UnitingChurch
SYNOD OF NSW & ACT

The Northern Presbytery
Weekly News

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



The fireflies are out this week. Every year for about 3 to 4 weeks just down from our house we have fireflies zooming around, it is quite a magical experience seeing their tiny pinpoints of light. A moment of delight every evening just on dark for about 45 minutes. They are one of the many surprises in God's creation.
I remember many years ago going fishing in the early morning before sunup and seeing the bioluminescence in the water as I was traveling along in the boat, the shock of seeing the boats wake sparkling with light.

One of the things that I love about God's creation is that it can surprise you, it is not simple and contained, but it is surprising and creative. The sparkle of some light at night or the colours in a fleck of opal on the ground in Coober Pedy after a shower of rain. Creation takes on some of the creator's characteristics; God is creative and surprising. A light in the darkness or a precious gem.

Blessings,
Richard

Rev. Richard Harris - Terrigal Uniting Church

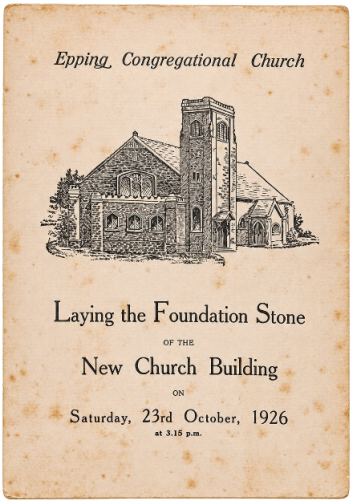


Celebrating the people, congregations and communities doing amazing things across The Northern Presbytery.

Epping Uniting Church



A Century of Faith, Friendship and Belonging



One hundred years ago, on 23 October 1926, the foundation stone was laid for a new Congregational church in Chester Street, Epping. A century later, the building still stands — but the real story of Epping Uniting Church is found in the generations of people who have worshipped, laughed, loved, served and supported one another within its walls.

To mark this significant milestone, we asked Rev Sunny Lee to share something of the church's history and what this centenary means to the congregation. Through the stories and recollections of longstanding members, together with photographs generously supplied by Sunny, a wonderful picture emerges of a church shaped by faith, friendship and a strong sense of belonging.

The congregation's beginnings stretch back to 1913, when Epping Congregational Church gathered in a modest wooden building. The new Chester Street church officially opened on 11 June 1927, beginning a chapter that would see the congregation grow, change and adapt through the decades.

In 1977, the congregation became part of the newly formed Uniting Church in Australia, embracing the union of Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian traditions. Another significant chapter came when the Chester Street and Oxford Street congregations joined, bringing together their histories, relationships and gifts into one church community.

Yet, as members reflect on the past century, it is not necessarily the major milestones they remember most vividly. **It is the people.**



Where Friendships Became Family

One longstanding member affectionately recalls the Congregational Youth Fellowship as a "modern-day dating agency". Young people gathered through their shared faith, friendships blossomed, romances developed and marriages followed. Many went on to raise families and contribute their enthusiasm and talents to churches throughout Epping and neighbouring communities.

For others, the church offered something equally precious — a sense of belonging in an unfamiliar place.

One couple arrived in Sydney knowing nobody. Through their involvement in church life, they discovered a community that became their extended family. With no relatives nearby, those friendships provided a sense of home and connection that endured through the years.

The Small Things That Build a Church

Across the decades, Epping's story has been shaped as much by everyday acts of service as by significant events.

One member remembers arriving early to set up the morning tea tables, finding genuine pleasure in having a useful role to play. Another recalls the dedication of those caring for Sunday School children, even when numbers were small.

These seemingly small contributions reflect a congregation where participation matters and where everyone has something to offer.

Music, too, has woven its way through the church's history. Members fondly recall dedicated organists, singers and ministers who shared their musical talents, enriching worship and bringing people together. The Chester Street theatre provided another avenue for creativity and fellowship.



The church's *Pastoral Friends* arrangement has also helped sustain connections, ensuring that friendship and care continue as members' circumstances change.

Among those sharing their memories are people whose association with the congregation spans fifty, sixty and almost seventy years. Their stories encompass youth fellowship, marriages, children, worship, service and the many changes that come with passing generations.

Together, they reveal a church that has been more than a place to attend on Sundays. It has been a constant presence through life's celebrations, challenges and transitions.

Faith in Living Colour



One of Epping's most distinctive expressions of faith is *Icons of Belief*, a series of five mosaics unveiled in 2003 to mark the congregation's ninetieth anniversary.

Created by artist Lindena Robb with the assistance of congregation members, the mosaics reflect themes of creation, worship and love, new life, openness and creativity.

Their imagery speaks of care for the earth, justice, hospitality and the sharing of gifts. The open hands, in particular, express the congregation's desire to welcome others.

These values have also been reflected in the church's wider relationships, including cooperation with other churches, environmental awareness and engagement with the local community.

The mosaics are more than a beautiful addition to the church grounds. They offer a colourful reminder that faith is something to be lived and shared, not simply remembered.



One Hundred Years — and Still a Story to Tell

A century inevitably brings change. Congregations join, traditions evolve, familiar faces depart and new generations arrive. Yet throughout Epping's history, the importance of faith, friendship and belonging has remained.

As Epping Uniting Church marks 100 years since the laying of its foundation stone, there is much to celebrate and much for which to give thanks.

And perhaps the most fitting image for its future is found in the mosaics themselves — **deep roots, open hands and a willingness to welcome whatever new possibilities God has in store.**

The foundation stone may have been laid a century ago, but the story of Epping Uniting Church is still being written.

Northern Presbytery Website Link

Northern Presbytery Update



WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE THIS MONTH: NOVEMBER

- Annual Financial Return to Synod due by 30 November
- Ensure that any events for Christmas or the holiday period have been properly planned and approved.
- Submit any details regarding new starters or variations to ensure finalisation before cut off in December.

Please click here for the full email for November





Save the date (Presbytery meetings via Zoom, 7.00pm to 9.00pm)

2026: Tuesday, November 24th

2027: (Tuesdays) February 23rd, May 25th, August 31st, November 30th

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President-elect Dongwon Goh's visit to Sydney Korean Community Church



Story and photographs kindly contributed by Rev. Jung-ha Hwang

On Sunday, 1 November 2026, Sydney Korean Community Church was delighted to welcome the Rev. Dongwon Goh, President-elect of UCA, as our guest preacher.

The visit was particularly meaningful for our congregation and our Senior Minister, the Rev. Jung-ha Hwang, as they share a longstanding ministry relationship. During Rev. Goh's time as the Minister of the Korean Church of Melbourne, Rev. Hwang served alongside him as an Associate Minister.



Preaching on All Saints' Day from Ephesians 1:11–23, Rev. Goh delivered a message entitled **"We Are God's Treasured Possession."** He reminded the congregation that, in Christ, we are God's own inheritance and precious people, sealed by the Holy Spirit. Drawing connections with 1 Peter 2:9, he

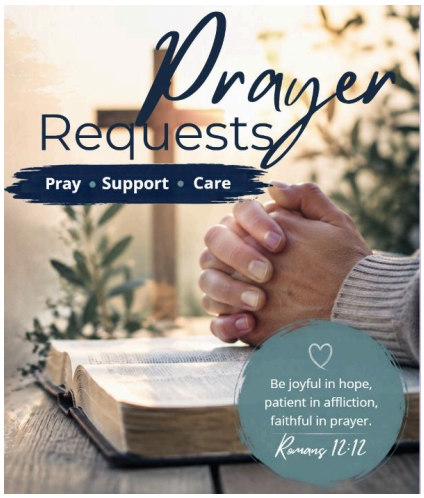
emphasised that our identity is not defined by our status as migrants or minorities, but by God's love and the privilege of belonging to Him.

He also encouraged us to have the eyes of our hearts enlightened, so that we may recognise the hope of God's calling, the richness of our inheritance and the power of the risen Christ. He concluded by reminding us that the Church is the body of Christ, called to reflect God's fullness through worship, caring for one another, nurturing future generations and serving the wider community.



Following the service, Rev. Goh spent time meeting and conversing with members of the congregation, sharing stories and strengthening relationships.

We are deeply grateful for his visit, his inspiring message and his continued friendship. It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our shared journey of faith and ministry within the Uniting Church.



Have something on your heart? Share your prayer request and let our Presbytery surround it in prayer. Click here to request a prayer

We pray for all who are grieving the loss of a loved one or facing other forms of loss. May they find comfort in God's loving presence, strength in

We pray for animal rescue organisations, wildlife carers, shelter workers and volunteers who tirelessly care for injured, abandoned and vulnerable animals. May they be

difficult moments and peace in the care and compassion of those around them.

blessed with strength, compassion and the resources they need.

We pray for all those impacted by recent severe weather across our Presbytery and beyond. May those facing damage, loss and uncertainty find safety, comfort and support, and may emergency workers, volunteers and communities be strengthened as they help one another recover.

We give thanks for the beauty and diversity of our earth. May we be faithful stewards of creation, protecting our environment. May we recognise the value of every creature, great and small, and be inspired to act with gentleness, compassion and care in the world God has entrusted to us.

As we offer these prayers may God open our eyes this week to the people, places and possibilities where love is needed most.



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.

MENTAL HEALTH
COMMUNITY MEAL
Peer Support, Care and Sharing a Meal

Sound & Breath Therapy Workshop



Led by Tracey Nikitaras, a highly experienced and trauma informed sound and breathing therapist.
Please Bring: a pillow and a small blanket
Event is free but optoinal donations are welcome to cover costs

FRIDAY NOV 6
6.30PM
CROWS NEST UNITING

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

SPRING SEASON MARKET

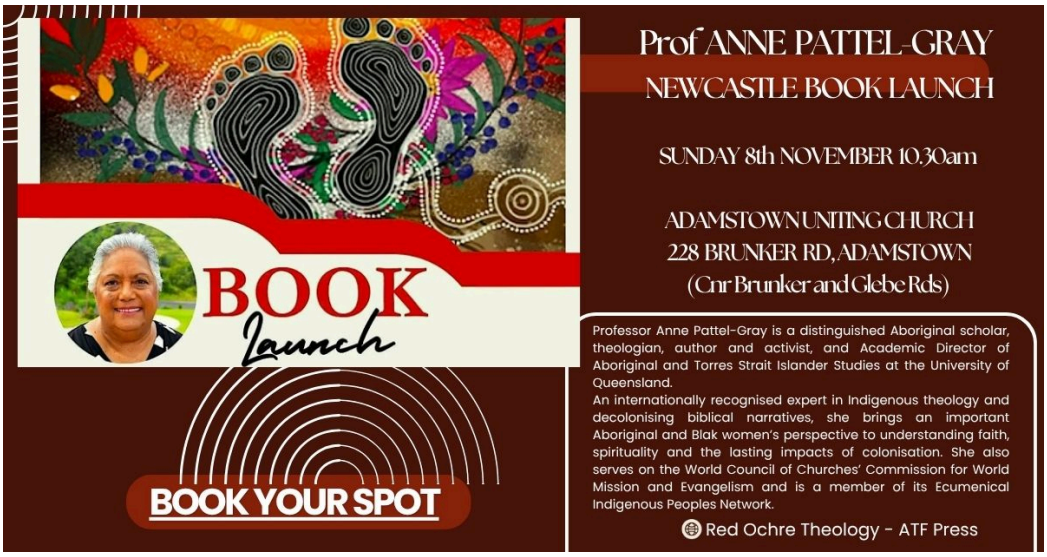
NOV
SATURDAY 7 9AM - 2PM
2026

JOIN US FOR AN ENERGETIC DAY OF SHOPPING, FOOD, AND FUN.

📍 **VENUE: ON THE FRONT LAWN OF COFFS UNITING CHURCH, VERNON ST.**

·EXPERIENCE: TASTY FOOD AND COOL DRINKS
·UNIQUE GIFTS AND HANDCRAFTED ITEMS
·EXCITING PRIZES AND FAMILY-FRIENDLY FUN
·A VARIETY OF STALLS WITH GREAT DEALS
·SAUSAGE SIZZLE
·ENJOY MUSIC AND THE WARM SUMMER SPIRIT OF LOVE AND FELLOWSHIP
BRING YOUR CHILDREN — THERE'S SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

ENTRY: FREE
CONTACT: 0402802183



uniting church
Sydney Central Coast Presbytery

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.

Save The Date

40 ANNIVERSARY
KINCUMBER
UNITING CHURCH
Central Coast South Uniting Church

INVITATION



SUNDAY 6TH DECEMBER 2026

Service at 11am
Light lunch to be served after the service

We invite you to join us as we celebrate a journey of faith, perseverance and joy as we reflect on all the ways God has blessed our faith and community.

Corner of Avoca Drive and Killuna Road
RSVP: 20th November 2026 to
Email: kincunut@bigpond.net.au
Phone: 4369 4505

Toronto Uniting Church

Presents

Nativity on Display 2026



Thursday	**26th November 10.00am - 4.00pm**
Friday	**27th November 10.00am - 4.00pm (Twilight Market and BBQ -Friday in conjunction with Nativity Display)**
Saturday	**28th November 10.00am - 4.00pm (Christmas Market and BBQ – Saturday in conjunction with Nativity Display)**
Sunday	**29th November 10.30am - 12.00noon**

Come and view some of the many ways the Christmas story is presented in painting, tapestry, figurines and more.

Refreshments available $5



Other Publications

threads of love
WEAVING CHRIST'S LOVE ACROSS CULTURES & BOUNDARIES

Weekly SYNOD SPOTLIGHT
Uniting Church Synod of NSW and the ACT

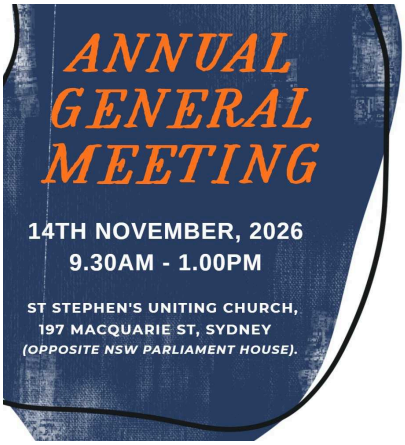
Uniting Climate

Social Justice E-news
Uniting Church SYNOD OF NSW & ACT
Uniting

PROJECT RECONNECT

Connections

NEWSLETTER



You are cordially invited to attend the AGM of the NSW Ecumenical Council on 14 November 2026.

It is possible to attend by Zoom.

Please RSVP to generalsecretary@nswec.org.au by November 6th.

Agenda and Papers will issue in due course.



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.