



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



Jesus – The Ultimate Superhero?

It seems that barely a month goes by without another superhero movie being released. What was once the big-screen domain of Batman, Spider-Man and Superman has expanded to include countless well-known, and some lesser-known, superheroes appearing across every imaginable digital platform. Spider-Man: Brand New Day and Avengers: Endgame – Encore are just a couple of examples, and no doubt many more are already in production. I need look no further than my grandson to see the fascination and excitement superheroes inspire (second only to dinosaurs, of course!).

This got me thinking...

If you were given the task of marketing Jesus as the next superhero in the DC or Marvel universe, what superpower, or powers, would you give him?

I'm sure this is a question that Sunday School teachers have explored in various ways over the years. But if we dig a little deeper, what extraordinary power would we choose to showcase as the defining characteristic of Jesus?

The obvious abilities might include healing the sick, raising people from the dead and, of course, his own resurrection. Yet while superheroes often possess an impressive

range of abilities, they are usually recognised for one defining power or characteristic that sets them apart.

So, what would be the one power that truly epitomises the Messiah?

Would it be love, for God is love? Would it be forgiveness, or perhaps grace? Or could it be peace, for Jesus is, after all, the Prince of Peace?

I find myself drawn to peace because, in many ways, all these other qualities lead us towards it. Love for ourselves and others nurtures peace. Forgiveness restores relationships and brings peace where there has been hurt. Grace offers peace even in circumstances where it seems undeserved or unimaginable. And through Christ, we are brought into peace with God the Father.

Perhaps, though, it isn't possible to separate these powers. Just as Superman can fly, leap tall buildings in a single bound and move faster than a speeding bullet, perhaps the extraordinary powers of Jesus are inseparably intertwined. His love, forgiveness, grace and peace are all expressions of who he is.

And when you think about it, what a superhero he would make!



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

Gordon-Pymble Uniting Church



Small Quokka, Big Questions!

What do chocolate cake, a curious quokka and some very big questions about God have in common? At Gordon-Pymble Uniting Church, they're all part of a wonderfully creative approach to children's ministry!

Meet Quirky the Quokka, a lovable little puppet with a big personality, an appetite for chocolate cake and an endless curiosity about Jesus, church and the world around him.

Quirky first appeared when the children's ministry team wanted to help families explore the Easter story, particularly those who would be away over the Easter weekend. They created a series of short videos following Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Silent Saturday and Easter Sunday. The videos also provided a resource to share with local schools.

What began as a simple idea has grown into a regular YouTube series, helping explain big church concepts to little hearts and minds.

Quirky has explored everything from the meaning of the Uniting Church logo to celebrating the UCA's birthday. Many episodes are inspired by questions raised by children attending the church's fortnightly family gathering, All-In.

And All-In is exactly what its name suggests!

Families gather for free play, storytelling (often acted out by the children themselves), craft activities and a shared dinner, complete with dessert. It's a welcoming, intergenerational space where everyone, from the youngest to the oldest, has something to contribute.



As the ministry team explains, the name reflects their desire to create a culture where ***“we are all in this together”*** and everyone can learn from one another.

The children are encouraged to ask whatever questions they have about God and faith, with Quirky helping explore those questions through humour, curiosity and a little confusion along the way.

One particularly memorable lesson involves Quirky's ongoing struggle to understand that you can't actually cook water — you can only boil it until it becomes steam!

The videos are usually screened during dinner at All-In, accompanied by plenty of giggles and enthusiastic discussion. And Quirky's popularity doesn't end when the screen goes off. The children are often excited to arrive at church and see whether they can spot him hiding somewhere in the roof — apparently his favourite place to live!



The All-In community continues to grow, with families finding friendship, connection and a safe space to explore faith together.

Quirky even made an appearance at Northern Presbytery's first retreat, chatting with children's ministry pastor Larissa and bringing his trademark curiosity to the wider church community.

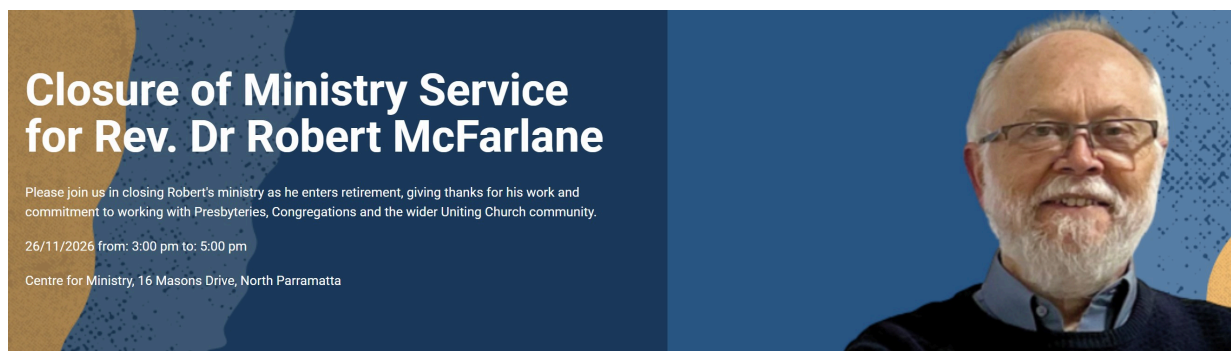
"Click to see Quirky in action at our first Northern Presbytery retreat!"



Behind the laughter is a thoughtful approach to nurturing faith in young people — one that recognises that children have important questions, valuable insights and a place in the life of the church.

Sometimes, helping children discover more about God's love doesn't begin with having all the answers. Sometimes, it begins with a little quokka who's just as curious as they are!

Northern Presbytery Update



Date: 26 November 2026

Time: From 3:00pm followed by afternoon tea

Location: Centre for Ministry, 16 Masons Drive North Parramatta. Livestream options available upon registration.

Please RSVP your attendance and any dietary requirements by 18 November 2026

[Click here to Register your attendance](#)



(Attention SYNOD 2027 nominee submitters)

Nominees who have submitted their nominations have received the 'Synod 2027_nominee additional info form 28.09.2026.'

Completed and endorsed form must be **emailed by 28th October 2026** to Northern Presbytery admin support, Leslie D'Mello: LeslieD@nswact.uca.org.au



UYC 2026 (Uniting Youth Camp)

Richard Moors - Next Gen Consultant

All photos supplied from Pulse Facebook Page

From 28th September to 2nd of October I got to attend my second Uniting Youth Camp, this year we met at the Great Aussie Bush Camp at Tea Gardens, yes in the Northern Presbytery. This was a camp for young people in High School from across the Synod. We had over 140 young people with about 50 leaders. This year the speaker was Pablo Nunez, the Moderator Elect.

The young people were split into small groups who would discuss the talks each evening during worship. These small groups then joined with a couple of other groups in the morning to do site activities. The activities were: dual flying fox; crate stacking; survivor challenge; raft building, power fan and canoeing. There was lots of fun in each of these activities, building up connections between the young people and in some cases challenging them to step outside their comfort zone and face fears of heights.



In the afternoons the camp was broken into four houses: Red Raptors, Yellow Gorillas, Blue Bears and Purple Wolves. There were competitive games each afternoon for teams to win points for their houses. As well as that through the week leaders were looking for young people who were helping out or doing good things to award house points for. There was also a Taskmaster evening on Tuesday where people earned points for their houses. In the end it was the Yellow Gorillas who came out victorious.

On Thursday night many different groups shared songs, dances, magic tricks and dad jokes to show how God has been seen in their lives. Some people also shared testimonies about how God had been part of their life.



In amongst all of the fun, free time and meals, we were exploring the theme of Seek. Pablo drew on Jeremiah 29:13 "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." He encouraged us to know that we can find God around us, just as the Israelites found God even in Babylon. Then as we looked at the call to build houses and settle in the land we were challenged to be the people God created us to be in the community where we find ourselves. Then we were encouraged to think about how we can make a positive difference. On the final morning there was a time for people to think about their response. Some chose to follow Jesus, some to making a difference in the community around them. Many to commit to the Uniting Church and making a difference in the church.



My role on camp was to support the new leaders. It was wonderful to see them stepping out into leadership, navigating what it means to move from being a camper to a leader. Getting in and helping out, often without being asked to. I felt that our church is so blessed to have so many great young leaders. In my role I also was invited to be part of the core leadership team of camp. It was nice to attend their meetings before camp, to see how they know what they are doing and can lead in amazing ways. We are so lucky to have the leadership which we have and the leadership which is emerging, many of which come from the Northern Presbytery.

You can see a video of highlights from the week at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=urzODmQNTdE>

Richard Moors - Next Gen Consultant



Big or small, every prayer matters — share what's on your heart and let our Presbytery pray with you. [Click here to request a prayer](#)

As Term 4 and the HSC begins, we pray for students, teachers and families returning to school, and for those sitting exams. May this final term

We pray for individuals and families struggling with the rising cost of living, housing insecurity and everyday expenses. May they find practical

bring encouragement, renewed energy and opportunities for growth, friendship and belonging.

support, compassion and hope through their communities.

We hold in prayer those affected by war, violence and displacement, particularly innocent families and children. May world leaders seek justice, reconciliation and lasting peace.

As The Northern Presbytery continues to grow together, we pray for wisdom, patience and openness to new possibilities. May our congregations find strength in one another and discover fresh ways to share God's love in their communities.

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**.

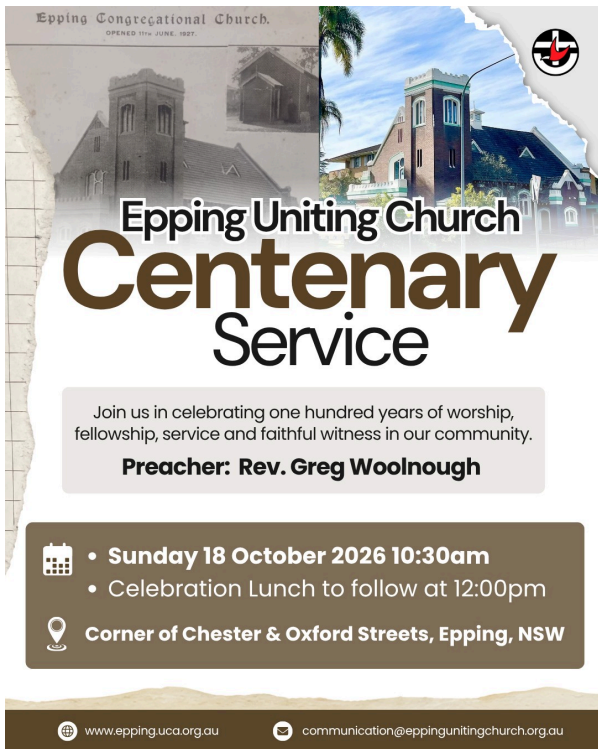
It's a great way to stay connected and discover what's happening in your local church community.



Click here to
register

Click here for further information and to book

Epping Congregational Church.
OPENED 11th JUNE 1887.



Epping Uniting Church Centenary Service

Join us in celebrating one hundred years of worship,
fellowship, service and faithful witness in our community.

Preacher: Rev. Greg Woolnough

- Sunday 18 October 2026 10:30am
- Celebration Lunch to follow at 12:00pm

Corner of Chester & Oxford Streets, Epping, NSW

www.epping.uca.org.au communication@eppingunitingchurch.org.au

Warnervale Regional
Uniting Church

Community Market Day

FREE ENTRY **SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESS**

Saturday 24th October
8.30am – 1pm
251 Warnervale Road,
Hamlyn Terrace NSW 2259

Local artisans and small businesses
So much for families to see and do
Scottish pipe band performing at 10am



A great day out for the whole family!

Food & Treats
Jerky & hot sauce • Coffee Van • Bacon & Egg rolls • Food truck • Devonshire
Teas & Sandwiches • Cakes & slices and our ever-popular **Sausage Sizzle**

Family Fun
Face painting • Mermaid tails • Children's activities • Balloons • Bows & accessories

SPRING SEASON MARKET

NOV 7
SATURDAY 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

JACARANDA THEMED ART SHOW 2026



SATURDAY 7 NOV - ART SHOW
1-4pm Pre-Loved Art for Sale
(Have you got art sitting at home that needs a new life? Contact us!)

1-4pm Friday Art Group Exhibition
1.30pm The Creative Table - Arts & Crafts
3pm Jacaranda Art Show and Prizegiving

All enquiries to
Courtney@gpuc.org.au

18 Cecil Street, Gordon NSW 2072
www.gpuc.org.au

Gordon-Pymble
Uniting Church

Normanhurst Uniting Church

Gingerbread House Night

Monday 7th December at 7pm

\$42 per kit, includes lollies

Order by Friday 20 November 2026

email office@normanhurstunitingchurch.org.au
or call 9487 2467 (Wed - Fri)



Normanhurst Uniting Church
2 Buckingham Ave, Normanhurst



Can't make it on the night?
Order a take home kit!

*kit not pictured



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



Voluntary Assisted Dying Community Forum

Reliable information, open conversations and directions on how to offer support and care.

Ask your questions about this sensitive topic at our free community forum.

We will discuss:

- What's involved and who is eligible?
- How does the process work?
- How do we talk about this topic?
- How do we listen and provide support?
- Medical, legal and pastoral perspectives

We will have expert advice from an authorised medical practitioner from NSW Health. There will be roleplays and examples to help us learn. Everyone is welcome.

**Wednesday
4 November**

9:30am – 1:00pm

**Thornleigh Hillcrest
Uniting Church**

1 Palling St, Thornleigh

Morning tea provided

For catering purposes, RSVP to
forums@thornleigh-hillcrestu.ca.org.au
or call David 0407 805 487



Uniting



Uniting Church
SYND OF NSW & ACT

CULTURE of SAFETY Training

The new **CULTURE of SAFETY** training is now a 2 part course.
A combined Part 1 & 2 in-person workshop is being held at ...

Combined Part 1&2 Workshop

Mosman Uniting Church

38A Belmont Rd, Mosman

Saturday 31st October - 9:30am-3:30pm

BYO Lunch

Uniting Churches - \$10 (subsidised)

Non-Uniting Churches - \$40

Pay cash on the day

Register online at

www.nswact.uca.org.au/support-services/culture-of-safety/culture-of-safety-training/

Or scan here to register





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

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

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

Other Publications



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.