



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.

18 May 2025: Easter 5

Backpacks for the Pacific nations



UCAF have again agreed to support the program 'Backpack Pacifica' sending filled backpacks to children in the Pacific area—Samoa, Tonga, Papua New Guinea, Kirribati, or the Solomon Islands. Last year's backpacks went to the Solomon Islands and were

hugely appreciated.

The program will run until the 20th June. If you would like to fill a back pack, or donate for the purchase of a backpack or anything from the list of stationery etc, all donations would be gratefully received.

Some very much appreciated gifts of stationery and backpacks have already been received.

For more information please talk to any of the UCAF ladies or see Margaret Gook (0417-513-984.) Everyone welcome to participate and thank you to those who have already indicated their willingness to fill a back pack.

Youth Group

There will be a meeting in the church straight after the service today. (Tupu Latu)

There's a monthly emailed newsletter for young people—see <https://victas.uca.org.au/younger-generations/>.

With Love to the World

Lyn O'Meara has three complimentary copies of the daily Bible reading and prayer guide *With Love to the World* available at church this morning for anyone who would like to find out what they are like.

Next O.S.L.O.

O.S.L.O Occasional Sunday Lunches Out May 25th. We will be dining at The Brook on Sneydes Rd 12md. Please contact Elaine 0435 998 013 or Lorna 0419 101 766 by Thursday 22nd May for catering numbers. Everyone welcome.

Hoppers Crossing church

A report from the Chair of Church Council, Ken Storey, regarding the current situation with the Hoppers Crossing church:

Having the opportunity to meet with the Presbytery Secretary last Monday to discuss the collection of the left over furniture from Hoppers Crossing, we went through the church to the op-shop room to look at what would be

TODAY AND NEXT WEEK

Worship services

18 May: Rev. Bruce Watson

25 May: Rev. Ian Pearse

For Pastoral Care: Please contact Raymond Surujpal, convenor of the pastoral care team on: 0432 619 184 or Margaret Bull: 0417 500 961.

Bible readings

This week: Acts 11:1–18; Psalm 148; John 13:31–35; Revelation 21:1–6

Next week:

What's on this week

Monday: 9.30am Playgroup

Tuesday: 9.30am Bible Study

Wednesday: 7pm Church Council

Thursday: 9.30am Gardening Group;

5.30pm Health & Fitness;

5.30pm Choral Practice (chapel)

Saturday: 7.30am Samoan Health & Fitness

Rosters 18 May (& 25 May)

Greetings: Paul Kirkman (Margaret Dent)

Audiovisual: Paul Kirkman (Paul Kirkman)

Morning Tea: Jan Bradley & Julie Hamilton (Judy O'Keefe & Dorothy Rookes)

Flowers: Church (Jennie Kirkman)

Music: Asanka Pakura (Angela Murnane)

Prayers: Tulua Seulupe (Lauina Levave)

Reader: Sandra Savory (Bev Lambie)

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.

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BSB 083-909 A/c 516109795

To book facilities at WUC:

Email: (Elizabeth Barnes)

bookings@werribeeunitingchurch.org.au

Samoan service

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

useful to us. That was good and we will arrange for them to be picked in June.

What caught my eye was that all the openings in the church have all been propped up with builders steel props holding up what looks like 150 x 150 wooden beams. across the openings. Cracks can clearly be seen in the walls, which is very sad that the building now has no use. There is also a water leakage problem, which the Presbytery is trying to find the cause, which appears to be under the foundations.

I was not allowed to take any photos and relay other information due to the ongoing court case. They are waiting on the lawyers for the defence to prepare their case so they can go to mediation. Still some time down the track yet for a resolution I feel.

And an update regarding the Joint Nominating Committee:

Our JNC is to meet Thursday 15 May to finalise the congregation profile to send to Church Council at its next meeting. All being well it will be approved and will go to the Pastoral Relations Committee of Presbytery for their next meeting in June. (Ken Storey)

Neil Tolliday



Neil Tolliday, you all know him, a friend and mentor, and over the years he may have written 'your' story. Now it his turn and I'm going to attempt to share his story.

Neil was born in 1933 in Meeniyana, between Leongatha and Foster in Gippsland. His dad, manager of the branch of the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney, now known as NAB. The family lived in accomodation at the bank. He was a regular at the youth group, the PFA (Presbyterian Fellowship of Australia), and the Presbyterian church in Queenscliffe.

He tells me his first job at 16 was at Bright & Hitchcocks in the Queenscliff store. He was unsure about a career path, but went on to study accountancy for two years at the Gordon campus in Geelong. This led to employment in Collins Street with the accounting firm of Spry, Clarke & Tootle. After four years he moved on to another firm, reluctantly continuing with accounting. It was during this time that his life changed direction—he became a candidate for the Presbyterian ministry at just 22 years of age.

Neil continues: "I was required to do my Matriculation at Taylor's coaching college, and was housed in a hostel share house. The church paid my university fees, and I settled down to six years of study. My first postings were in country Victoria near Hamilton. I was now married with a baby. After a few years preaching, I read about a position in Canada, I applied and we soon found ourselves living and working in Medicine Hat, Alberta. Our third baby, a second girl, arrived but we added to our family when we heard American Indian babies were needing adoption. Our three month old Michael was welcomed into our family.

After two years we moved a little further around the globe to the United Kingdom, to a position in Norfolk, at Norwich. On the Norfolk broads I was the minister of the Wroxham Free church (a United Reformed church). While I was there I was teaching religious studies at a secondary school."

After two years they returned to Australia, to an appointment at Heathmont, near Ringwood, where he remained for four years before resigning from the ministry to take up a job teaching at Box Hill TAFE where he worked for the next 15 yrs.

It was during this time he separated from his wife and met Margaret, whom we know and love, and who cares for Neil. When he resigned from TAFE they moved to live at Anglesea.

In 2000 he was re-admitted as a minister of the Uniting Church and he undertook locum work in the Geelong area.

Neil loves to write and he has helped fill the pages of this newsletter for the past nine years of its existence. Thank you for your contribution over all that time, Neil. We'll let you retire now! (Bev Cox)



Remembering...

Remembrance of the past is always a mixed blessing—

*When to the sessions of sweet silent thought
I summon up remembrance of things past,
I sigh the lack of many a thing I sought,
And with old woes new wail my dear times' waste:
Then can I drown an eye, unus'd to flow,
For precious friends hid in death's dateless night,
And weep afresh love's long since cancell'd woe,
And moan the expense of many a vanish'd sight:
Then can I grieve at grievances forgone,
And heavily from woe to woe tell o'er
The sad account of fore-bemoaned moan,
Which I new pay as if not paid before.
But if the while I think on thee, dear friend,
All losses are restor'd and sorrows end.*

(Shakespeare, Sonnets, 30)