigns for Affordable Housing, Asylum Seekers and Environmental campaigns.



LOVE – RINSE/REPEAT

Rev Dr Liam Miller, ordained UCA Minister of the Word, hosts interviews and discussions with academics and theologians on his [weekly podcast program](#).

Download and listen wherever you get your podcasts or view videos of the interviews on the website and YouTube channel.

Described as gathering responsible god-talk from around the world, you can access 110 discussions with people such as Sathi Clarke, Naomi Wolfe and Sharon Hollis. Topics include: Religion and the History of the CIA, Decolonisation and the Preamble to the UCA Constitution, Psalms and Prophets in a Pandemic, Christian Women in the Patristic World and many more.



News from the Office of the Children's Guardian

More Working with Children Check extensions announced

Working with Children Checks due to expire between 27 September 2021 and 26 January 2022 have been extended for three months. People who are granted an extension will be advised by email and the system will be automatically updated.

As restrictions are extended due to COVID-19, the primary concern for the Office of the Children's Guardian is the safety of children.

[Find out more about the extensions](#)

New code of conduct template released

A code of conduct is an important part of an organisation's child safe approach. It helps manage risks that may arise through adult interactions with children and young people.

The Office of the Children's Guardian have created a new template for organisations to create their own code of conduct to help keep children safe.

[Code of conduct template and guide](#)

[More Child Safe resources](#)

The resources link includes videos, brochures, fact sheet and sample templates.

Videos of Past Seminars and Current Webinars

The Office of the Children's Guardian website has past workshops to view. You will be asked to provide your name and email address so that they can be in contact with you. Current seminars to join include how to use the SAFE book series which contains protective behaviour messages designed for children 2-6 years old.

Upholding children and young people's right to be safe

 Office of the Children's Guardian



Synod Videos <https://vimeo.com/nswactuca>

Vimeo is like YouTube with videos to watch. The NSW/ACT Synod has 243 videos on Vimeo you can view such as:

[Parish Mission activities for 2021](#)

New Growth: Missional Enterprises lead to New Community

Hold That Thought videos that run for just a few minutes from different UCA speakers

