



Werribee Uniting Church

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 we gather.

14 September 2025

Season of Creation

The Season of Creation is a time to marvel in God's incredible tapestry of life on earth. It's also a time we remind ourselves of our sacred calling for and nurture of this common home of ours. This calling transcends any single time of the year, and it's not just for some of us with particular interests or professional roles. It's part of what it means to be human.

In every season, no matter our age, life stage, or how we use our free time, we're all called to care for, indeed **to love** Creation.

The word 'calling' can sound like a duty, a burden, something we 'have to do'. But when I sit on my deck and listen to the warble and chatter of native birds or when I sink my toes in the sand of the Awabakal coastline, where I'm grateful to live, it doesn't feel like a burden at all.

What if wonder is the true fuel of lasting climate advocacy? I was thinking about this when I spent some time reflecting on the words of Uncle Pastor Ray Minniecon and Dr Felicity McCormack—two people I'm deeply grateful are a part of our Common Grace movement. An Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander elder who carries the deep wisdom of thisland through his bloodline, as part of the oldest surviving cultures on the planet, and a climate scientist who has spent years studying and understanding Antatctica, and the way that icy landscape down south is connected to everywhere else on this planet.

The purpose of this message is to help you pause—and then act in a way that honours your calling—and mine—as citizens of this wonder-filled earth, made by our good and loving Creator.

The earth speaks in every crashing wave and shifting tide. She sings in birdsong and breeze, groans in the movement of sand and sea, and cries out an invitation to love, to take our place as caretakers of creation. (Gerson Nimbalker, National Director of Common Grace)

TODAY AND NEXT WEEK

Worship services

14 September: Lay Preachers

21 September: Rev. Bruce Watson

For Pastoral Care: Please contact Raymond Surujpal, convenor of the pastoral care team on: 0432 619 184.

Bible readings

This week: Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28; Psalm 14; 1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10

Next week: Jeremiah 8:18 - 9:1 Psalm 79:1-9
1 Timothy 2:1-7 Luke 16:1-13

What's on this week

Monday: 9.30am Playgroup

Tuesday: 9.30am Bible Study

Wednesday: 9.30am Property Group;
7pm Church Council

Thursday: 9.30am Gardening Group;
5.30pm Health & Fitness;
5.30pm Choral Practice

Friday: 1pm Sew 'n Sow
6.30pm Youth Group

Rosters 14 September (21 Sept.)

Greetings: Elizabeth Barnes (Tulua Seulupe)

Audiovisual: Christian Ropeti-Kilifi (Noel Savory)

Morning Tea: Judy O'Keefe & Dorothy Rookes
(Sandra Savory & Margaret Gook)

Music: Gina Lee (Wendy Barnes)

Prayers: Fa Tuipea (Vivien Bleakley)

Reader: Val Tardrew (Fa Tuipei)

Werribee UC on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/621987747878234/>

Church office

Open 9.30am to 12 noon. Phone 97411084

Email office@werribeeunitingchurch.org.au

WUC Newsletter

Send information for inclusion to the Editor at robert.renton@bigpond.com or 0427 812 606.

Bank Account & Boom Gate (0459#)

BSB 083-909 A/c 516109795

To book facilities at WUC:

Email: (Elizabeth Barnes)

bookings@werribeeunitingchurch.org.au

Samoa service

3rd Sunday, 4pm, in the Church: All welcome.

Church fête Saturday 25 October



Stalls so far include Books (preferably children's books, novels, autobiographies, but not old encyclopaedias or magazines) and Jigsaws; good Trash and Treasure, Plants, Cakes (including jams, slices, pickles), Sausage Sizzle, other Hot Foods (Samoan ladies to cater), Handcrafts, Embroidery (Nola Edgar), Second-hand Jewellery (Bev Cox), Chocolate Toss, and maybe even Fairy Floss!

Chocolate Toss would like donations of chocolate bars, please, and now is the time to start looking for 'specials' at the supermarket if you plan to donate. If you have any other ideas about a table at the fête, please let the fête committee of *Tracey, Margaret, Wendy, Liz, Geoff* and *Armando* know.

OSLO Sunday 28 September

We plan to join together at Altona Sports Club, 11 Altona Road, for our monthly OSLO lunch. Seniors meals are available. All are welcome. We just ask that you let either Lorna 0419 101 766 or Elaine 0435 998 013 know by Thursday 25 of your attendance (or cancellation if necessary). Shared transport will be arranged for those needing a lift to Altona.

Lorna Hodge

Lorna was born in Holland at Rotterdam in 1935.



Her mother was German and her father was English.

They lived in Holland for four years and her brother Roy was born there.

In the week before the war her father arranged for them to move by boat to live with his parents in Exeter, England. Their furniture arrived on the last

boat from Europe. Lorna has war memories of the school that she attended being bombed and being in their house while windows were being blown out. There were parties in the street when the war ended.

After four years her father returned from the army and they moved to Belgium. There her brother Peter was born. He was very musical and was senior record producer for Decca Records. After her school years Lorna went to Brussels for Pre-Nursing training, which was in French. She worked for four years at St George's Hospital in London before joining the army as a lieutenant in the Queen Alexander Royal Army Nursing Corps.

She was posted to a British Hospital in Malta for two years and then to Germany where she met and married Jeff. They were married in Hanover, with many German relatives present.

Jeff was posted back to Exeter, England where daughter Kerry was born. Then to Aden where daughter Julie was born. Two years in Singapore followed by two years in Melbourne before they returned to Hereford, England.

Jeff left the army and decided to migrate to Australia. Their four-month journey in a camper van overland to Australia in 1973 was recorded in a diary and Lorna has since published a book called "Australia, here we come!"

They came to live in Werribee and attended the Werribee Methodist Church, which later joined with Crossroads Presbyterian Church, and which is now Werribee Uniting Church.

A discussion around a home BBQ with Elaine and Stan Belcher, Lorna's partner Roland and the Rev. Richard & Gwen Arnold led to our popular monthly lunches at local restaurants now known as **Occasional Sunday Lunch Out**.

Know Your Bible (KYB) has played a big part in Lorna's life for the last thirty-two years. For many years Lorna has also participated in the Seniors Afternoon Tea.

Lorna loves to travel. In 2013 after her partner Roland died, Lorna did a four-month cruise around the world.

She has attended the South Pacific Area Seminars of the Methodist and Uniting Church Women.

The first one she went to was for five days with 500 women present. After that she attended seminars in Fiji, New Zealand, Tonga, Brisbane and world -wide ones in England and Johannesburg.

Lorna is very proud of her six grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren.

Lorna, you have fitted so much into your ninety years! We wish you continued good health and God's rich blessings in your future activities. (Bev Lambie)

Church Office Volunteers: The Church Office is open from 9.30am to 12 noon, and is staffed by the following volunteers:	
Monday	(Liz Barnes),
Tuesday	(Julie Hamilton),
Wednesday	(Helen Grech),
Thursday	(Liz Barnes),
Friday	(Margaret Gook).