

PRESBYTERY UPDATE

DATES

KYB 50 Years Celebration

Keiraview Uniting Church
Friday, 22 July 10:00am

Women in Ministry Retreat

St Joseph's Spirituality and Education Centre
Kincumber South
24-27 July

Shoalhaven Central UC Commencement Service

Shoalhaven Central Uniting Church - Nowra
Sunday, 31 July 9:30am

Safe Church Training

Shoalhaven Central Uniting Church - Nowra
Saturday, 6 August 9:30am - 4:00pm
Register: [here](#)

Mental Health First Aid Course

Zoom
Tuesday 23 August, Monday 12 September
Register interest: Admin.ip@nswact.uca.org.au

Soul Care UME Conference

online and Wesley Mission Centre - Sydney
31 August - 2 September
Register: [here](#)

Presbytery Meetings

Saturday 13 August **Shellharbour Village UC**
Saturday 12 November AGM **venue TBC**
9:30am morning tea, 10am start

Living Our Values small group

Dates & Venue to be confirmed (Possibly via Zoom)
Register interest: Admin.ip@nswact.uca.org.au
no longer at Corrimal UC on 23 July

Presbytery Retreat

Hartzer Park - Bowral
15 to 17 November

Woden Grants for Mission

The Presbytery Investment Strategy was developed to assist the Illawarra Presbytery secure ongoing revenue, and income, and to pay for significant positions and activities within the Presbytery. One such activity is the Grants for Mission program. A total of \$90,000 was available.

In 2021 grant recipients' projects and programs ranged from repairs to church buildings and grounds to audio-visual equipment used to broadcast services, an outdoor community space, a reflection garden, and a school breakfast program.

For 2022, grants were given for outdoor furniture, renewal of a disability ramp, funding for a mission development worker, furniture and resources for cooking classes and the Blue Tree project at Nowra UC.

Photos from 2021 projects and programs can be found on page 11

Amalgamation

Shoalhaven Central Uniting Church



On Friday 1 July Shoalhaven Central Uniting Church (SCUC) came into existence following the amalgamation of Bay & Basin, Bomaderry and Nowra Uniting Churches.

All three congregations will be equal together in the new congregation.

Existing Sunday worship services will continue at all three Worship Centres.

A single interim Church Council, whose role is to oversee finance, property and compliance and work with the ministers on the strategic ministry directions of the area, has been elected. The interim Church Council has 12 members - 4 from each of the former congregations (Bay & Basin, Nowra and Bomaderry). The interim Council will remain in place for two years. An election will then be held to elect the first SCUC church council without minimum number requirements from each of the original congregations.

The new congregation will eventually have two fulltime (equivalent) ministry placements. It will be important that one of the Ministry placements has a focus that is different from what some would consider a usual Minister position so that it has freedom to develop and support ministry opportunities that build the Church in the region.

The other Ministry placement would support the usual ministry roles that are needed in a congregation, but would also need a strategic edge that grows members in their discipleship and engagement in the community.

The ministers would form a team, ministering collegially together. The two positions will minister across all three locations.

While the new congregation starts the process of calling minister(s), Presbytery has arranged for two supply ministers - Rev Janice Freeston and Rev Dr David Millikan. Janice and David will minister across all three locations.

The Op-Shops at Huskisson and Nowra will continue to support the congregation.

A commencement service will take place on Sunday 31 July at the Nowra Worship Centre (the Wesley Centre). Guest speaker will be Rev Peter Walker - principal at United Theological College (UTC).



Uniting Church
SHOALHAVEN CENTRAL

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

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

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

From the Presbytery Meeting

The quarterly Presbytery meeting was hosted by Bowral-Mittagong UC and held at Bowral on Saturday 14 May.

Candidate Lucy Earl

At the end of April 2022, Lucy Earl concluded her position as Mission Development Worker Southern Highlands having served in the role for four years. In her productive ministry, Lucy established ministries and raised up leaders and volunteers to move forward with the ministries. Lucy presented a report about the role at the Presbytery meeting.

At the same meeting, the Presbytery supported the application of Lucy to candidate for the Ministry of Deacon and enter 2nd stage formation. The vote by secret ballot was unanimous.

Lucy has completed her Period of Discernment and discerned a call to the Ministry of Deacon. She spoke about her sense of call and answered questions from Presbytery representatives.

The Presbytery thanks Lucy for her ministry in the role as Mission Development Worker Southern Highlands and pray God's blessings on her future ministry.

Rev Diane Anderson - New PRC Chairperson

Rev Diane Anderson did not nominate as Presbytery Chairperson for 2022, and Julie Watts was elected as the new Presbytery Chair at the Illawarra Presbytery 2021 AGM.

The Presbytery recorded the following Minute of Appreciation for Diane's time and work in the role:

It is with great appreciation that the Illawarra Presbytery of the Uniting Church in Australia recognises the work and commitment of the Reverend Diane Anderson on the conclusion of her three-year term as Chairperson of the Illawarra Presbytery. Diane retired into the Illawarra Presbytery to support the work of her local congregation. However, God had other plans for Diane, and she was shortly thereafter elected Chairperson of the Presbytery in November 2018.

Drawing on her extensive knowledge as a past Associate General Secretary of the Synod of NSW/ACT Diane has guided the Presbytery through a period of significant growth and change. The acquisition of the Woden Centre in Canberra as a commercial investment to resource ministry in the Presbytery placed additional responsibility on the Chairperson in terms of risk and compliance. Likewise, the resultant increase in the number of staff employed by the Presbytery, Diane has fostered a strong culture of teamwork and continuous improvement. This was particularly evident during the periods COVID lockdown. Diane offered steady leadership as the Presbytery came to terms with on-line meetings and social isolation.

At the first Presbytery meeting after COVID, Diane invited congregations to share their experiences during the lockdown.

Noting the extensive initiatives Illawarra Uniting Churches had put in place to continue to serve their congregations and communities, Diane started the Presbytery Initiatives group.

Her aim was to build on this creativity to propel the us forward into new ways of being church.

From this came the Standing Committee's planning meetings which resulted in the Presbytery Vision task group.

With Diane's encouragement, the Presbytery has refreshed strategic and operational mission plans, a renewed culture of collaboration, and the placements of a Presbytery Minister - Mission and Presbytery Minister - Vital Ministry to facilitate the work of the Presbytery and contribute to the life of congregations.

And so it is with great humility that the Illawarra Presbytery extends its thanks to Diane for all her ministry in the name of Christ and rays God blessing upon her and Peter in the years to come.

Diane continues to work for the Presbytery as the new chairperson of the Presbytery Pastoral Relations Committee. Rev Dr Matthew Wilson vacated the position when he accepted the call as the Presbytery Minister - Mission. Diane nominated for the role at the Presbytery meeting and was elected unanimously.

New Presbytery Auditor

Cliff Hughes of Dapto UC has conducted the audit of the Presbytery finances for many years.

The Presbytery wishes to thank Cliff for utilising his gifts to work for the Presbytery in this role.

Glenn Dudley has accepted the offer to become the Presbytery auditor for the 22/23 annual audit.

Glenn Dudley has been a member of the Moss Vale/Bundanoon Uniting Church for 12 years and has served as the Chairman of the Church Council, Assistant Treasurer and Moss Men Coordinator.

Glenn's service as a Christian, endeavours to support the local community in which he lives and worships.

Glenn brings over 30 years of relevant experience to the role of Presbytery Auditor and is a qualified accountant having a BEc (Hons), Dip. Ed and is a Fellow of the Certified Practising Accountants.

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

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.

Help With Compliance

Property Templates

The property inspections reports done by Australian Essential Services Compliance during 2020-21 showed a need for asbestos reports, chemical registers, contractor registers etc. These are available from Vi Richardson for congregations to easily complete. Please contact Vi for copies and let her know if you need help to complete the templates for your church.

Fire Safety Training

Venue and Dates to be confirmed

Later in 2022, Presbytery will organise training to assist congregations in a fire emergency.

At least one person from each congregation is recommended to participate in the training.

The cost is approximately \$200 per person but the cost will decrease if Presbytery can get more than 6 people to attend the training. Scholarships are available for some of the cost, on application to the Presbytery.

The course will take between 3 to 5 hours.

Register your congregation's interest by emailing Vi Admin.ip@nswact.uca.org.au

Privacy Policy

Presbytery has updated the Presbytery Privacy Policy, and this will soon be published on the Presbytery Website.

Presbytery has also written a Privacy Policy for congregations to use as their own, just add your congregation name and implement the suggestions on the information sheet such as:

- Electing a Privacy Officer
- Ensure paper and electronic files are secure
- Ask permission before sharing email addresses, photos, names, and news or pastoral concerns about people.

The policy is being reviewed for feedback by a congregation. The policy will be emailed to congregations when this is received.

Presbytery will offer a *Zoom* training event for congregation privacy officers later in 2022.

Volunteer Compliance

Synod's website features new volunteer compliance forms and guidance to assist congregations. Presbytery is aiming to hold a Zoom training session for congregations to use this new paperwork.

Volunteers need to be registered with your congregation to be covered by insurance. A congregation needs a volunteer register and completed registration forms. Presbytery aims to assist congregations with these necessary steps.

What to do after a congregational election or change of office-bearers

After an election or change of office-bearers there are three steps to take, two within 28 days.

1. A congregation should submit to Synod and Presbytery the Secretariat-update-contact-details-form that was emailed to congregations by Vi Richardson on 3 June. Please contact Vi if you require a copy.

Synod and Presbytery use the information to contact your congregation throughout the year for a range of reasons. The information is not published. If you need help to complete for form, please phone me for assistance.

2. Charities have a duty to notify the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) with changes to their details, including Responsible People and governing documents.

Once you are aware of a change in your details, you must notify the ACNC as soon as you reasonably can but no later than: 28 days (for medium and large charities) or 60 days (for small charities).

For more info: www.acnc.gov.au/for-charities/manage-your-charity/update-charity-details

3. Update ABN details

It is a congregation's responsibility to maintain your Australian Business Number (ABN) details.

You must update your details within 28 days of becoming aware of changes.

For more info: www.abr.gov.au/business-super-funds-charities/updating-or-cancelling-your-abn/update-your-abn-details

Contact Vi Richardson Admin.ip@nswact.uca.org.au if you need more details or assistance with these three steps.

Annual Fellowship Day

The Illawarra Presbytery Annual Fellowship Day was held this year 26 May 2022 at Kiama Uniting Church. Special guest was Mark Matthews from Illawarra ABC Radio.

Mark is a very talented musician who played some of his compositions on the Piano and talked about his life and family, still involved with the church in the Wollongong area.

The weather was kind and UCAF sold cards and gifts, many supplied by Rev Noreen Towers. Kiama-Jamberoo UC Minister, Rev Kath Merrifield organised the singing group and contributed throughout the day including the Call to Worship, Blessing and Grace.

Certificates were given to members who have served the Church for 70 plus years (see photo below).

Towards the end of the event, the Tapa Cloth was handed to Presbytery Chairperson, Julie Watts (see photo right).

In 1984, the Synod Fellowship Committee received a large Tapa Cloth. It was a gift to the women of the Uniting Church in Australia from Queen Halaeva Mata'aho and presented by Tongan members of the World Federation of Methodist Women at the WFMW Pacific Area Seminar in Melbourne in 1984. The whole cloth measured 25 metres by 4 metres and was the product of many hours of community effort in Tonga.

In 1992, the Synod Fellowship Committee was given permission by Tonga to divide the Tapa Cloth into enough pieces for each of the 13 Presbytery Fellowship Committees in NSW and ACT to receive a piece. In the Illawarra, it was decided that the host for the Annual Rally would be presented with the Tapa Cloth to hang in their Church or Hall for the following 12 months.

Our Illawarra Tongan friends tell us that Tapa Cloth is made from the bark of the paper mulberry tree (*Broussonetia papyrifera*), known in Tonga as hiapo. It is soaked in water and beaten flat several times. The markings on the cloth are produced from the bark of other trees.

In earlier times, the Tongans used tapa cloth for clothing, and it is still used for blankets, although mostly its use today is ceremonial. Our Presbytery piece is a special symbol of solidarity with our Pacific neighbours.

The host of the 2023 Illawarra Fellowship Day has not yet been confirmed so the Tapa cloth was passed to Julie Watts - Presbytery Chairperson.



Rev Dr Matthew Wilson

Closure of Ministry Service from Nowra

Rev Dr Matthew Wilson's Closure of Ministry Service for his placement at Nowra UC took place on Sunday 10 April. Matt's placement at Nowra commenced just prior to Christmas 2015 with his induction taking place on 19 December 2015.

During his 6½ years at Nowra Matt:

- Became involved in the management committee of Safe Shelters Shoalhaven which involved the Wesley Centre being used as the Homeless Hub, providing emergency accommodation over the winter of 2018. This has led to the creating of a permanent facility in Nowra
- Instigated and oversaw management structure change to the Wesley Opportunity Shop allowing it to develop into the missional and financial success it is today;
- Oversaw and encouraged the introduction of UNWIND pre-school play-together group and Messy Church
- Strengthened the relationship between NUC and Greenwell Point Union Church, with whom Nowra has a long-standing preaching supply arrangement;
- Provided dignity and service to worship at the *Uniting* Osborne facility;
- Instigated property discussions with *Uniting* clarifying historical land beneficial stewardship anomalies, and exploring potential development opportunities;
- Guided Nowra into amalgamation with Bay & Basin and Bomaderry to form Shoalhaven Central Uniting Church.

As a farewell gift, Matt was presented with a canvas print of a photo taken by a congregation member in Kangaroo Valley in January 2020. The photo (right) shows vibrant new growth breaking through following the devastating 2020 bushfires.



Rev Dr Matthew Wilson

Induction as Presbytery Minister – Mission

As reported in the April *Presbytery Update*, 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 new structure sees Rev Grant Bilbey in the role of Presbytery Minister - Vital Ministry and Rev Dr Matthew Wilson in the role of Presbytery Minister - Mission.

The Induction Service for the Presbytery Minister – Mission was held 18 June at Kiama Uniting Church. The service also acknowledged the transition of Presbytery Minister, Rev Grant Bilbey to the new role of Presbytery Minister – Vital Ministry.



Living Our Values

Dates & Venue to be confirmed Possibly via Zoom

no longer at Corrimal UC 23 July as previously advertised

During second-half 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 about; 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.

This course is for:

- All those who attend a Uniting Church
- All those in local leadership positions in the Uniting Church

Register interest: Admin.ip@nswact.uca.org.au



Community Course - Mental Health First Aid (MHFA)

Tuesday 23 August, Monday 12 September

Register soon to start the at home modules before the course date.

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.

COST \$150/person
VENUE *Zoom*

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).

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

Register interest: Admin.ip@nswact.uca.org.au



Ethical Ministry

Dates and Venues to be confirmed

After 2.5 years in a small group/individual format, Presbytery is excited to be able to offer Ethical Ministry face to face for Session B 2022.

Venues and dates will be announced soon by Presbytery Training and Education Working Group.

Three locations will be available, and we trust that there is one available to suit you.



Soul Care

Rediscover and reimagine pastoral care at Soul Care 2022.

Join Uniting and the Synod of NSW & ACT for this exciting new conference, where you will be energised, inspired and equipped to bring transformative pastoral care to your church, community and school.

Discover innovative developments and practices, understand community-based approaches and explore existing ministries and programs that give you opportunities for engagement, whether in disaster relief, at school or on social media.

And get practical, with all the skills, tips and tools you'll need to take your ideas into the world. There will be keynote speakers, workshops, panel discussions, daily reflections and much more.



SOUL CARE KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



John Brogden AM



Rev. Graeme Tutt



Dr Deidre Palmer

Uniting and the Synod of NSW & ACT are excited to present our three Keynote Speakers: **John Brogden AM**, current Lifeline Australia Patron; **Reverend Graeme Tutt**, Head of Chaplaincy and Pastoral Practice at *Uniting*; and **Dr Deidre Palmer**, Former President of the Assembly, Uniting Church in Australia, counsellor, theologian and social worker.

COST	\$60	3 day virtual attendance
	\$60	1 attendance
	\$149	3 attendance
	All physical attendance passes include access to unlimited conference sessions for the day(s) applicable to the ticket purchased, plus morning tea and afternoon tea.	
VENUE	Wesley Mission Sydney 222 Pitt Street, Sydney Zoom	

FOUR WAYS TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT SOUL CARE 2022

1. [Soul Care 2022 website](#)
2. [Soul Care Facebook event page](#)
3. contact soulcare@nswact.uca.org.au
4. phone the UME Admin team on 02 8838 8912 or 02 8838 8946



Psychological and Counselling Services

Uniting Recovery Service - PCI

Uniting Recovery Service PCI offers a range of services to address issues such as:

- Anxiety
- Depression
- Adjustment difficulties associated with life changes
- Stress
- Grief
- Pornography use
- Relationship problems
- Sexual identity conflict
- Trauma

Our psychologists and counsellors provide evidenced based interventions that are integrated with our client's spiritual needs to address personal, relationship, and family issues.

Medicare benefits are available for clients with a Mental Health Treatment Plan (MHTP).

Our Psychologists/Counsellors:

- Sharon van Doorene (Senior Psychologist) MACC
- Naomi Millar-Powell (Psychologist) MPP
- Dirk van Doorene (Pastoral Counsellor) MA

If you would like to find out more or wish to make an appointment, please

PHONE 9683 3664 or

EMAIL pci@uniting.org

Part of Parramatta Mission and since June 2021 and part of *Uniting* prior to that, PCI is a unique service that offers counselling and psychological services to those whose lives are impacted by mental illness and relationship difficulties.



Uniting



What Australians *really* think about Jesus and the Church today... and how this impacts you, your community and the Church's mission.

In case you missed it.

The webinar offered by NCLS and Karl Faase, offers some perhaps surprising insights into the church and the Australian community. It balances some of what the media made of the Census data about the growing group of people describing themselves as "not religious". It goes for about an hour - so grab a cuppa and listen in.

You'll discover:

- which groups of Australians are most open and engaged;
- the difference that factors like age and gender can make;
- what this means for the mission of your congregation and the broader Aussie church.

Speakers Dr Ruth Powell will share latest results from the Australian Community Survey while Karl Faase will provide his reflections on the implications of these findings for ministry and mission.

Links to the whole 1 hour presentation, short snaps from the presentation and the slides, click on the following link: [Webinar Links](#)



IN CASE
YOU
MISSED
IT



Dr Ruth Powell
Director, NCLS Research



Karl Faase
CEO, Olive Tree Media

Uniting Mission and Education *Events and Courses*

<https://ume.nswact.uca.org.au/upcoming-events/>



Out of the Box Missional Conference

Friday and Saturday, July 29-30

We challenge participants to approach ministry and mission in fresh and exciting ways and equip you with the latest and greatest missional tools to take to your own contexts and continue to explore and grow your congregation.

You and leaders from your congregation are invited to participate, learn, connect, and share with the wider NSW/ACT Synod. We'll be hearing from leading keynote speakers with a choice of Missional Masterclasses to choose from, hosted by members of the Mission Enablement Team and our wider church.

Keynote speakers: Rev Tim Costello and Rev Ellie Elia

Attendance in person at North Parramatta or purchase a digital pass for recordings, after the conference.

<https://umewact.uca.org.au/calendar/out-of-the-box-missional-conference/>



Pulse | YouLEAD Camp

Saturday and Sunday, 30-31 July

Are you 18-35 and wanting to get into leadership? This 2-day camp is the place to start.

Are you ready for a deep-dive into youth leadership? This retreat is the perfect place to integrate leadership tools with your own experience.

VENUE Vision Valley Conference Centre 7 Vision Valley Road, Arcadia

<https://ume.nswact.uca.org.au/calendar/pulse-youlead-camp-30-31-july/>



Pulse Youth Camp

Tuesday to Friday 27 to 30 September (school holidays)

This is a high-energy camp for high schoolers in years 7-11. Big on Jesus, community, fun, food, and activities.

There will be worship, big activities, small groups, free time, electives, a movie night, and more!

VENUE Vision Valley Conference Centre 7 Vision Valley Road, Arcadia

<http://ume.nswact.uca.org.au/calendar/pulse-youth-camp-2022/>



Mentoring for Ministry Development

3 - 24 August

This 4 week series of training (4x 2 hour sessions) will give attendees the opportunity to reflect on some insights regarding Mentoring, explore the role of discipleship in everyday life, and examine the roles of team ministry and communities of practice.

VENUE Zoom

<https://ume.nswact.uca.org.au/calendar/mentoring-for-ministry-development/>



Fundamentals of Transitional Ministry - Congregation

4 day program during August, Melbourne (2 days online, 2 days in person)

The program gives participants an introduction to the key concepts and practices of ministering with congregations and agencies in times of transition. This course is run by Vic/Tas Synod

This course is especially helpful for:

- People in Presbytery leadership roles
- Ministers intending to do significant amounts of supply
- Ministers moving from chaplaincy/agency roles into congregational ministry
- Ministers in placements going through significant transitions, such as looking for new mission directions, contemplating combining/closing, moving to resource ministry.

VENUE Centre for Theology and Ministry Melbourne, Victoria

<https://ume.nswact.uca.org.au/calendar/fundamentals-of-transitional-ministry-congregation/>

Introduction to Presiding at Funerals

16 - 18 November

This is the training course for those seeking authorisation as a registered funeral presider in the Uniting Church. This course explores the practicalities around planning and leading a funeral – and combines this with the exploration of the basis behind grief and loss, and how the grieving person can be supported in a healthy way.

<https://ume.nswact.uca.org.au/calendar/introduction-to-presiding-at-funerals-november/>



The Blue Tree Project - Conversations

Conversations are important to us. Sometimes the most important conversations are the conversations that should have been had. The [Blue Tree Project](#) on the Nowra CBD Berry/Junctions Street corner on the Nowra Uniting Church property is designed to be a conversation starter.

The Blue Tree project was initiated in Western Australia after a young man did not have a life-giving meaningful conversation and took his own life in 2018. His sister began this project and across Australia dead trees were painted blue as beacons of hope and conversation starters.

This project came about as a result of a number of conversations. The Shoalhaven Suicide Prevention Awareness Network's (SSPAN) Chairperson Bruce Murphy, Mental Health expert Wendi Hobbs and Educator Fiona Stasiukynas all had such meaningful conversations and wanted a dead tree in a public space, painting it blue and raise public awareness of the need to have these difficult conversations 'R U OK?' and even "It's OK not to be OK". A dead tree had been located but because it has rained since March this particular tree has been unapproachable! Another casual conversation between Fiona and Cathie Cochrane from Nowra UC, former teaching colleagues resulted in this modified Blue Tree Project.

The Berry/Junction St 'Blue Tree' is only visible at night, because the living tree has blue solar-powered lights and can be 'a light shining in the darkness' and point to mental health resources including [Lifeline](#), [Headspace](#) and [SSPAN](#).

Cathie lodged an application for a Woden Grant from Presbytery, to complete the project and, because all people are valued, Nowra Church is able to provide this 'beacon of hope' for the whole community and encourage such conversations to begin.

Thanks to Chris Hobbs who supplied the Cherry Picker and Mick Finch of SchMick Electrical, the logistical genius for supply and installation of the Blue Tree.



Milton-Ulladulla UC Thank Uniting Outreach Centre Volunteers

Earlier this year Milton-Ulladulla UC (MUUC) thanked the volunteers who work to support the community through the Uniting Outreach Centre.

Thanks to the work of the volunteers, sales from the Outreach Centre have been used to support many community groups including:

- Ulladulla High School, including two Scholarships;
- Milton Hospital Palliative Care Unit;
- Parkinson's Support Group;
- 40 welfare recipients who have received gift vouchers to the total of \$7,100, and clothes and household goods to the value of \$5,000;
- Tongan Earthquake appeal;
- Flood victims in Lismore;

Items have been donated to:

- One Ten organisation who send clothes to Africa that are then on-sold by women at their own stalls to support their families;
- Hope Hostel in Parramatta, a home for men seeking to improve their lifestyles and seek employment;
- The Giving Tree - distributing gifts for children through Southern Cross Community Housing;
- Hats for the Homeless

Volunteers not only work in the Outreach Centre but also knit items to be sold and donated to Hats for the Homeless; supply plants to be sold; maintain the MUUC grounds including the congregation's Reflection Garden; sort, price and clean the many donated items.

In other MUUC mission news:

For the last few years, volunteers from the Reaching Out group have made bags filled with activities, toothbrushes and other items for children. Although the Reaching Out group closed due to COVID, volunteers have continued to put the bags together and received financial donations from local businesses to fill them.

Photos: MUUC volunteers and Rev. Simaima. Halaifonua Tuiono presenting the activity bags to a representative from Southern Cross Community Housing



Thank You

Photo: Rev. Simaima. Halaifonua Tuiono with Fay Kastelein Church Council Chairperson & Manager Uniting Outreach Centre, presenting volunteer Tina Walsh with her 5 year appreciation certificate.



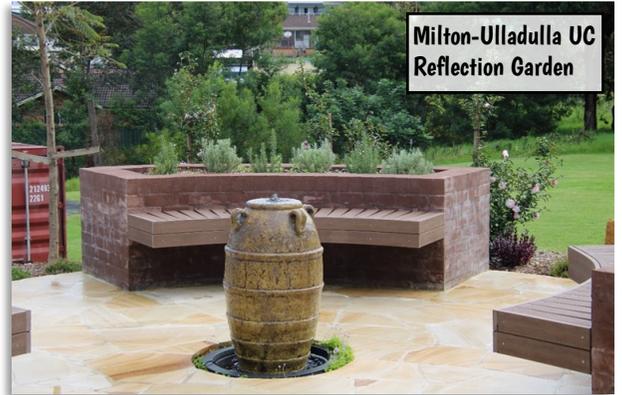
If your congregation would like your missional activities to appear in the Presbytery newsletter, please email Vi Richardson Admin.ip@nswact.uca.org.au

**Woden Grants for Mission
2021 projects and programs**

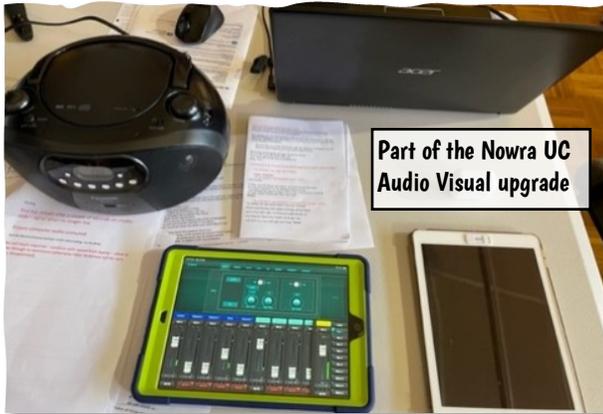
Photo Gallery



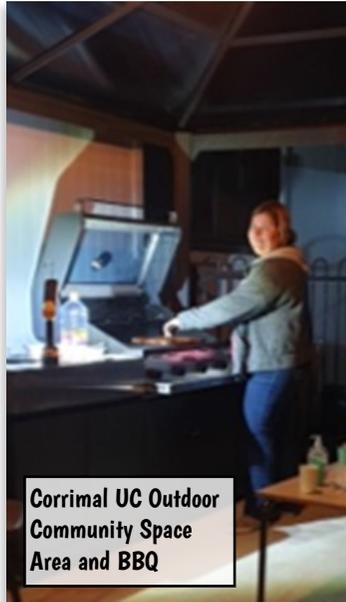
Keiraview UC Breakfast Program for Wollongong West Public School



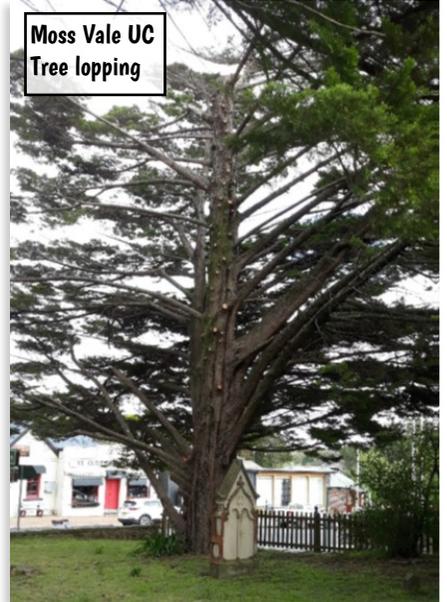
Milton-Ulladulla UC Reflection Garden



Part of the Nowra UC Audio Visual upgrade



Corrimal UC Outdoor Community Space Area and BBQ



Moss Vale UC Tree lopping



Austinmer UC Under Church Support Piers



Berry UC Community garden.....



...and solar panels

Safe Church Awareness Workshops



Sat 6 August 2022



**Nowra Uniting
Church**

29 Berry St



Arrive from 9.15am for
9.30am start



Full Workshop:
9.30 am-4:00 pm

Who needs to attend?

Church Council and Elders, Pastoral leaders, Ministers, Ministry program leaders and helpers, including with children/youth and SRE/Scripture in schools,

Workshop Topics:

Safe Church Foundations, Duty of Care, Child Protection, Protecting Vulnerable People, Understanding and Responding to Abuse, Safe Leadership, Recruitment & Supervision, Safety in Programs and Environments, Uniting Church Policy and Procedures.

Cost:

Full DAY: \$25 pp

Light refreshments provided.

Please arrange/**bring own lunch. and Mask**

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



Scan for registration page

Equipping our church communities to be
**safer places through growing awareness and
understanding of safety and protection**





Uniting Church
SHOALHAVEN CENTRAL

INVITATION

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO

celebrate the Commencement of
Shoalhaven Central Uniting Church

following the amalgamation of the
Bay & Basin, Bomaderry and Nowra
congregations

WHEN

9:30am

Sunday 31st July 2022

WHERE

Wesley Centre

corner Berry and Junction Streets

Nowra

Brunch will be served afterwards



RSVP

nowrauca@virtualcity.com.au

02 4426 6187

shoalhaven
central
**uniting
church**

Know Your Bible (KYB) - a ministry of CWCI Australia since 1972



Celebrating 50 years of KYB in 2022

Friday 22nd July 2022

Keiraview Uniting Church

Fisher Street, West Wollongong

10am for morning tea

Guest Speaker: Dr Helen Rienits

Relevance of the Bible in 2022 and How it can help with Mental Illness

Helen is currently a Senior Lecturer at the School of Medicine, University of Wollongong and enjoys training excellent young Doctors for the future medical workforce. Helen has worked as a General Practitioner on the South Coast of NSW for almost 30 years and spent 9 years as a Doctor with the Leprosy Mission in Bhutan. Helen has a special interest in Mental and Spiritual well-being.

Further Information 0429 695 209

ALL WOMEN WELCOME

Christian Women Communicating International in Australia Inc.

Growing Women in Christ through sharing the Bible at Events, KYB study groups and Safaris

www.cwciaus.org.au

REST. NURTURE. SPIRITUALITY. COMMUNITY.

Women in Ministry Retreat 2022

For Ministers, Deacons, Pastors and those in other specified Ministry roles in the NSW/ACT Synod

Dates:

24 - 27 July 2022

Arrive from 2pm Sunday 24 July

Program starts 4pm

Finishes 12:30pm Wednesday 27 July

Cost

\$525

Online registration & More information

<https://women-in-ministry-retreat-202207.eventbrite.com.au>

For more details Contact Christine Palmer
christine@pnpuca.org.au

Venue

St Joseph's Spirituality
& Education Centre
8 Humphreys Rd
Kincumber South NSW

Registrations Close

11 July 2022

Scholarship Information:

umeinto@nswact.uca.org.au

Supported by:

Uniting Mission & Education



Facilitator:

Rev'd Dr Sarah Agnew. Sarah has particular skills as a storyteller and poet, and as a teacher and facilitator of workshops, and her PhD explored the way performance – oral storytelling – leads to interpretation of biblical texts. Whilst in theological college in Adelaide, she was involved in many fresh expressions/alternative worship projects. Sarah is currently the chaplain at "Rise" Community (Rise Events & Sanctuary).