



# The Uniting Church in Wyndham News

22 October  
2023  
Pentecost 20

**We acknowledge the people of the Kulin alliance, the original custodians of the land which was never ceded and on which our buildings for worship stand and on which we gather.**



## OUR COMMUNITY NEWS FOR TODAY AND THE COMING WEEK

### News from the joint Church Councils

The combined Church Councils met on Monday evening with representatives of the Presbytery in preparation for the formal amalgamation of the congregations by Presbytery on 2 December 2023.

We received a resignation letter from **Audrey Kateena**, effective from 27 October. This will be her last service in the role, although she plans to remain a member here. We thank her very much for her work with the congregation and wish her well for her retirement.

#### A new name for the church and congregation

The new name, to be approved by Presbytery, is Werribee Uniting Church.

#### Election of the new Church Council

The Councils approved the following plan for the election of the new Church Council and Elders to take effect from February 2024. Today, Bev Lambie will outline the plan and the roles of the elected persons.

**Next Sunday (29/10)** a summary of the roles and election procedures will be in this newsletter, and nomination forms will be available.

**5 November:** Nominations already received will be announced, and a call for further nominations given.

**12 November:** Persons nominated will be asked to give a two-minute presentation. An A5 page will be distributed with the photos of those presenting with their profiles and space to make notes.

**19 November:** Nominations close at 9.30am, and all nominees announced. The two-minute presentations will continue.

**26 November:** Two-minute presentations continue.

**3 December:** Elections (ballot papers given out, to be returned by 12noon. Following confirmation of the Presbytery's approval of the amalgamation, the votes will be counted by the scrutineers (Doug Mullett & Bev Lambie) and announced at church and next newsletter.

**February 11 2024:** Celebration of new congregation.

**February 18 2024:** New Church Councillors set apart by prayer.

### Gotcha moment for the enemies of Jesus

It's a gotcha moment, for the enemies of Jesus. If he allows that taxes should be paid to Rome, then he is a traitor to his own people's cause. If he resists paying taxes to Rome, then the occupying force can classify him as a subversive terrorist.

The famous scene where Jesus, cornered by his Pharisee opponents replies "Render to Caesar what is Caesar's and render to God what belongs to God" is recorded by Matthew as happening in the Temple at Jerusalem.

Jesus turned the Pharisees attack back upon them. It would be unthinkable for the Jewish leaders to allow a Roman coin with the idolatrous image of the Roman Emperor into the temple.

When Jesus requests that such a coin be brought forward, the temple bosses must have been embarrassed. "We should not be in possession of the banned image," they must have thought.

Jesus' unforgettable reply appears to neatly sidestep the trap laid by the Pharisees. Over the centuries following, conservative thinkers have claimed that Jesus concedes to governments the right to oppress the marginalised and the protestors.

Jesus showed single-minded determination to go to meet his enemies in Jerusalem. He rendered to God the priority of his allegiance. He demonstrated his complete obedience to God's will "You shall love the Lord your God with all your strength..."

Christians today can know that our ultimate allegiance is not to the State, but to God. It's not an easy path to walk, when we want to resist our government's idolatry of militarism and free market capitalism. (NT)

### Cleaning Wyndham

Next month we are cleaning Campbell's Cove on Sunday Nov 12 @ 11:30. That will be our final clean for 2023. We hope you can join us. Thanks for all your support today & throughout the year.

## NEWS AND NOTES

**Bible Discussion Group**

At the church - a time of sharing – 11.30 am discussion and bring lunch to follow at 12.30. Lectionary Gospel reading for this week is Matthew Chapter 22, verses 34–46. Neil T.

**Girls Brigade – information evening****Girls Brigade is coming to Wyndham.**

We're holding an information evening for those who are interested in knowing more about becoming an adult leader in the new Girls Brigade outreach ministry.

**Monday, 30 October, 7pm at Dreambuilders Church, 37–43 Graham Court, Hoppers Crossing.**

Contact Scott W. or email at [girlsbrigadehc@gmail.com](mailto:girlsbrigadehc@gmail.com) for further information.



# A BORDERLESS COMMUNITY

**9:00AM - 3:00PM**

**SATURDAY 28TH OCTOBER 2023**

**CANTERBURY TONGAN UNITING CHURCH**

**31 BALWYN ROAD, CANTERBURY VIC 3103**

**MORNING TEA AND LUNCH PROVIDED**

**Morning Session** will share in the discussions around what it means to be a Borderless Community. **Afternoon Session** will be the Synod Intercultural Forum's Annual General Meeting.

**NO COST EVENT - REGISTER BELOW FOR ATTENDANCE AND DIETARIES**

<https://events.humanitix.com/synod-intercultural-forum-retreat-and-agm>

Any queries, please feel free to contact the SF Secretary: Juliette Maua'i ([asojl@bigpond.com](mailto:asojl@bigpond.com)), or the SF Chair: Lavingi Tupou ([revfinetupou23@gmail.com](mailto:revfinetupou23@gmail.com)).

## TODAY AND NEXT WEEK

**Worship services**

22 October: Rev. Annetia Goldsmith  
29 October: Rev. Fa'ama Leota (Final service)

**What's On This Week**

**Monday:** 9.30am Playgroup  
**Tuesday:** 11.30am Bible Discussion  
**Wednesday:** 9.30am Crossroads Property C'tee;  
2pm Seniors Afternoon Tea  
**Thursday:** 9.30am Gardening Group

**Bible Readings 22 & 29 October**

**22 October:** Exodus 33:12–23; 1 Thessalonians 1:1–10; Matthew 22:15–22; Psalm 99  
**29 October:** Deuteronomy 34:1–12; Psalm 90; 1 Thessalonians 2:1–8; Matthew 22:34–46

**Rosters for 22 October & (29 October)**

**Greetings:** Elizabeth B (Judy O'K)  
**AV:** Paul C (Christian R-K)  
**Morning Tea:** Marie C & Virginia S (Jan S & Elizabeth B, Fa'ama Final Service)  
**Flowers:** Bev C (Lorna H)  
**Music:** Gina L (Wendy B)  
**Prayers:** Emily M (Neil T)  
**Reader:** Emily M (Val T)

**The Uniting Church in Wyndham online**

Our Facebook page can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/621987747878234/> <https://crossroadsunitingchurch.org.au>. HX is [secretary@hoppersuniting.church](mailto:secretary@hoppersuniting.church).

**Church Office**

Church office is open Monday to Friday, 9.30–12 noon. Phone 9741 1084. Email [office@crossroadsunitingchurch.org.au](mailto:office@crossroadsunitingchurch.org.au).

**TUCIW News:** For any inclusions, please contact the editors **by Tuesday** (ph. 0427 812 606) or email [robert.renton@bigpond.com](mailto:robert.renton@bigpond.com).

**Bank Accounts:** Crossroads BSB 083-909 A/c 516109795. Hoppers Crossing BSB 013-915 A/c 354439707 Reference: Your surname.

**Boom gate** Remember the code: 0459#

**To book for an event at Crossroads,** please email [bookings@crossroadsunitingchurch.org.au](mailto:bookings@crossroadsunitingchurch.org.au).