



# CONTACT



Charlestown & Garden Suburb Uniting  
Church Multi-Centre Congregation

**2 March 2025**

## **From Rev Tom**

The Hunter Community Alliance is now a week away being on the 6<sup>th</sup> March. We are asked early on how many we expect to attend from our organisation. I said, optimistically, 20! Well, there are 16 so far. It would be great if there were another 4 somewhere amongst us who can attend, or grab some children or friends. No doubt their minds will be blown away by the experience. Particularly with the outcomes that happen down the track that bring real benefit to the community.

But enough of that, as I have laboured the subject quite a bit. There is something else that I would like to recommend to people. Back on the 13 November 2024 I attended a Cultural Training + Listening at Bahtabah Local Aboriginal Land Council. The office is at Blacksmiths on the western side of the Pacific Hwy just after the Home Hardware just north of the Swansea Bridge. The presenter is Kentan Proctor, Conservation Land Management & Cultural Heritage officer. I loved it! I think there were about 20 of us there and Kenton talked about the region from an aboriginal perspective. That is, he talked about the local historical landmarks. He talked about the local flora and how a lot of the plants and flowers were used by the traditional Aboriginal people. It was like as if I was seeing the region from an entirely new perspective, as if I was being introduced to this area again for the first time. I gained an enriched appreciation of the trees, plants, and flowers that are around me most of the time but I had barely observed them and even less had any sense of the rich relationship between them and the human species. We went for a very short walk around their abatorium where, if we wanted, could taste some of the food plants, or feel the textures of plants that had various uses, from weaving to water proofing, to cooking. Kentan is a young fellow and obviously very bright. He spoke very quickly which wasn't so great with my hearing impairment, but all the same he fitted in an enormous amount of information in an interesting and often humorous way. Local resident Natalia Soeters has organised another of these cultural training and listening mornings. This time on the 8<sup>th</sup> April starting at 9:30 am till around 12:30 pm. It costs \$45 and is worth every cent if not more. More details are in Contact elsewhere if you are interested in going, or I would be glad to tell you more about it if you have any questions.



# DIARY

## Thursday 27 February

- 10.00am Morning tea in the Community – common seated area opposite Butcher at Charlestown Square  
1.30-2.30pm Bible Study at Garden Suburb Church

## Sunday 2 March – The Transfiguration of Our Lord, Jesus Christ

- 9.00am **Divine Worship**  
Leader and Preacher: The Rev'd Tom Stuart  
Children's Corner with Cathy Beeton  
Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99; 2 Corinthians 3:12 - 4:2; Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a)

## Monday 3 March

- 7.00pm **Café Night at Garden Suburb**

## Tuesday 4 March

- 10.00am Morning tea in the Community at Lake Macquarie Square

## Wednesday 5 March – The First Day of Lent

- 10.00am **A Service for Ash Wednesday at Garden Suburb Church**  
Leader and Preacher: The Rev'd Tom Stuart

## Thursday 6 March

- 10.00am Morning tea in the Community – common seated area opposite Butcher at Charlestown Square  
1.30-2.30pm Bible Study at Garden Suburb Church  
6.00pm **Hunter Community Alliance 2025 Assembly at The Great Hall, Uni of Newcastle**

## Friday 7 March

- 10.00am **World Day of Prayer at Charlestown Church**

## Saturday 8 March

- 12noon Friendship Circle – Lunch at Swansea RSL Club – All Welcome

## Sunday 9 March – Lent 1

- 9.00am **Divine Worship**  
Leader: David Chegvidden and Preacher: Rev'd Tom Stuart  
Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16; Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13

## Tuesday 11 March

- 10.00am Morning tea in the Community at Lake Macquarie Square

## Wednesday 12 March

- 10.00am Ladies Fellowship at Charlestown

## Thursday 13 March

- 10.00am Morning tea in the Community – common seated area opposite Butcher at Charlestown Square  
10.30am Worship Service at Garden Suburb Aged Care  
1.30-2.30pm Bible Study at Garden Suburb Church

## Friday 14 March

- 6.00pm Ladies Night at Kahibah

## LOOKING AHEAD

**Saturday 5 April** – Family Fun Trivia Night & Auction – CCEA SRE Fundraiser 7.00pm

**Saturday 12 April** – A Men's Breakfast – Give me the Mountain

# THE PRAYER PAGE



**Prayer is the Voice of Faith**

## **Pastoral Prayer Points**

- \* Those who are mourning loved ones
- \* Ange
- \* Kim
- \* Janice and Don Wright
- \* Kelly
- \* Laraine Chegwiddden
- \* Tony Sellen
- \* Vivianne
- \* Vicki
- \* Pam and Ken
- \* Lyn Benson
- \* Jean
- \* Fred Bryant
- \* June Locker
- \* Ryan Walpole
- \* Kathryn Gray
- \* Jacqueline Fenwick
- \* Isabella
- \* Eileen Dunn
- \* Pam and Mert
- \* Enid Power
- \* Max
- \* Don Humphries

Maintained by SFED and Enid Power

## **Congregational Prayer Points**

- Church Council
- John Lewis and his work with Wesley Mission in Windale and Hamilton South
- pray for guidance and discernment  
missional use of buildings into the future
- Project Reconnect
- Worship Services
- Cathy Beeton and SRE classes
- Worship Committee

## **Wider Community Prayer Points**

- Margaret Jurd College and Darren Twist  
the Principal
- Young people who struggle to participate  
in our school system
- World Day of Prayer on 7 March at  
Charlestown Church
- Orphanage in Kenya and Wilfreda
- Neos ministry
- Those affected by climate change in  
Australia eg floods, droughts and fires
- The situation in Israel and Palestine
- The situation in Ukraine and other trouble  
spots



## Discussion on Sustaining Placements in The Hunter Presbytery

On Thursday 21 February, three members of Church Council attended a meeting called by Presbytery to consider “**sustaining placements in the Hunter Presbytery**”. Many congregations can no longer support a full-time minister, but some could support a 70% or so placement. A preliminary discussion was held about how congregations could support each other, centring mainly on financial support and the sharing of a ministry placement, or a team of presbytery ministers. The stress which the uncertainty places on ministers was also discussed. Much more work in this area will need to be done.



## Holy Week and Easter Services



### **Palm Sunday 13 April**

9am at Charlestown Church

### **Maundy Thursday 17 April**

7.30pm at Garden Suburb Church

### **Good Friday 18 April**

9am at Charlestown Church

### **Easter Day 20 April**

9am at Charlestown Church

# Children & Family Worker Update



Last week I delivered 30 pencil packs to Wiripaang School as I mentioned in last week's contact message.

The school has been in touch with this message & photos.

*"Thanks again for the support. The kids absolutely loved them.*

*This year the stationary packs were provided to every student in the support unit setting."*



The school also posted these photos on their facebook page, if you have access to facebook you could search Wiripaang School & have a look at the post & maybe see what other great things are happening at the school.

Apologies for not being at church for the Children's Corner this week and Thank you to Tom who will deliver my message for me.

Have a good week.

Cathy

## Spiritual Practice of the Week

**Secrecy:** Secrecy is practicing the spirit of Christ reflected in hiddenness, anonymity, lack of disclosure and the holding of confidences.

**Practice:** This week choose to do something for or give something to someone anonymously. Ask God to help you discover who you should choose. As you talk to people, pay attention to any need they might mention. Plan a way of following through on your desire without letting them know where the help or gift came from. • Talk to God about what this is like for you.

*These resources come from Calhoun, Adele Ahlberg. Spiritual Disciplines Handbook: Practices That Transform Us (Transforming Resources). InterVarsity Press*

WORLD DAY OF  
PRAYER  
SERVICE 2025



The Cook Islands

'I made you  
wonderful'

10am 7<sup>th</sup> March at Charlestown  
Uniting Church



## Charlestown Friendship Circle

**Saturday 8 March**

Swansea RSL Club for lunch

Meet at 12noon

**All Welcome**



## Charlestown Ladies Fellowship

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March**

**Will be held at Charlestown Church  
from 10.00am**

**Come have a cuppa and join in  
Fellowship with stories and a laugh**

**ALL WELCOME**

2025

HUNTER COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

# “ASSEMBLY”



Coming together as civil society for the common good  
Celebrating commitments, change and hope

## 6th March 2025

6pm inside for briefing

6.30pm to 8.30pm Assembly

The Great Hall, University of Newcastle

TIME FOR THE UNITING CHURCH TO SHOW UP AGAIN!  
SIGN UP TO ATTEND BY BOOKING YOUR FREE TICKET/S  
HUMANITIX [HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/2VD6D5MS](https://tinyurl.com/2VD6D5MS)



Energy Transition, Affordable Housing,  
Stretched Services and more....



*You're invited to turn out and participate in God's mission*

Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/2nua9cb2>

## **Cultural Training** workshop with Kentan Proctor and Carol Proctor at **Bahtabah LALC**

- Tuesday **8 April**
- **9:15** for 9:30 start (till 12:30ish)
- **126 Lakeview Parade, Blacksmiths**

(use this address when navigating there NOT the official Pacific Hwy address)

**Objective:** Understanding we are always on Aboriginal Country by seeing our landscape from a different perspective. Learning how to integrate an indigenous lens into our lives and work.

**Topic:** Awabakal Dreaming, place names in Language, Caring for Country, bush tucker – tailored to who's in the room on the day.

Accessible for wheelchairs.

**\$45**

BSB 650 000

Acc 5211 14601

Acc name: GCSNG

Ref: Your name



*Limited spots.*

**Contact Natalia Soeters if you plan on attending – Natalia's number - 0434 826 793**



## **Plant Propagation Workshop**

**March 22nd 2pm to 4pm**

**Glenrock Anglican Hall Kahibah**

**Tickets: \$10 via Humanitix**



Special rates available  
[greatercharlestownsng@gmail.com](mailto:greatercharlestownsng@gmail.com)



# Ecological Grief Retreat

"Allowing nature to nurture in the midst of a changing climate"

Recognise transformative nature of grief to move you into a place of hope and action within the reality of climate despair



Facilitated by  
Mandy Cox

@

St Joseph's  
Spirituality and  
Education  
Centre



Kincumber In-house Retreat

\$550

What to Expect

- Opportunities to reconnect with nature; reflect, listen and come together as a community to express the impacts that our changing climate is having on us

Retreat package includes

- Facilitation
- Accommodation
- Catering

For Bookings and more information visit:

<https://www.stjosephskincumber.org.au/whats-on/retreats/>

22 - 23  
March, 2025

There is no Booklet this week as we did not receive a copy of the Message



**Fresh Expressions.** Maybe you've heard this term which has been around in the Uniting Church for a while now. Let's have a look at what "Fresh Expressions" means.

The concept of "Fresh expression" is not new to the Uniting Church. Fresh Expressions is about doing church differently by exploring alternative forms of worship and community.

We already have many Fresh Expressions in the Synod of NSW/ACT, and they are on the cutting edge of mission. Many are connecting with the broader community in creative and exploratory ways, helping to bridge the gap between church and society. At a time when people are sceptical about the church, Fresh Expressions can be an easier entry point into the Christian community.

#### **How is a Fresh Expression different from a traditional church?**

Fresh Expression is a church that does not look like traditional/inherited church. It starts with listening to the community, serving that community, then moving towards discipleship and starting an intentional community. A Fresh Expression might or might not have a church building, a paid minister or a lay leader. It could be attached to a traditional church or a Presbytery for support. It is always missional placing the broader community before the needs of the church.

#### **What makes Fresh Expressions relevant today?**

Fresh Expressions offer a more accessible entry point into the Christian community, especially for people who may feel disconnected or sceptical about traditional church. In our Synod, we believe that all forms of church are necessary for contemporary society to reach all people, which is why we've adopted a "blended ecology" approach.

#### **Examples of Fresh Expressions?**

It is usually small and simple and might have other names like micro-church, faith community, dinner church, Forrest church - there is so much variety. A Fresh Expression is different to a missional initiative. A missional initiative might not necessary be an intentional community - it may be a café for instance or a community garden. A Fresh Expression will always be intentional about moving people towards discipleship and faith and forming an intentional community.

# *Girls Night Out*

*Placing value on friendship*



## **Café Night**

**Monday 3 March 2025** at Garden Suburb Uniting Church  
from 7.00pm (for catch up)

Then 7.30 – 9.15pm with Guest Speaker: Julie Parsons  
from Ronald McDonald House

And Soloist: Caitlin Russell

Donation \$15

Ph. Sue 0425 375 528 or Cathy 0409 445 933

### **Some of our Church Contacts:**

#### **Minister**

Rev Tom Stuart  
M: 0427 625 502  
E: [tom@thestuarts.id.au](mailto:tom@thestuarts.id.au)

#### **Administration:**

P: 4943 4019  
E: [office@charlestown.unitingchurch.org.au](mailto:office@charlestown.unitingchurch.org.au)  
24 Milson Street, Charlestown NSW 2290  
PO Box 449, Charlestown NSW 2290

#### **Children & Families Resource Worker:**

Mrs Cathy Beeton  
M: 0409 445 933  
E: [Cath4858@gmail.com](mailto:Cath4858@gmail.com)  
Mrs Cathy Beeton is also our Safe Church Contact Person

#### **Bank Account Details for the Charlestown Garden Suburb Multi-Centre Congregation:**

Bank Account held with: Uniting Financial Services  
Account Name: Charlestown Congregation General Account  
BSB: 634 634 Account No.: 100030837

**For Offering please put Ref: Offering**

#### **Keep up to date with happenings and info:**

Webpage: <http://www.chagsuca.org.au>  
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/CharlestownUnitingChurch>  
Project Reconnect: <http://www.projectreconnect.com.au>  
Worship Services: <https://tinyurl.com/CHaGS-YouTube-Link>