

PRESBYTERY UPDATE

DATES

Closure of Ministry Service – Rev Dr Matthew Wilson
Nowra Uniting Church
Sunday, 10 April 9:30am

Annual Autumn Fair
Bowral Uniting Church
Saturday, 23 April 2022 8am

Living Our Values
Venue to be confirmed
4 June, 23 July

Treasurer and Property Officers Meeting
via Zoom
Thursday 19 May
Details coming soon.

Presbytery Retreat
Hartzer Park - Bowral
15 to 17 November

Presbytery Meetings
Saturday 14 May Bowral UC
Saturday 13 August venue TBC
Saturday 12 November AGM venue TBC
9:30am morning tea, 10am start

Adults Bible Study
via Zoom
Wednesdays at 7:00pm
If interested, please contact Rev Doo Ah Leeming.
revdooah@gmail.com or 0416 491 531

Presbytery Update

Is the newsletter of the Illawarra Presbytery
Published quarterly, it needs your input to be useful by letting everyone know what's happening in your congregation or zone.

Send your ideas or articles to:
Vi Richardson, Presbytery Administrator
Mobile: 0491 185 320
Email: Admin.ip@nswact.uca.org.au
PO Box 163, KEIRAVILLE NSW 2500

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.

Illawarra Presbytery Contact:

Vi Richardson, Presbytery Administrator
Mobile: 0491 185 320 Email: Admin.ip@nswact.uca.org.au
PO Box 163, KEIRAVILLE NSW 2500
Office: 5/32 Addison Street, Shellharbour Village

All underlined, [blue](#) items
in this newsletter
are active links.
Click to connect

Presbytery Office Bearers

Presbytery held its 2021 Annual General Meeting over two sessions in February. It was the first time the AGM had been held over two sessions on different days and was held on Zoom for the time. The meeting, originally scheduled to be held in November 2021 at Bowral Uniting Church as a 'face-to-face' meeting, had been rescheduled twice due to COVID concerns and restrictions.

Elections for office bearers and committee members were held.
A summary of the results were:

EXECUTIVE [PSC]

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| Presbytery Chairperson | Julie Watts NEW |
| Presbytery Deputy Chairperson | Rev Geoff Flynn |
| Presbytery Secretary | Arthur Ball |
| Presbytery Treasurer | Ross Johnson |

SYNOD ACOMP

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Presbytery Representative | Rev Grant Bilbey |
| Alternative Representative | Rev Dr Matthew Wilson |

PRESBYTERY DISASTER RESPONSE

| | |
|----------------|----------------|
| Contact Person | Sandra Roberts |
|----------------|----------------|

PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE [PRC]

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Committee Chairperson | Rev Dr Matthew Wilson |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|

PRESBYTERY FINANCE AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE [PFPC]

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| Committee Chairperson | Andrew Hunt |
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PRESBYTERY STRATEGIC MISSION WORKING GROUP [PSMWG]

new name and Terms of Reference

| | |
|----------------|---------------------|
| Group Convenor | Rev Kath Merrifield |
|----------------|---------------------|

PRESBYTERY TRAINING AND EDUCATION WORKING GROUP [PTEWG]

new name and Terms of Reference

| | |
|----------------|-------------------------------|
| Group Convenor | Catherine Cochrane NEW |
|----------------|-------------------------------|

PRESBYTERY EMPLOYEES [PSMWG]

| | |
|---|-----------------------|
| Presbytery Administrator | Vi Richardson |
| Presbytery Bookkeeper | Pauline Doyle |
| Presbytery Minister - Vital Ministry | Rev Grant Bilbey |
| Presbytery Minister - Mission NEW | Rev Dr Matthew Wilson |
| <i>commences 1 June</i> | |
| Shoalhaven Zone Mission Development Agent | Rev David Russell |
| Presbytery Mission Development Worker | Ps Lucy Earl |
| Tertiary Minister | Rev Doo Ah Leeming |

After 3 years as chairperson Rev Diane Anderson did not seek renomination as Presbytery Chairperson.

We thank Diane for her leadership through a very trying time for Presbytery. Diane has had to deal with the pandemic, bushfires, flooding and Zoom meetings.

Further news from the AGM can be found on page 2

Seeking Presbytery Assistant Treasurer

Presbytery is seeking a volunteer Assistant Treasurer for 4 hours per week.

Training, support and mentoring will be provided. The Assistant Treasurer will be an elected member of Illawarra Presbytery.

Working closely with the Presbytery Treasurer and Presbytery Bookkeeper, the Assistant Treasurer will be invited to attend the Presbytery Finance and Property Committee monthly meeting.

If you are interested in the Assistant Treasurer position, please email your interest to Vi Richardson Admin.ip@nswact.uca.org.au

First Peoples Engagement and Acknowledgment of Country

Nathan Tyson, Synod of NSW/ACT Manager for First Peoples Strategy and Engagement attended the recent Illawarra Presbytery meeting.

Nathan shared ways congregations can engage with Aboriginal Communities and supplied resources to assist with this.

Nathan is an Aboriginal man of Anaiwon/Gomeri descent (with connections to the Brown, Munro and Sullivan families from the Tingha region in North Western NSW). He has spent most of his life in Sydney.

For anyone who may be keen to find ways of working with local Aboriginal organisations or communities, there are a range of useful resources available via the First Nations Resources page on the Synod website:

<https://nswact.uca.org.au/first-nations-resources/>

Voice, Treaty, Truth

If you would like to hear Nathan offering his thoughts on "Voice, Treaty, Truth" (the 3 topic areas of the Statement from the Heart) at a Social Justice Forum organised by the Hunter Presbytery's Social Justice Committee please click: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?>

For about the last 10 minutes Nathan also talks about Aboriginal Community Engagement and offers some advice

Acknowledgment of Country

An Acknowledgement of First Peoples is a way of paying respect to First Peoples whenever we gather together.

The Uniting Church in Australia's national council, the Assembly encourages congregations, schools, agencies and governing bodies to ensure a Welcome by, or an Acknowledgement of, First Peoples is given at the commencement of all gatherings and acts of worship.

Why do we encourage this respectful practice?

Acknowledgement is an important expression of:

- the covenant which the Uniting Church in Australia has with the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC)
- the Preamble to our Uniting Church in Australia Constitution
- the affirmation by the 15th Assembly in 2018 of Aboriginal and Islander Australians as sovereign peoples in this land

What does it mean to Acknowledge Country?

- recognises the place of Indigenous people as the First Peoples of this land
- Promotes awareness of the history and culture of the First Peoples
- formally acknowledges First Peoples ongoing connection to land

You can find what to do and what to say in the Assembly's document Acknowledgement of First Peoples (Country) in the UCA [here](#)



From the AGM

Presbytery Minister - Mission

Presbytery had previously voted to create a second Presbytery Minister placement, Presbytery Minister - Mission. This position was created to relieve the existing Presbytery Minister, Rev Grant Bilbey of much of his significant workload.



The position Presbytery Minister was to be replaced with Presbytery Minister - Mission and Presbytery Minister - Vital Ministry. Rev Grant was offered either position, choosing the role of Presbytery Minister - Vital Ministry.

A Joint Nominating Committee (JNC) was tasked with finding a suitable person to fill the role of Presbytery Minister - Mission.

Rev Dr Matthew Wilson was called to the position at the AGM. Rev Matt will conclude his placement at Nowra Uniting Church with a Closure of Ministry service on Sunday 10 April. Matt has been in placement at Nowra since December 2015.

After taking a well earned 5 week break Matt will take up his new role on 1 June.

Presbytery Strategic Mission Working Group

At the last Presbytery meeting (February), the Presbytery Strategic Mission Working Group presented two important items for the consideration of the Presbytery.

Illawarra Presbytery Mission Plan

The Presbytery has now approved the mission/operational plan, and the Committees and Working Groups of the Presbytery are working hard to develop their work plans to reflect the priorities set by the Presbytery. The agreed areas of focus for the Presbytery for the next 3-5 years are:

1. Build a healthy, growing presbytery
2. Support congregations, working collaboratively
3. Nurture and equip healthy ministers and lay leaders
4. Facilitate new, wider mission opportunities
5. Adequately resource God's mission in congregations and communities

If you have any comments or suggestions about how the Presbytery can better serve and equip your congregation, please get in touch with us: Admin.ip@nswact.uca.org.au.

Exploring new ministry opportunities in West Lake

For a number of years, the Presbytery has been considering how we might invest in ministry and mission in the new development areas in West Lake, to the west of Albion Park and Dapto.

As the development has begun to take shape, it has become clearer that the new communities around Calderwood are very different from the communities planned further north. Presbytery has now agreed to separate our thinking about this region in order that we can explore working collaboratively with Albion Park UC in the Calderwood area to consider a regional approach; and also continuing conversations with a number of congregations to the north. If you would like to be part of any of these conversations, please contact Kath Merrifield at revkath@ozemail.com.au.

Please continue to pray for these opportunities - for God to open the doors we need, for people who might be called to work in these areas, for wisdom and courage as we seek to enable new ministries in these places.

Safe Church Awareness Training

If congregations are in need of face-to-face Safe Church Awareness Training, Presbytery Training and Education Working Group suggests inquiring into the Baptist Church *Creating Safe Spaces* course.

Contact for Baptist Safe Spaces is Joseph Lam
jlam@nswactbaptists.org.au



Creating Safe Spaces training is completed in two parts including an online module which can be completed at any time before attending a workshop at a cost of \$10 per person, and the workshop itself costing \$25 per person.

The online module can be done as a group with one person "driving" the online module on a large screen (or projector) while others watch on. The question portion of the online module can be filled in on paper by attendees and sent to the facilitator for accreditation.

The suggestion is to break up the online module into a couple of sessions, so people do not get too overwhelmed with information.

Workshops are three hours long and can be booked for Saturday mornings or afternoons, Sunday afternoons or weeknights.

A minimum charge for a workshop is \$500. A group of at least 20 people will cover this cost. Please contact Vi Richardson if you would like to run a workshop but do not have 20 people. There may be others in the Presbytery who could attend a workshop at your church.

If you are interested in host a workshop at your church, fill in the form at: <https://creatingsafespaces.org.au/hosting/>

Please note: there is no refresher allowance with a Creating Safe Spaces course.

UCA Illawarra members recently attended the Anglican face to face training. This course is \$50 and has no online component. The next date for Anglican training is Saturday 25 June. Information will be emailed when available.

For additional training options please see the Synod Safe Church webpage:

<https://nswact.uca.org.au/safe-church-unit/safe-church-training/>



Presbytery endeavours to assist congregations maintain safe places and programs



Ethical Ministry 2022 Session A

For those in ministry positions throughout Presbytery, the Ethical Ministry Refresher for the first half of 2022 will be conducted the same as for Ethical Ministry during 2021.

In place of the direct contact meetings that we would normally hold for Ethical Ministry, you are asked to meet together in your trio groups, choose 3 case studies to reflect on together via *Zoom* and write a reflection.

If you are not in a trio group and would like to participate in Ethical Ministry through the Illawarra Presbytery, please contact Presbytery Minister, Rev Grant Bilbey

For Retired Ministers you are asked to read the case studies and write a one-page, reflection on one of the case studies.

Instructions, resources and case studies for this round of Ethical Ministry will be emailed soon.

Being Mindful of a Minister's Day Off

The mental health benefits of completely unplugging from work are well documented.

An uninterrupted day of relaxation is important for mental health and wellbeing.

The age of being contactable anytime to answer phone calls and emails has been made worse with COVID-19, as the formal boundaries that separate work from non-work become even more blurred.

If we feel constantly connected, we are not truly refreshing and recharging, ready to come back to work at full mental capacity and maximum motivation.

Congregations can be mindful of a minister's or agent's day off by announcing in church and in your newsletter: *What is their day off.*

Suggesting emails and phone calls are saved for other days.

Recommending people make specific appointment times, where possible, to see the minister on another day.

If it can be avoided, don't schedule activities, events or meetings for the minister's day off.

From time to time, it may be necessary for Ministers to change days off, either as a one-off event or for a longer term. Please be mindful of being flexible and supportive when such issues arise.

Ministers and ministry agents are 'giving' people. We need to ensure they have time to switch off.

Please email Vi Richardson Admin.ip@nswact.uca.au to let her know the minister's, ministry agent's or any other employee's day off, so Presbytery can also avoid contacting people when they are off duty.

Woden Grants for Mission

Reminder: submissions for funding from the Woden Grants Fund close Thursday 31 March.

Has your congregation got a mission or ministry dream that needs some financial help to come to be?

The Illawarra Presbytery Strategic Mission Working Group invites applications for funding from the Woden Grants Fund.

Applications are open to Congregations and sub-committees of the Illawarra Presbytery.

If you have any questions or want to talk through an idea, please contact Kath Merrifield, Chair PSMWG revkath@ozemail.com.au

Guidance on the eligibility for funding and application documents are available from Presbytery Administrator, Vi Richardson email: Admin.ip@nswact.uca.au

Help is available. If you have any questions or need any help regarding the application process please contact Vi.

Prayer Points

- Areas within the Presbytery that are recovering from the recent storms, especially road damage through and into the Southern Highlands and Kangaroo Valley.
- Rev Dr Matthew Wilson and the Nowra Congregation as Matthew concludes his placement at Nowra.
- Rev Dr Matthew Wilson as he prepares to commence his placement as Presbytery Minister - Mission.
- Thanks for Julie Watts being called to the position of Presbytery Chairperson and prayer for her as she commences this role.
- The officers of the Presbytery and convenors and members of committees and working groups as they commence their new term.

Pastors Commissioned

On Sunday, 30 January Presbytery commissioned Gedeon Tito Rutabura and Justin Ndengeye Bugegeri as Pastors in Wollongong Mission UC

Mindful of COVID safety, the number of attendees who attended in person was limited to 100 and a further 20 people from around the world joined via Zoom. The service was led by Rev Geoff Flynn, senior Minister at Wollongong Mission and deputy chairperson of the Presbytery. He charged each pastor to be good shepherds of Christ's flock. While the congregation had to forego its usual energetic singing and dancing, the junior choir lifted the spirits of the congregation with songs of praise in English and Kirundi.

Gedeon and Justin approached Wollongong Mission in 2018 about the possibility of conducting a Wesleyan service of worship in their mother tongue for Banyamulenge families who, having fled persecution in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), were seeking to rebuild their lives. The congregation rapidly grew to incorporate new 10 families. Eager to learn about the ethos of the UCA, Gedeon and Justin completed the "Living our Values" and "Ethical Foundations in Ministry" and embraced the invitation to be commissioned as Pastors in the Afternoon service.

Prior to arriving in Australia with his family in 2018, Gedeon completed a Diploma in Law and a Diploma in Biblical Studies in Bujumbura, Burundi. He served as Youth Pastor in the Free Methodist Church of the Congo in a circuit of five congregations and 2000 members in Bujumbura.

Forced to flee his home in the DRC in 1998 to live in Uvira, Justin served as an Elder and Choir leader in Burundi. Moving to Kenya he was ordained as an Evangelist in the Breakthrough International Ministry. He and his family arrived in Australia in 2014.

In his response during the service, Gedeon thanked God for enabling him to do God's will. Justin said, "I believe this is God's plan". Both thanked Rev Geoff Flynn for his mentorship.

Photos: Danny Ivanovski of Keiraview UC
Caught on Film photography
phone: 0402197279;
Website: <https://caughtonfilm.myportfolio.com>
Instagram: [@caughtonfilm1](https://www.instagram.com/caughtonfilm1)



Presbytery Strategic Property Task Group

Available to Assist Congregations make the most of Property Assets

Recognising that many congregations require increased funding to achieve their missional goals and to cover the cost of building maintenance and compliance, Illawarra Presbytery committees and working groups have been considering how best to assist congregations raise the necessary resources.

From these discussions, the Presbytery Finance and Property Committee (PF&PC) formed a task group - the Strategic Property Task Group (SPTG).

The purpose of the SPTG is to identify opportunities presented by property assets under the beneficial stewardship congregations, that may have the potential to generate income for the congregation to fund mission, ministry and function.

This process commences with an invitation from a church council for the review of the congregation's property assets.

The Pastoral Relations Committee, the Presbytery Strategic Mission Working Group and the SPTG then work together with the congregation to consider the congregation's mission plan and how property could best support the congregation's missional goals and assist in generating income.

If a congregation needs assistance to develop mission plans, the Presbytery Strategic Mission Working Group can support a congregation in conversations about mission and preparing missional plans. Such a plan would guide the SPTG in their review of the best use of congregational property.

The SPTG is able to offer the following skills as part of the review - Experience in evaluating options, consulting with local councils, negotiating with real estate agents, knowledge of when to call in the engineer, surveyors, architects. Expertise putting together business plans where required.

SPTG has already, or are in the process of, assisting some congregations in the Presbytery – Albion Park, Gerringong, Nowra, Wollongong Mission – Lifeline South Coast. SPTG has also through their research/review achieved a successful outcome for the Lloyd Rees Property of the Presbytery.

If your congregation has an interest in exploring how church properties could best serve the mission of the congregation, please contact Presbytery Administrator, Vi Richardson.

Australia Day Honours - Sharon Hoogland

Mrs Sharon Hoogland of Bowral-Mittagong Uniting Church was awarded on Australia Day 2022 an Order of Australia Medal (OAM) for service to the community, particularly through the church.

Current Bowral-Mittagong Uniting Church Secretary, Sharon has a long history of service to the Uniting Church including a 17-year contribution to the Bowral UC Church Council; six years as Illawarra Presbytery Administrator and volunteer Secretary; and member of National Assembly meetings in 2015 and 2018.

Sharon's contribution to the wider community includes a range of mission-focused roles with national Christian community service organisation Mission Australia since 1984.

This award also recognised her service to Bowral UC offering gifts of music, preaching and Bible study leadership and to the food outreach program, to name a few.

"I found out very early on that God gives us a purpose," Mrs Hoogland said upon receiving the honour. "If we can find our purpose as we listen to God's call, and use the gifts and skills God's given us to work within the community or the church or wherever we are, then we're very blessed." Quote from the Assembly [website](#).

Thank you Sharon, for your outstanding contribution to the Uniting Church and for the use of your gifts and skills to the benefit of your community and especially those in need.

Photo: *Southern Highland News*
full story [here](#)



Living Our Values

During June/July 2022, Illawarra Presbytery will run **Living our Values** courses.

Living Our Values is an orientation to the: history, polity and ethos of the Uniting Church. You'll learn how the Uniting Church came to be, its journey so far, how we make decisions together, how we understand and nurture leadership as a 'Pilgrim People on the Way'.

You will learn how we make decisions together, and how effectively we communicate and nurture one another in our shared Christian discipleship.

Presbytery is endeavouring to offer the courses both electronically via *Zoom* and face-to-face, to suit the needs of everyone in our Presbytery.

Alternatively, **Living Our Values** can be run through church councils over a series of weeks.

Contact Vi Richardson if you would like to attend the courses in June/July or if your church council would like to hold the course at your church.

Presbytery will not be facilitating *Living our Faith* modules in the Illawarra during 2022. Check the Uniting Mission and Education (UME) calendar page for Living our Faith courses [here](#).



Community Course - Mental Health First Aid (MHFA)

Learn how to provide mental health first aid to friends, family members, co-workers and other adults in your community.

UME are offering an MHFA course, from *Mental Health First Aid Australia*

The course teaches participants how to assist people who are developing a mental health problem, experiencing a worsening of an existing mental health problem or are in a mental health crisis, until appropriate professional help is received, or the crisis resolves.

The course is \$150 per person.

The course is made up of:

- A self-paced eLearning component (takes 5-7 hours to complete), and
- Two *Zoom* Sessions with UME's Joanna Drayton (2.5 hours each session).

Rather than a set date, people or congregations interested in doing the course should contact Vi Richardson who will arrange a start date when the minimum required number of 7 participants have expressed interest.

NOTE: This course is **not** a therapy or a support group, nor is it a professional counselling qualification, merely a First Aid Tool.

COST \$150/person
VENUE *Zoom*



Plight of Refugees in Detention

Invitation to write to your local member

Invitation to write to your local member regarding the plight of refugees in detention

Congregations are invited to support the justice issue of Asylum Seekers by writing letters to their local members of parliament.

SBS recently screened a news story ([SBS News - Asylum Seekers](#)) about Religious leaders launching a campaign hoping to end indefinite detention. The report spoke about churches and other religious organisations in Australia coming together and appealing to the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition for a change in policy.

During 2021, members of Keiraview UC met with Federal MP Sharon Bird and Senator Kristina Keneally about Australia's humanitarian intake of Asylum Seekers from Afghanistan. In the meeting, Senator Keneally strongly affirmed that writing letters about Social Justice issues was a powerful way for churches to advocate.

Keiraview's Social Justice and Evangelism Mission Action Team have sent a letter to a number of MP offices of both major parties and independent MPs.

If your congregation would like to send a similar letter, the Keiraview letter below is an example.

Your letter should be adapted and reworded, using different examples, so to not look like a form letter. This allows it to have more weight in the offices of the MPs of the Government and Opposition.

13 February 2022

Hon Ms Karen Andrews MP
Minister for Home Affairs

Dear Ms Andrews

The congregation of Keiraview Uniting Church wish to express our concern for Asylum seekers who arrived in Australia by boat after 2013 and have been held in detention ever since. There still remains thousands in both onshore and offshore detention, including those in hotel accommodation in Melbourne. The effect this has had on their mental and physical health has been tragic. Twelve people have died by suicide or due to inadequate health care (up to March 2021) and the emotional impact of their imprisonment is immeasurable.

Mehdi Ali, a refugee from Ahwaz, Iran and who has been in detention for nine years recently wrote "People here are not only in prison – they are in prison with no charge, no trial, no sentence. We are here indefinitely. We are here indefinitely, to be humiliated by a system designed to crush our values, dignity and self-esteem. The worst kind of torture, in my opinion, is the kind that destroys a person's character. This – our character – is something we have to hold onto hard."

Rev. Tim Costello has said "Compassion is the core of every faith," and as a faith community here at Keiraview Uniting Church we join with other faith groups in asking both Mr. Morrison as Prime Minister together with Mr. Albanese as Opposition Leader to agree to meet in order to reach a bipartisan agreement together on releasing refugees and asylum seekers held in indefinite detention into the Australian community.

We also request for an end to temporary protection visas for people who have been on these for many years and that these people be given permanent residency. Until this happens these people are not able to make a future for themselves.

We look forward to hearing your positive response.

Yours Sincerely

Mr Geoff Lattimore
On behalf of the Social Justice & Evangelism Mission Action Team
Keiraview Uniting Church

Uniting Advocacy

Eating for Climate and Health: Our food system and how it needs to change

We know that changing our diet can be good for our health. But it can also be good news for the planet and reduce the impacts of climate change!

In this free on-line talk for Uniting Church members, PhD researcher Kate Sievert, will explore the connections between what we eat, the international food system and climate change.

Ms Sievert will highlight the bidirectional relationship of food systems and the environment and how future food systems may look if current production and consumption patterns continue. She will illuminate the role of big corporations in shaping our food system and the dietary choices we make. Finally, Ms Sievert will explore what a more healthy and sustainable diet looks like and what governments and individuals can do to support healthier people and a healthier planet.

You can register for the Eating for Climate and Health forum [here](#). Please share this event with others you know who would be interested.

This event is part of our Living the Change series. Living the Change focusses on the things that individuals and households can do to reduce their own greenhouse gas emissions, as well as looking at the wider social context in which those choices are made

If you have any questions about this event or would like more information, please contact Jon O'Brien on 0477 725 528 or at joobrien@uniting.org.

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| DATE | Monday 4 April |
| TIME | 7:00pm to 8:30pm |
| VENUE | Zoom |



Steve Everist

Presbytery recently welcomed Rev Steve Everist and his family to Gerringong Uniting Church, with a Commissioning Service held 11 December 2021.

Here's a bit about Steve, in his own words.

I told my father, who was a minister in the congregational, church that I was never going to be a minister, I think my exact words were, "that's a mugs game". I had seen firsthand the cost of ministry and I didn't want to go there. Then in 1988 a deep and profound encounter with God propelled me towards the very thing I didn't want to do. I dipped my toe in the ministry pool by becoming a youth pastor in the Guildford-Granville parish, I loved that time, but it became clear to me that the church was not geared up to be an intergenerational church capable of passing on the faith to the next generation so I candidated to be a MOW to do something about that, I'm still working on it. I did seven years of church planting in the eastern suburbs, then over the next 27 years developed children and family ministries at Turramurra and Pittwater Uniting churches. I still think one of the most important challenges we face is developing a discipling culture in our churches and that's one of the things I'm exploring with the new placement at Gerringong.

Along the way I have done a lot of music in and out of the church, wrote songs and recorded albums. I just love singing and playing music with people, I think it's one of the coolest things that God has given us. I have also done some overseas missions, first with the Alan Walker College of evangelism which took us to PNG and the Solomon Islands and more recently with a ministry in Zimbabwe. I am married to Deb, who worked for the synod for 22 years on *Insights* and is a wiz with digital design and websites etc. We have three children Kimberly, Timothy and Jesse (who still lives with us). I have a fair bit of passion for reading, the reality show survivor and sport particularly the St George Illawarra Dragons and the Swans.



Workshop - Walking Between Worlds

Working with LGBTQ people of faith

This practical training program provides an in-depth look into the world of LGBTI+ people of faith by understanding their contexts, identifying their experiences and giving you tools to journey alongside.

| | |
|-----------|---|
| DATE | Saturday 9 April |
| TIME | 10am - 4pm |
| VENUE | Central Church 4 Fitzwilliam Street, Port Kembla |
| COST | \$30/person includes morning tea |
| PRESENTER | Anthony Venn-Brown OAM |
| FLYER | here |
| VENUE | here |



Annual Autumn Fair

8am Saturday 23 April 2022

Bowral Uniting Church

(opposite Coles supermarket)



All your favourite stalls:

Books, DVDs — a new supply

Plants

Home Baked Goodies

Jams & Marmalades

Craft

All your favourite food:

All day BBQ from 8.00am

Devonshire Tea/Coffee

