



CONTACT



Charlestown & Garden Suburb Uniting
Church Multi-Centre Congregation

8 September 2024

From Rev Tom

Recently I was alerted to a decision by the top-tier of the Uniting Church structure, the National Assembly, to encourage an "Acknowledgement of Country" to be spoken at the beginning of worship and meetings of the Uniting Church in Australia. I probably knew about this in the back of my mind but hadn't acted on it. I don't often include an acknowledgement of country at the beginning of worship but having the Assembly decision point out to me has spurred me on. Though, you won't see an immediate change in worship. I am hoping that everyone will come for the ride in this one so, I thought I would devote a few of my Contact Messages to the background, for me, to the issue of Acknowledgment of Country. It began for me when I was a child and was learning at school about the "assimilation" of the Aboriginal people. I was told through the instruction at school that our government was doing wonderful things by introducing the Aboriginal people to Western culture and teaching them a better way of life, so they could live as good a life as we do. I didn't know it back then, I was still only a baby, but my family looked after two young Aboriginal girls for a short period, so they could have a holiday from the Burnside Home where they usually stayed in North Parramatta. I was the recipient of my parent's photo albums when my mother went into aged care. I discovered photos of the two girls with my older sisters. The names of the girls were on the back of the photos. I looked them up on the internet and found records of them, how they were taken from locations in the north of the Northern Territory. They were first relocated without their parents in Alice Springs before being taken to Burnside. This is all listed in publicly available government records. I kept searching and I believe that one is now deceased and buried in a Sydney cemetery, and the other is living with her son in Katherine. Last week Kathy and I travelled to Griffith for Kathy's Auntie's funeral. We travelled back an alternative route. We went via Grong Grong, Ganmain (where one of Kathy's parents was born ... she wasn't sure which one), Coolamon, Junee (visited the Licorice and Chocolate Factory. That was hard!) and Cootamundra. As we drove through Cootamundra I mentioned to Kathy about the "Coota Girls Home", "The Cootamundra Domestic Training Home for Aboriginal Girls" which was for girls forcibly removed from their families under the Aborigines Protection Act (1909-1969). Kathy said she knew about the home as she remembered that as a child three of the girls came to stay at her home in Coleambally during some holidays. Kathy wondered where they slept as Kathy was one of 7 children (though maybe not all yet born when the girls stayed). She said she was too young to remember much but later that day Kathy rang her elder sister and asked about them. Her elder sister Helen said she couldn't remember their names but remembered one thing very well. All the girls dearly wanted to go back to their mothers. I knew a few children in primary school who had dark skin, but I don't think it occurred to me that they were different in any other aspect. All the same my parents, or someone, gave me a number of books of the early history of Australia. Some included the confrontation of European and Aboriginal people and I have a vivid recollection of a drawing of Aboriginal people throwing spears at Europeans who were dressed in military garb. The military were shooting their muskets, and amazingly for a children's book, the image of Aboriginal men being thrown back with images of wounds on their bodies. And the drawing of a soldier with a spear through his body.

Continued over.....

All the same, I also had some books on dreamtime stories. These I loved! I later realised they were wisdom stories. They attracted me as I knew they were telling me something deep about human nature and our creator (I wouldn't have described it that way as a child) even though they were stories about animals and geographical features of our country. After leaving home at one point I was at Griffith and became a youth worker there. Part of my role was during each holiday to organise a week's worth activities for local children. This was my first real encounter with the Aboriginal community. After that Kathy and I moved to Menindee, not too distant from Broken Hill. Kathy nursed there and I was the Lay Pastor (and ambulance driver). Much of my ministry there involved the Aboriginal community and we had special services in the homes of the local Aboriginal People. I had a catamaran and remember taking the Aboriginal children (and parents at times) sailing on the Menindee Lakes. Along the way, I began to discover that all the things I was taught were the wonderful efforts of our country and government were not so wonderful. But more of that next week.

DIARY

Thursday 5 September

10.00am Morning tea in the Community – common seated area opposite Butcher at Charlestown Square

1.30-2.30pm Bible Study at Garden Suburb – James and Hebrews

Sunday 8 September – Pentecost 16

9.00am Divine Worship

Leader: David Preacher: Rev'd Tom

Commencing with **Praise & Worship led by Kathy**

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23; Psalm 125; James 2: 1-10, (11-13), 14-17; Mark 7:24-37

Monday 9 September

10.00am Garden Suburb Nursing Home Pastoral Care Visitation

1.30pm SFED

Tuesday 10 September

9.30-11am Uniting in Books at Garden Suburb

10.00am Morning tea in the Community at Lake Macquarie Square

Wednesday 11 September

10.00am Ladies Fellowship at Charlestown

Thursday 12 September

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 – James and Hebrews

Friday 13 September

6.00pm Ladies Night at Kahibah

Saturday 14 September

11.30am Friendship Circle – lunch at Lena's 11.30 then MUSIC @ The Bay 24 for 2pm start

15th September – Pentecost 17

9.00am **The Holy Communion** incorporated in Divine Worship

Leader and Preacher; Rev'd Tom

Proverbs 1:20-33; Psalm 19; James 3:1-12; Mark 8:27-38



THE PRAYER PAGE



Prayer is the Voice of Faith

Pastoral Prayer Points

* those in our congregation whose loved ones have died, especially the Threlfo's and Stuart's

* Janice and Don Wright

* Cathy Beeton

* Lesley

* Kelly

* Laraine Chegwiddden

* Tony Sellen

* Nelda Marshall

* Vivianne

* Shirley Elkin

* Lorraine Pepper

* Vicki

* Family of Judith Fuller following Judith's death (Warren Pepper's sister)

* Pam and Ken

* Lyn Benson

* Jean

* Fred Bryant

* June Locker

* Ryan Walpole

* Kathryn Gray

* Jacqueline Fenwick

* Isabella

* Janice Wright

* Eileen Dunn

* Pam and Mert

* Judith and family

* Enid Power

- Max
- Tom and Kathy
- Don Humphries

Congregational Prayer Points

- Church Council
- 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

- Children in the orphanage as MPox is spreading rapidly in Kenya. Pray for vaccines to arrive soon.
- Tom and Neos
- HCA Table Talks across the Hunter
- Kahibah Fair
- Local Government elections
- Those affected by climate change in Australia eg floods, droughts and fires
- Pray that a cease fire agreement will be negotiated between Israel and Hamas and that there will be relief from all the suffering
- The situation in Ukraine and other trouble spots





The Hunter Presbytery Prayer Diary



This diary provides an opportunity to pray each week for congregations in the Presbytery. By praying together, we can encourage one another in mission, as we grow in faith and unity and develop understanding and relationships across the region. Each week there will be information and a prayer for each of the congregations in the Hunter Presbytery. This week we pray for:

8th September 2024 – Singleton - Branxton Uniting Church

Singleton - Branxton Church meets each Sunday in Singleton at 9.00 a.m. and at Branxton at 5.30 p.m. We have recently adopted a Mission Plan with some achievable goals identified for 2024 that provide opportunities for our congregation to come together to better connect with each other and to better connect with those in our community who may be searching for a 'spiritual home'.

Prayer: We pray for our congregation to continue to walk in love and grace, fulfilling the two great commandments "Love the Lord our God with all our heart, all our mind and all our strength, and to love our neighbour as ourselves". Amen.

Spiritual Practice of the Week

Holy Communion: The Lord's Supper celebrates God's redemptive plan through the sacrificial death of Jesus. Through this meal of bread and wine (or grape juice) we join ourselves to Christ and feed on him in our hearts through faith.

Practice: Prepare yourself for Communion ahead of time. Read John 13: 1-17. Imagine you are there at the table with Jesus. What are your feelings and thoughts? How does it feel to have Jesus wash your feet? How does it feel to drink the cup knowing your own betrayals? Confess your sins and then attend Communion with what is in your heart to say to God.

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



Charlestown Ladies Fellowship

Wednesday 11th September

Will be held at Charlestown Church from 10.00am

Join in fellowship

ALL WELCOME

Church Council (September meeting) – Keeping you Posted

- A more detailed NREMA Budget (for our NEOS mission) as required by Uniting Mission and Education, was prepared and will pass through Presbytery's hands before going to Synod UME for approval.
- A new mission statement titled *Spirituality, Community, Justice – sustained by love* will be fleshed out in the coming months. We think this statement has the correct posture, as we grow the NEOS mission alongside our discipling and worship activities.
- Approval was given for up to \$20K from sales proceeds of Whitebridge to be spent on maintenance of the manse so it is fit for rental, should Synod Property decide to proceed with plans to develop the site. It is expected we will have the results of Synod's feasibility study for development within the next month. Rental income will help the budget in the couple of years before construction begins. (Plans and development approval take time.)
- Approval was given for Rev Tom Stuart to take six weeks of leave from 30th December to 9th February. Two weeks of this will be annual leave and four weeks of long service leave.
- Following last month's meeting regarding the best property to keep for future mission, the Council resolved to explore the sale of the Garden Suburb property. We are looking to generate an income stream to support the mission of the Charlestown & Garden Suburb congregation. If we were to lease the property, we would still be encumbered with the cost in finances, energy and time to maintain the property which are the resources we need for our mission into the community. While no decision has been made about the future of the Garden Suburb property, Church Council will investigate options for 'selling' which may not necessarily be restricted to the open market.

Kerrie Dixon on behalf of the Church Council

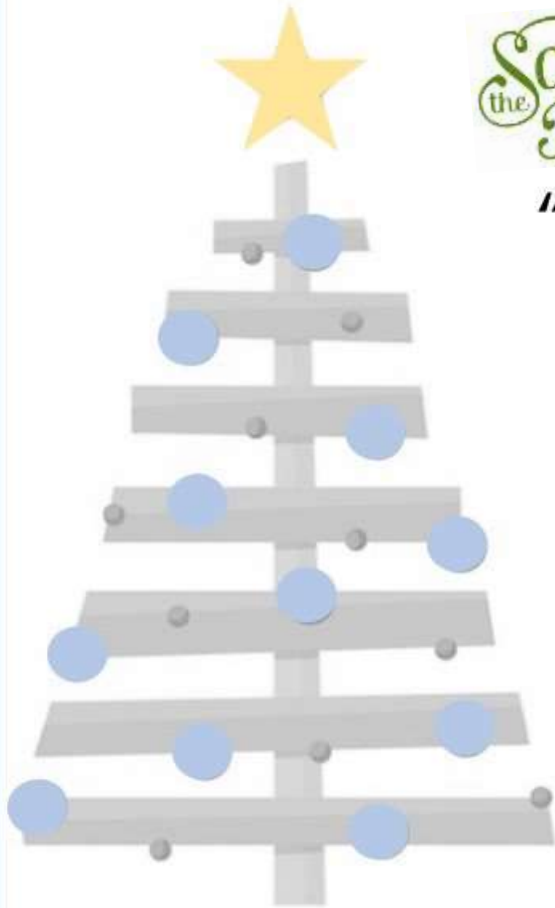
Uniting in Books

Love reading new books
Like to have a chance to find new books
Exchange your books for something
different
Join us for our new & exciting

Community Book Library
At Garden Suburb Uniting Church
Cnr Prospect Rd. & Marshall St

The next date is 10 September 9.30am to
11am





Save
the
Date

Quiet Day

"A Quiet Christmas"

Saturday 7 December

9am – 12.30am

Garden Suburb Uniting Church

158 Marshall Street

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

For information and registrations contact Anne Threlfo: annethrelfo@gmail.com



Charlestown Friendship Circle

Saturday 14 September

11.30am - Beginning with Lunch at Lena's,
Warners Bay then

2.00pm - The Willows Uniting Church for MUSIC
© The Bay 24

All Welcome



**ENTRY:
\$20
DONATION**

MUSIC @ The Bay 24

Featuring Performances by:

The Callaghan Singers
A cappella group Momentum
Waratah Girls Junior Choir
Soloists - Caitlin Russell,
Dana Leon Oakley of Opera Hunter
and Raphael Teixeira

2pm Saturday September 14th, 2024

Location :



**The Willows Uniting Church,
342 Hillsborough Road, Warners Bay**

Includes a delicious Afternoon Tea at the
conclusion of performance.

Supporting Local High School SRE (Scripture) provided
by Charlestown & Warners Bay Christian Education
Associations

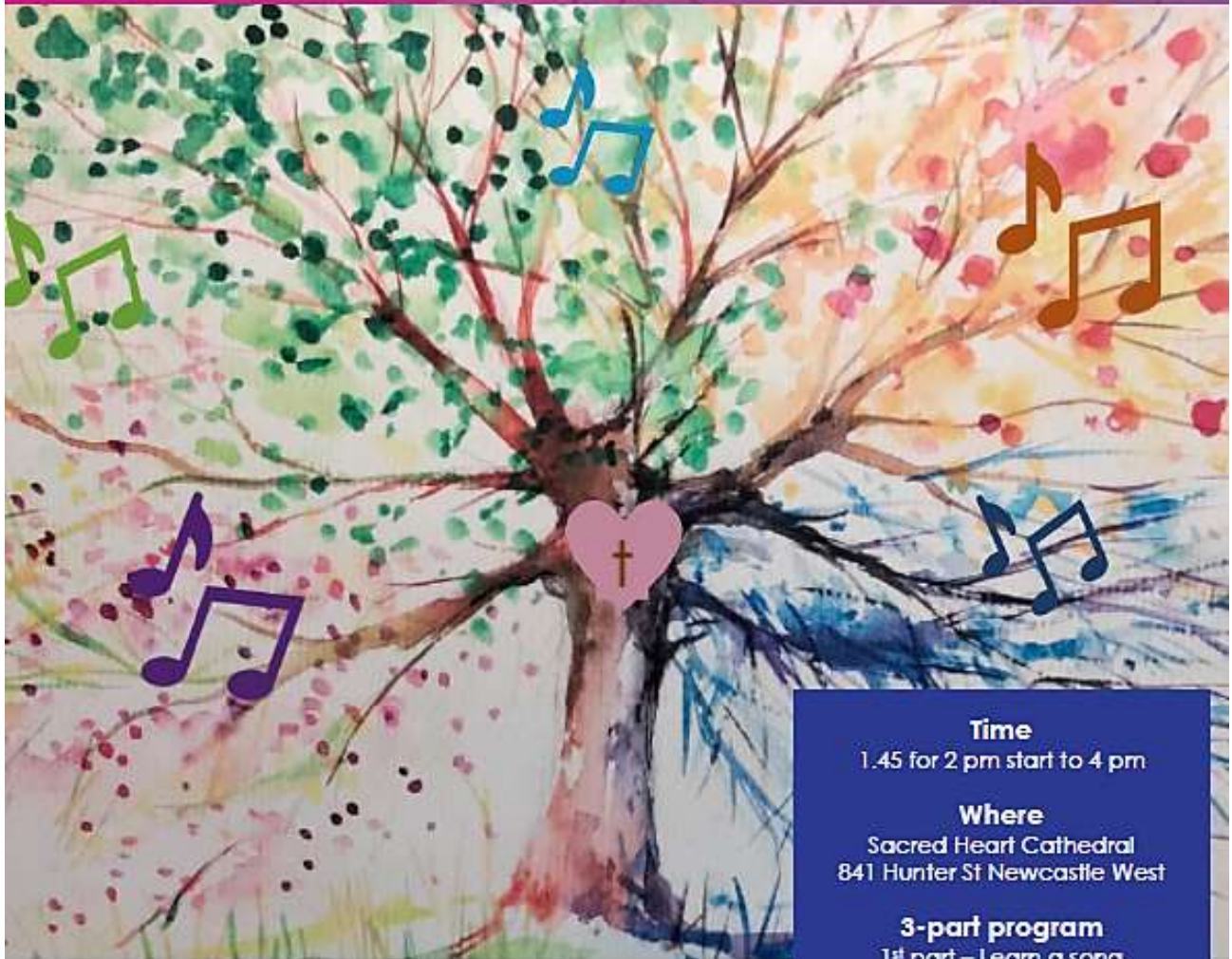
More Information :

Contact Paul : 0411 236 047



Creation Sings

SATURDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2024



The Diocesan Liturgy Council will be hosting Creation Sings.

The afternoon will be an opportunity to come together for the whole of the Newcastle, Hunter and Manning community to sing in support of creation.

Let us then come together and sing for creation and stir in our hearts, through song and one voice, a reconnection and love of the gift that has been given to us from God.

Time

1.45 for 2 pm start to 4 pm

Where

Sacred Heart Cathedral
841 Hunter St Newcastle West

3-part program

1st part – Learn a song
2nd part – Time of prayer
3rd part – Afternoon tea

Bring

A plant cutting for someone to propagate in their garden

RSVP

by 6 September via
forms.office.com/r/xKCr907ew6



Some of our Church Contacts:

Minister

Rev Tom Stuart
M: 0427 625 502
E: tom@thestuarts.id.au

Administration:

P: 4943 4019
E: 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
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>