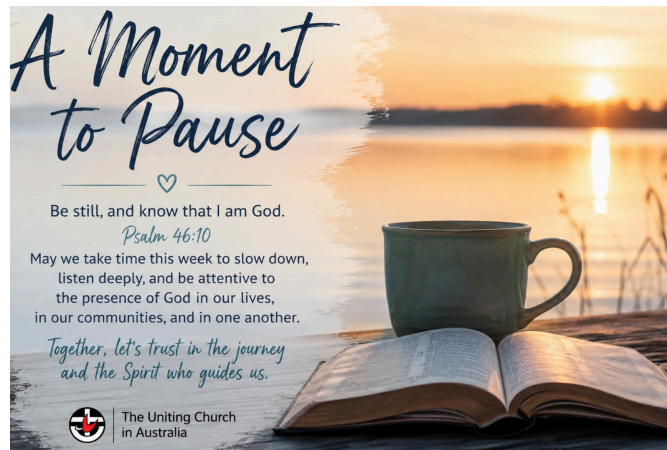




Keep sharing your stories and events with us — we love to hear what's happening across The Northern Presbytery!

Contact the Northern Presbytery News Team



Reflection

Arguments.

Debates.

Misunderstandings.

It is so frustrating when we encounter these in the church setting.

We sometimes hear the line “we should be more like the early church”.

In his sermon at Rev Punam Bent's Induction, Rev Richard Harris showed us that we are actually very much like the early church. Taking Acts 6:1-7 as a starting point, we see the early Christians realised that, with growing numbers, they needed to become organised, to become an institution. Responsible people were commissioned to look after the business side of things, so the disciples could preach, teach and pray.

The details of the debates we have today differ from those in the early church, but the overarching challenge is the same: Working out how to follow Jesus the best we can, and how to be the best church we can be. We need to share the load, and each live out the values of Jesus Christ in whatever place we find ourselves.



Congratulations Punam, Synod Associate General Secretary. Our prayers and thanks go with you. More photos on the Synod Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=1093142516806393&set=pcb.1093158396804805>

Northern Presbytery Update

[Northern Presbytery Website Link](#)

Presbytery Members Meeting Survey

The Northern Presbytery recently held its first Presbytery council meeting on 9th September online via Zoom.

To help us improve future online Presbytery meetings, we invite you to complete this short survey.

The purpose of this survey is to gather feedback on the administration, format, technology, participation, and overall meeting experience.

It does **not** seek feedback on the content of discussions, decisions made, or individual agenda items.

Your feedback will help shape future meetings and ensure they are accessible, effective, and engaging for all participants.

First Northern Presbytery meeting: feedback survey – Fill out form

Note: *Unfortunately, Microsoft Forms does not provide a true "Save as Draft" option that allows respondents to save their progress before submitting the survey.*

The survey is mostly tick-box selections, so respondents are encouraged to complete it in a single sitting.

The last day to submit the survey response is Sunday 11th October.

Supporting Small Lay Led congregations

This article comes out from the initial papers of Tony Shumack and Sharon Flynn in the old NENW and MNC presbyteries and is compiled by Tony to enhance a discussion about how we support our small lay led congregations. Tony can be contacted on

TonyS@nswact.uca.org.au

Introduction

In parts of our new presbytery, we have been discussing how to better support local congregations who have not been able to afford or call a ministry agent to lead them for quite some time (multiple years (5,10,20,30 years) in many cases). Some have been able to draw from neighbouring congregations using their lay preachers, retired ministers, and ministry agents working in other parts of the church, but those in more remote areas have not had sustainable access to these types of resource people. These congregations have instead been led by faithful Christian women and men, many doing things they had little initial training in.

But over the years they have built up a set of skills as they have done things which may include pastoral visiting, chairing church councils, leading parts of worship and taking the whole service, taking funerals, attending presbytery and synod meeting, developing outreach and mission programs (like running children's programs, op shops, soup kitchens and any number of other relevant activities for and in their communities) and contributing to the wider work of the Uniting Church in our state and nation through Synod and Assembly agencies and programs.

This faithful service has become a large workload and is becoming harder to maintain, because most of these lay led congregations have over the years been in a state of declining numbers and an increasing age bracket. While there may be a few exceptions, most are feeling tired, under resourced, and burdened by their ministry in the church.

[Click here to read the full article](#)



Needing a new home x

34 melody line
8 large print word only
2 4 part books

*Glen Innes Uniting Church no longer need these Hymn books. If anyone is interested in giving them a new home, please contact Tony Shumack
TonySenswact.uca.org.au*



The Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC) in NSW/ACT is pleased to announce that we have a new website! You can visit the [new website here](#).



**FAITHFUL PAST
COURAGEOUS FUTURE**
Heritage & Horizons



Nominations for the Synod Meeting 2027 now close on **Sunday 25th October 2026**
Complete the online Synod nomination form [Nomination Form - Contact Details](#)

The leadership of Northern Presbytery will review the nominations, after which Presbytery members will elect Synod members through a ballot process, taking into account the required balance of lay and ordained members, as well as gender, age and cultural diversity.

The leadership of Northern Presbytery will advise nominees of the outcome, preferably by 16 November 2026.

Those selected will then complete online registrations (starting 16 November and closing on Friday 5 March 2027).

For any further information, please contact Leslie D'Mello LeslieD@nswact.uca.org.au

Further information can be found at synod2027.uca.org.au



Manning Uniting Church



Growing, Giving and Connecting

At Cundletown, a community garden is growing much more than vegetables.

The former Cundletown Uniting Church building and grounds may have found a new purpose, but the spirit of service that has long been part of the place continues to flourish.

Today the site is the **Cundletown Community Centre and Garden**, part of Manning Uniting Church, which serves the communities of Taree, Cundletown, Old Bar and Tinonee.



Volunteers gather at the garden each week, tending beds of fresh vegetables and herbs. What is grown here doesn't simply stay in Cundletown. Produce makes its way to Manning Uniting's **Red Dove Café** and its Friday fresh-food table in Taree, becoming part of a much wider network of practical care.



The Red Dove Café is itself a social enterprise, providing work opportunities, training and welfare. Manning Uniting's wider community support also includes emergency welfare assistance, a community barbecue and Connection Circle, shower facilities for those who need them, and Orange Sky Laundry operating outside the church on Friday mornings.

Back at Cundletown, the building, covered deck and grounds provide another valuable resource — a place that can be used by community groups and individuals, and a space that has been able to serve the wider community during times of particular need.

Meanwhile, the garden keeps growing. Manning Uniting reported earlier this year that increasing numbers of helpers were becoming involved, assisting with mowing, garden maintenance and caring for the productive garden beds.

It's a simple but lovely example of how different parts of a church's life can connect.

Vegetables grown by volunteers in Cundletown become fresh food for people in Taree. A former church building becomes a place for community. A garden becomes an opportunity for people to work alongside one another.

Growing, giving and connecting — sometimes mission begins with simply making good use of what you already have.



Please click [here](#) if you have a Prayer Request that you would like to submit.

We pray for all affected by war, conflict and displacement. May God's peace reach those living in fear, bring comfort to grieving families and guide world leaders towards compassion, justice and reconciliation.

We pray for our congregations, ministers, lay leaders and volunteers as we continue to grow together as one Presbytery. May we embrace new relationships, support one another through change and remain open to

the opportunities God places before us.

As creation bursts into new life, we give thanks for the beauty and renewal of spring. May this season remind us of God's faithfulness and inspire us to nurture hope, growth and new beginnings in our communities.

We hold in prayer those struggling with the rising cost of living, loneliness, illness or uncertainty. May they find practical support, friendship and hope through the generosity and care of their communities.

As we offer these prayers may our words and thoughts lead us to action in the way of Jesus our Lord, Saviour, Friend, Teacher and Guide. May we listen well to the Spirit of God who guides us in communities of Faith.



Interested in what's happening at your local congregation?

Many of our congregations have **regular activities, groups and events** throughout the week. For the latest details, times, changes and **special events**, check your congregation's **Facebook page or website**.

It's a great way to stay connected and discover what's happening in your local church community.

Celebration of McKinnon Hall refurbishment



1.30pm Friday 13th November 2026

At McKinnon Hall
19 Rankens Crt, Wyong



The Hon. David Harris, MP, Member
for Wyong, will be present.

Also present will be Lachie McKinnon,
son of the late Rev. Robert McKinnon,
after whom McKinnon Hall is named.

Light refreshments will be available after the brief formalities.

Contact John Dacey 0428 229 268 for more info.

MENTAL HEALTH COMMUNITY MEAL

Peer Support, Care and Sharing a Meal

Art Therapy Workshop



Led by Emily Lloyd Smith
AThR
Qualified Art Therapist &
Director of Inner West Art
Therapy

FRIDAY OCT 2
6.30PM
CROWS NEST UNITING

122 Shirley Rd, Wollstonecraft
rsvp: neutralbayminister@gmail.com
MOB: 0415 893 978

GPUC is very happy to announce the

JACARANDA CONCERT 2026

SATURDAY 7TH NOV - JACARANDA ART SHOW
Pre-Loved Art - Exhibitions - Colour Craft - Prizes
1-4pm - Prizes 3pm

SUNDAY 8TH NOVEMBER - JACARANDA CONCERT
3pm Glenn Amer, Choir, Ballet & Artists
Followed by afternoon tea in the Hall

Glenn Amer is a versatile
artist known for his expertise
in both piano and voice. Performed
around the world recognised for his rich
and powerful voice.
www.greatmusiclivesforever.com

Both events are @ 18 Cecil Street, Gordon
\$10.00 Adults (including seniors)
\$5.00 Children & Students & Performers

All enquiries to Courtney@gpuc.org.au
www.gpuc.org.au

Gordon-Pymble
Uniting Church

JACARANDA THEMED

ART SHOW 2026

SATURDAY 7TH NOV - ART SHOW
1-4pm Pre-Loved Art for Sale
(have you got art sitting at home that would like to find a
new home?)
1-4pm Friday Art Group Exhibition
1.30pm The Creative Table with Art by Rehana
3pm Jacaranda Art Show Prize

Please come and join us!

All enquiries to Courtney@gpuc.org.au
18 Cecil Street, Gordon NSW 2072
www.gpuc.org.au

Gordon-Pymble
Uniting Church



6.30pm, Longueville Uniting Church
47A Kenneth Street, Longueville
\$15 cash, BYO drinks.

Bookings essential : 9428 4287

Tuesday 6 October: *Churchill's Secret* (2015). A biographical drama set in 1953, soon after Churchill's third election as PM. Starring Michael Gambon, Romola Garai and Lindsay Duncan.



UNITING CHURCH SPRING PICNIC

Come along as we celebrate
spring together as one Uniting
Church family!

Grab your picnic blanket & chairs, pack a
hat & sunscreen, bring some lunch & get
ready to play some picnic games together.



Sunday 10th October 2026

12:00 noon - 2:30pm

Pymble Ladies College

BYO Lunch & Picnic

Killara Uniting Church | Gordon-Pymble Uniting Church | Turramurra Uniting Church | Roseville Uniting Church | St. Ives Uniting Church | Hornsby Uniting Church | Mt Colah Uniting Church | Northbridge & Willoughby Uniting Church | Normanhurst Uniting Church | St Johns Wahroonga Uniting Church



SINCE
1982

TURRAMURRA COMMUNITY

FLEA MARKET

**TURRAMURRA UNITING CHURCH
10 TURRAMURRA AVE, TURRAMURRA**

SATURDAY

31 OCT

2026

**DONATION
DROP OFF
THURSDAY
29 OCT
10AM - 7PM**

**8:30AM
2:00PM**

**NOTE NEW
DROP OFF
TIMES**



The Northern Presbytery

Ethical Ministry Refresher Course Dates

Anyone from anywhere can do any of these courses, they are not area-restricted

In Person Workshop at Warners Bay Uniting Church
- **Thursday 22nd October** 9.30am - 12.30pm . Arrive
from 9.15am for tea or coffee before you start

Zoom Workshop - **Tuesday 10th November** at
9.30am . Zoom links will be sent closer to the day.

Please book with Jenny Mathieson :

jennyandray@bigpond.com

The pre reading material will then be sent to you

Tue 6 Oct 10am- 2026B | Zoom with
facilitator Nich Cole

Wed 21 Oct 9:15am for 9:30am start
2026B | Terrigal Uniting Church with facilitators
Rev. Patty Lawrence & Lorna Martin

Wed 28 Oct 9:30am- 11:30am
2026B | Zoom with facilitator Trish Rooney
To register: please e-mail Michelle:
michelle.lombard@sccpresbytery.org.au

10-Oct-2026 9:00 AM -12:00 PM

~In person, only~

Bellingen Uniting Church - Rev Tony Shumack

10-Oct-2026 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

~In person, only~

Manning Uniting Church - Ps Geoff Battle

Please contact the MNC PRC Secretary to register:

mncprc16@gmail.com

23-Oct-2026 -2:00 PM - 5:00 PM

~For Ministry Agents~

Tamworth City Uniting Church - Ps Geoff Battle

24-Oct-2026 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

~For Lay People~

Tamworth City Uniting Church -Ps Geoff Battle

Please contact the NENW Presbytery

Administrator to register:

nenwpresbytery@gmail.com



My Aged Care Forum

Empowering individuals to make informed decisions about their ageing journey.

Join us to gain the knowledge and confidence to navigate aged care, exploring supports, government funding, and how to access and apply for the services you need.

Date: Thursday, 29 October 2026

Time: 11am – 1pm

Venue: Gordon-Pymble Uniting Church – Gordon site
18 Cecil Street, Gordon, 2072

- ☒ Expert inputs
- ☒ Practical next step

- ☒ Tea and nibbles
- ☒ Q & As

Places are limited.

Please register ASAP by scanning the QR Code
or leave a message with **Courtney** on 02 9983 9879
or E: courtney.heyden@gpuc.org.au

General enquiries: cvermeulen@uniting.org



Uniting

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My Aged Care Forum

Empowering individuals to make informed decisions about their ageing journey.

Join us if you would like to find out more from experts about how to navigate aged care, what government funded support may be available and how to register.

Date: Tuesday, 20 October 2026

Time: 11am – 1pm

Venue: Boronia Park Uniting Church, 93 Pittwater Rd, Gladesville, 2111

- ☒ Expert inputs

- ☒ Practical next step

- ☒ Tea and nibbles

- ☒ Q & As

Places are limited.

Please register ASAP by scanning the QR Code
or leave a message with **Robyn Harvey** at Boronia Park Uniting Church on 0418 783 290 or robyn.49@bigpond.net.au
General enquiries: cvermeulen@uniting.org



BORONIA PARK UNITING CHURCH
93 Pittwater Rd, Gladesville, 2111

Uniting

United Theological College

OPEN NIGHT

7 October 2026

5.30pm–7pm

United Theological College
16 Masons Drive, North Parramatta



Other Publications





Saltbush News



Acknowledgement of Country

From before recorded time, the First Peoples of this Nation have cared for this Land.

We praise God, the Creator, for the beauty of this Land and honour those who have cared for it.

We acknowledge the Elders and community members who have told the sacred stories and nurtured faithfulness to the Creator.

We ask God's blessing on those who continue to work for the healing and restoration of this Land and its many communities.