



Uniting Church in Australia
Western Australia

Issue 78
June 2023

Revive

a fresh perspective on faith, church and life

**No road too far,
no need too small**
Rev Erica (Ric) Payne

Uniting for the Voice

**Covenanting in
Waroona:**
an interview with
Rev Robert Jetta

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The Uniting Church WA acknowledges the traditional custodians of the lands and waters on which we live and work. *Revive* is produced at the Uniting Church Centre, which sits on the lands of the Wadjuk Nyungar people and we pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. We acknowledge the Nyungar people as the sovereign First Peoples of this place.

Opinions expressed in *Revive* do not necessarily reflect those of the editor, or the policies of the Uniting Church.

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Pentecost – and beyond

I bring you greetings as your Moderator in this Season of Pentecost. It is a time of great promise, but equally, a time of great anticipation. Each year as Chapter 2 of the Acts of the Apostles is read I become quite excited, as once more the story is told of the gathering in Jerusalem of people representing the whole gamut of culture, practice and language of much of the then-known world.

Yet what was that source of such amazement? Such was the extent of the common experience of the presence of Jesus' spirit amongst them, people felt unconstrained and were able to feel and speak as one. As the Pentecost story unfolds, it is clear that such an experience was not for the faint of heart. Such was the power of the Holy Spirit amongst the assembled gathering that it was as if they could take on the whole world and as we know, they did indeed!

I particularly relate to the Acts of the Apostles, for having grown up in Kerala, India, tradition has it that Saint Thomas, one of the twelve disciples, is believed to have arrived in the ancient seaport off Muziris in AD52, where it is thought that Aramaic-speaking Jews, fleeing Roman persecution, also settled at the same time.

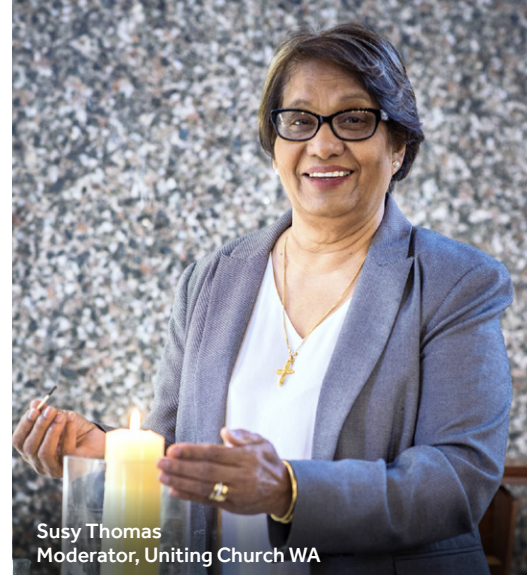
"The Saint Thomas Christians", as we are known, regardless of whether from Orthodox, Western or Protestant backgrounds, form 18% of the population of Kerala and are the largest concentration of Christians

in India, from possibly the longest continuous historical link to those who truly came alive at that first Pentecost. Even our family names are drawn from that same tradition, such as Thomas, Matthew, Joseph, Jacob and Abraham, to name just a few. As a minority, surrounded by other majority religious traditions, our very names identified to *whom* we belonged from our birth. There was no escaping from it.

We know well that in the early history of the church, through to the present day, those who chose to follow Jesus have suffered for their faith, or perhaps more accurately, *because* of their faith. The stories of the Church that grew from that first Pentecost have central to their core, suffering, persecution and martyrdom. Yet out of that suffering, the growth of believers was unstoppable.

As we witness in our own society a disturbing and increasing belittling of belief, even derision of those who claim to embrace the faith of Pentecost, it is very easy to become disheartened. Even in our families, many speak of their embarrassment if we wish to speak openly of our faith, or our desire to speak for those who have no voice. These are troubling times.

In my three years as your Moderator I have been greatly encouraged by the faithfulness of our lay people who seek, in a myriad of ways, to bring the faith they profess into practical expression in the communities in which they live. In such a large state as Western



Susy Thomas
Moderator, Uniting Church WA

Australia, many in rural, remote and even regional areas are increasingly bewildered at the dearth of ministry resources and personnel, as increasingly valuable human and limited physical resources become concentrated in an inner-Perth focus, to the ultimate detriment of the Uniting Church as a whole.

Pentecost is more than just an event in our church calendar. It is an *experience* and what flows from Pentecost is a season of growth, reflected in green as our dominant liturgical colour. Growth is more than an aspiration, for just as a garden needs to be tended and watered, so too do the People of God. My plea and my prayer as my moderatorial term approaches its conclusion this September, is that once more, as those who have chosen to follow Jesus, we unashamedly proclaim his presence in our lives; be willing to go into uncomfortable places; and commit ourselves to the essential task of discipleship.

May God's richest blessings be upon you all!

Susy Thomas
Moderator, Uniting Church WA

Moderator's Diary

June

- 6 June Covenanted Commission meeting
- 12 June Synod Standing Committee meeting
- 14 June Black Pearl Network's English Teacher Professional Development course reception
- 21 June WA Heads of Churches meeting

July

- 31 July - 2 August Uniting Church in Australia's Moderator's meeting in Queensland

August

- 14 August Synod Standing Committee meeting
- 15 August WA Heads of Churches meeting

September

- 8 September Uniting Church in Australia's Moderator's meeting in Queensland
- 9 - 10 September 47th Annual Meeting of the Synod of Western Australia at Scotch College

Welcome to the June edition of *Revive*, and the first for 2023! June is the beginning of the Nyungar season of Makuru with the coldest and wettest time of year coming into full swing. Perfect weather to settle indoors with your favourite cuppa and *Revive* magazine.



In this edition you will find stories from around the State and across the country including a reflection from one of our Frontier Services bush chaplains based in the Mid West; an account of my visit with the congregation in Brookton to see how they have been managing after the fire; and a story of hope from Uniting Church WA's aged care agency, Juniper in Albany. I was thankful for time spent chatting to Rev Robert Jetta in Waroona about his ministry in the South West community, and the importance of the Covenanting journey the Uniting Church continues to be on with the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC). Assembly President, Rev Sharon Hollis offers a personal reflection on the *Voice*, and listening to the *Uluru Statement from the Heart*. There's a summary of how, through our discernment and decision-making processes, the Uniting Church have agreed with the UAICC to support the First Nations Voice to Parliament.

You will also read about some of the challenging and vital work the Culture of Safety Team are currently involved in, including the important work with National Redress.

For anyone who has memories of visiting the Wesley Cafeteria, which used to be on the second floor of the Wesley Centre in the city, you will find a delicious cake recipe that was shared on the day of its closure. You might like to take a trip down memory lane like I did and give it a go for your next morning tea!

What a joy and honour it has been to bring this edition together to share with you. As we approach the 46th Anniversary of the Uniting Church in Australia, on Thursday 22 June, there is much to celebrate, as a church that continues to be pilgrim people on the way. We are invited to engage in prayer and discernment through the Act2 project, and there is an important time ahead for our church and community in seeking to further the journey of reconciliation and justice with the First Peoples of this land.

Finally, I'll leave you with this lovely blessing I came across at the time of writing, in the book 'Echoes of our Journey' by Rev Dorothy McRae McMahon:

"May God go with us into this future;

Christ Jesus walk before us;

And the Spirit be a cloud of grace. Amen"

grace and peace,

Wendy Hendry, Editor

5 minutes with...

Rev Dr Cathie Lambert

By the time of publishing Rev Dr Cathie Lambert will be halfway through her year-long role of Education Co-ordinator (Ordained Ministries and Perth Theological Hall Principal) with the Commission for Education for Discipleship and Leadership (CEDAL). Cathie is also the Dean of Studies at the Dayspring Community.



Rev Dr Cathie Lambert

What are you passionate about?

I am passionate about a lot of things; chocolate (particularly choc orange), musical theatre (there's nothing better than a story told in song), stationery shops (I'm very passionate about good pens and notebooks) and tap dancing (my daughter is an awesome tap dancer and is now teaching me). But to be more serious, I am super passionate about accompanying people on their spiritual journey. Nothing gives me greater joy than seeing a person discover their own inner spiritual authority and finding their voice. Each journey is unique and colourful and a blessing. I guess on the flip side of that is another thing that gets me fired up – spiritual abuse. When power and authority are used to make someone feel like their experience of God is not valid or is wrong just because it is different – look out! I get very passionate about making sure people feel heard, validated and valued in their personal experience of the Divine.

What's your favourite place and why?

That's a very difficult question. There are plenty of special places. I guess what makes a place significant for me is the Celtic term 'thin places' - places that are transformative and where I feel particularly close to God. For me these include, Fraggie Rock beach in Margaret River, the river gorges of Kalbarri, Nathaneal's Rest Retreat Centre in Mundaring, Chalice Well in Glastonbury, and

Tintern Abbey on the banks of the Wye River in Wales. I could mention many more, but they all seem to be outdoors, and many have long histories. And of course there are still many more to visit!

What's next on your bucket list?

My big project this year is to get my PhD published in book form. I have been told by a few wise people that if you don't do it soon after finishing it never happens. This is a significant step for me as it requires me to believe I have something of value to share with the world. I am having discussions with a publisher, so hopefully this dream will become a reality.

How would you describe your journey in ministry?

I find it difficult to separate my journey in ministry from my life in God. Mechthild of Magdeburg talks about being in the flow of God. That resonates with me. I don't always get it right of course, but I try to live my life in the flow of God. If I think of it like a river, there are twists and turns and obstacles along the way. But water always finds a way, even if it must break new ground. I have been surprised where my journey has taken me at times, but don't regret anything about the journey. It is exciting and sometimes a little scary when you don't know what is around the bend. I just have to trust the flow.

If you could tell people considering ordained ministry one piece of advice what would it be?

Be authentic! In my experience, it can be easy to lose yourself in the

role of ordained ministry (or perhaps other roles too). It is so important to know yourself and be real in ministry. People soon pick-up if you are not being authentic and it is the quickest road to burn out. In 2016 I travelled to England with my family for a holiday, but for me it was like a pilgrimage. I had some significant spiritual places I wanted to visit. I intentionally took with me the question, 'Who am I if I am not a Minister?' This was an extremely significant and challenging question with which to travel. It was not that I was questioning my role in ordained ministry, but I knew I needed to find a more authentic way of bringing myself into my ministry.

How do you reflect so far on your time as Education Co-ordinator, and what are you looking forward to?

This role is such a privilege. It gives me a chance to live out my passion each day. I get to journey with people who are discovering their own identity in ministry. It is a huge responsibility and an honour. There are also plenty of challenges. How can we be providing learning and education better in our church? So far, my role has involved a lot of listening and asking questions. I am looking forward to the next few months when, together, the church will need to make some significant decisions about how we move forward. I am really excited by the energy of the CEDAL team and looking forward to seeing which possibilities become reality. There is a lot of hope moving forward and I feel blessed to be part of this transition.



No road too far, no need too small

Photo by Ric Payne.

Standing alongside disaster affected communities in the Mid West

A reflection from Rev Erica (Ric) Payne who offers ministry services in a voluntary capacity at Dongara Uniting Church and is a WA Disaster Recovery Chaplain and Frontier Services Bush Chaplain, Mid West WA.

On Sunday 11 April 2021, Tropical Cyclone TC Seroja, a category 4 cyclone with its epicentre just south of Kalbarri, tore her way through the Mid West communities of Western Australia, destroying and blowing away much in her path.

I became intimately acquainted with this destruction as my immediate family live and farm at Morawa and at Northampton, two communities now in various phases of recovery.

As a mother, friend and confidante, within four days of Seroja's landfall, I made the first of many trips to Northampton and to Morawa to be with my families, friends and community where I was able to reach out to folk and to listen to their stories - stories of homes and businesses damaged or lost; of stock and pets lost; of landscapes forever changed; of farm infrastructure and vehicles blown apart and beyond repair; of survivor guilt; of a community either shedding tears or venting anger; and of the urgency to make good use of Seroja's rainfall to begin seeding the year's crops. As a farmer's wife, I well understood that urgency.

From June 2021, I stepped into the role of WA Disaster Recovery and Frontier Services Bush Chaplain, Mid West WA, focusing

mainly on the communities and Shires of Northampton, including the township of Kalbarri, and Chapman Valley. I also represent the WA Synod's Disaster Relief and Community Recovery Working Group on the Chapman Valley - Northampton Local Recovery Co-ordination Group which meets monthly. Frontier Services funds me for one day per week, and as you can imagine, that one day easily morphs into two or three, sometimes more!

Beyond the services provided by the State Government, there is a whole area of need not being met, which is the pastoral and spiritual support of disaster affected people and communities not eligible for support or grants or where these were inadequate or too small to make a huge difference to people.

Essentially as a Chaplain I respond to needs, and the need is simple, people need others to stand with them as they move to recovery. My ministry is as a listener, someone who cares and takes the time to be with another in their pain, trauma, suffering, or in their joy and celebration. I can assist them to manage whatever they are confronting or refer them to professional services. I meet folk as I attend community groups, events, and social functions where possible, and enjoy many cuppas with these incredibly beautiful folk.

Increasingly, I'm meeting with those who are grappling with other issues that need managing or resolving, such as those struggling with the death of a partner, spouse or child, loss of mobility and increasing age, suicide and surrounding issues of trauma, mental health issues, emergency food requirements, loneliness, and much more.

Grief and loss are major areas I am working to address through the coming months by facilitating small group workshops, 'Seasons for Growth' through the Mary McKillop Institute.

Loneliness and isolation are issues I often confront in both the recovery space or beyond. Regularly visiting, chatting and listening is so very greatly appreciated. More than once I have been told that I encourage or motivate the one I am visiting to take steps to re-order their life, to pursue matters further as with legal or medical issues, or to even change out of their pyjamas before I arrive! I quote another message received, 'How blessed I am to have you in my life. Thank you for listening to my ups and downs. Now without family, my life would be miserable without friends and the church around me. In fact, I would fear for myself. Thankyou.'

Within the recovery space, the trauma of the cyclone has been exacerbated by ongoing battles with insurance companies, under insurance and lack of insurance, the fraught supply chain for

materials, the scarcity of trades, and dodgy builders taking advantage of vulnerable people.

As these communities recently acknowledged the passing of the second year since Seroja, there are signs of hope, as the physical scars are healing when each building, roof or fence is repaired or each concrete pad is laid. Even the supply and fitting of cyclone-proof shutters is cause for a celebration of sorts. In some communities there is a greater, though fragile, positivity.

The uncertainty however, remains with each wind and rain event that threatens and the fear of other cyclones. This has come into sharp focus over the past week as TC Ilsa made her way down and then across the Pilbara coast.

My heart aches and I want to be with them all. Yet I know that their ongoing recovery must come from within themselves and their communities. Some are doing that, others will never recover, some need a helping hand, a promise of hope and love. There are signs of that – so many have unselfishly offered their hands, their feet, their homes and their hearts to others, often to complete strangers.

I am humbled by God's grace and blessings which enable me to reach out, connect, and walk with those folk in recovery from Seroja or other trauma or pain, and have had no-one to listen to them, or who are repeatedly volunteering or working in the space of community recovery, at their own health expense, or are the vulnerable, living on the edge of community.

God's grace and that of these folk, are what give me hope.



Rev Erica (Ric) Payne.



A church in Nabawa, Chapman Valley damaged by TC Seroja - photo by Ric Payne.

Healing from homelessness

Damien with UnitingWA's Co-CEO Michael Chester

Jen Park and Michael Chester, UnitingWA Co-CEO's

Damien's journey of healing from homelessness is unique, but it isn't uncommon. Can you support UnitingWA in making a difference to more lives with a gift today?

Damien was born in 1979 and grew up in the northern suburbs of Perth. He was diagnosed with ADD (Attention Deficit Disorder) when he was six, which was later put down to childhood stress and trauma.

"My stepdad got tired of disciplining me all the time and eventually, on my 16th birthday, they kicked me out. They gave me a box of food and told me I was going to need it. I had no preparation for the real world. No one had taught me how to pay rent, how to pay bills, or anything like that," said Damien.

He spent the next eight years on the streets, working every day on construction sites.

"At that stage, my job was the only identity I had left. I was a lost soul. Come Friday, I'd be lucky if I had \$15 in my pocket," said Damien.

Damien got in contact with Uniting WA through the Tranby Engagement Hub. He joined their Beds for Change (now Koort Boodja) crisis accommodation program and later the Homeless Accommodation Support Service (HASS).

"The HASS program helped me re-civilise myself. I could shower every day, shave, keep my room clean. I was in tears when I saw my room there. I couldn't believe it. It also meant I could start healing in my life and from my childhood trauma," said Damien.

"I manage my mental health through art. For years while homeless I was drawing but not keeping any of my art or anything, because you don't have anywhere to store it. It calms me like I would never believe possible."

Damien has become an advocate for people experiencing homelessness, sharing his story with school students and the broader community.

"Sharing my story also helped me realise that my journey and my life has been hard, but I now have a purpose to help others change their lives," said Damien.

Cost of living pressures are pushing more people into homelessness than ever before. The number of people accessing support from UnitingWA's Tranby Engagement Hub has more than doubled in the past year. Your contribution can help them support more people like Damien.

If you'd like to read more of Damien's story or support Uniting WA, follow the QR code with your phone camera.



Uniting



Don with his game Kanga Words.



Don and his daughter Tracey.

Juniper community gives a new lease on life for Albany local

Hannah Campbell

Many people know Don Titterton for his friendly smile, his involvement within the local community, and his board game. Yet the 79-year-old claims he owes his happiness to one highly regarded community – Juniper Boronia Court.

The local Albany resident says when he was offered a unit at Juniper Boronia Court a decade ago, he was at the lowest point in his life.

"My marriage of 27 years ended, I was nearly bankrupt, and I lost my family home. As a result of everything, I was hospitalised and had a few close calls," says Don.

"Once I was able to leave hospital, a friend took me to see Boronia Court, and luckily for me, there was a vacancy which I was able to secure."

Ten years later, Don says the support and companionship he received from the community helped him to turn his life around and find joy again.

"Juniper gave me a second chance of life and now I am 110% better. The

security of having somewhere to live and people around me who were there for me when I needed them most changed my life. The amazing Retirement Living Co-ordinator made me stronger and got me back into the world," Don says.

Moving to Boronia Court also allowed Don to devote more time to a board game he designed over 20 years ago to help people who were struggling to learn to read and write.

"I was undiagnosed with Dyslexia until my late 30s. This may not be obvious now, but I couldn't write a sentence before that. I created 'Kanga Words' as an educational and challenging game for anyone who enjoys words. This board game has evolved over the last ten years and encourages people to look inside a word, which made more sense to me than trying to read a word," he says.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, Don was running regular Kanga Word sessions with the residents at Juniper Korumup Residential Aged Care Home and said it was a fun two-hour activity.

"I am continuing to work on the development and progress of the game. Also, with the assistance of two Albany primary school teachers and TAFE professors, I am certified to volunteer with the Education Department to assist children in overcoming some of the issues I encountered in school before being diagnosed with dyslexia," Don says.

"I am now so busy and engaged in the things I love to do, and I owe this all to Juniper. Thank you."

If you or someone close to you is in distress or immediate danger dial 000 as soon as possible. To speak to a mental health care professional call Lifeline 13 11 14 or Beyond Blue 1300 22 4363 – 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.


Juniper
A Uniting Church community

facebook.com/JuniperAgedCare
linkedin.com/company/juniper-aged-care
juniper.org.au



Brookton Uniting Church After the fire

Brookton Uniting Church after fire damaged the 114 year old building.

Wendy Hendry

Standing at the entrance of the Brookton Uniting Church was a slightly confronting experience. A fire incident in the 114-year-old church in late February, caused extensive damage to the interior of the historic and unique building. Looking into the worship area, the charred remains of the jarrah pews stand in place forming an aisle to the front of the church. Half of the cross remains hanging on the wall. The floor is covered in rubble and broken glass where the beautiful stained glass windows shattered from the

heat of the fire. However, the building structure still stands tall, and you can imagine how charming the church would have looked only a few months prior to my visit.

As I arrived at the church in the small wheatbelt town of Brookton I was greeted by Carol Bond, the Chair of the church council, and shown around by her and other members of the congregation who generously gave their time to meet with me. As we walked around the perimeter and peered inside, they described what was once in place with pride and a clear fondness for their piece of history. I was told of the quality wool carpet that covered, and it seems, protected the jarrah flooring; of the old Bible that was found relatively unscathed

under the pulpit; the discovery of some of the metal engraved plates that were recovered from the plaques around the interior walls; and the relief that the church Archives were stored off site.

The foundation stone reads 'Brookton Methodist Church – This stone was laid by Mrs R.L.S Crawford, 14th Jan, 1909'. The Crawford family were vital to the planning and building of the church back in 1909, along with many others who raised funds for the church through fondly remembered events such as the Annual Strawberry Fete and the Annual Chrysanthemum Show which became features of church activity. In the early days the Minister, Rev RR Fleming, was stationed in nearby Beverley. His visits to Brookton involved a long horse ride and an overnight stay on the

Crawford family farm 'Milroy' before accompanying the family to church on Sunday morning.

One member of the congregation I was delighted to meet was Ken Hall who recently had his 100th birthday. Ken is a long-term resident of the area, with many memories of the place over the years. Ken recalled as a young boy he would ride his horse about 5km into town for Sunday School and showed me where he would tie the horse to a tree in the church grounds. Ken is still a part of the worshipping community.

Coral Hall, another long-term member of the congregation, showed me through her collection of memorabilia and photos, sharing stories of Sunday School anniversaries and church fetes and the more recent Centenary Celebration in 2009.

Since the fire, the congregation have been well supported by the small community of Brookton and surrounds with messages of kindness and support being passed on to the members, along with offers of space to store equipment.

As with many small rural congregations their services are often lay led with the occasional visiting Minister or Lay Preacher to lead them in worship. The congregation share regular worship services with the local Anglican Church, with the first and third Sunday run by the Uniting Church, and the second and fourth Sunday with the Anglican Church who have a visiting Priest. The congregation are now temporarily meeting in the local CWA Hall for their services on the first Sunday of the month, and the Anglican community have offered for them to run the third Sunday service with them in the Anglican Church worship space. It's clear that in times like this small communities can really come together. As Carol reflected with me, they are all worshipping the same God.

The congregation are hopeful of restoring the church to its former charm, which at the time of writing was still a decision under assessment with many factors to be considered. In the meantime the congregation will continue to gather regularly as a worshipping community and we hold the

congregation in our thoughts and prayers as they work through the process.



The fire damaged interior of the Brookton Uniting Church.



Brookton Uniting Church before the fire.



Covenanting in Waroona

Waroona Uniting Church.

Wendy Hendry

On a Tuesday in early April I gathered with the Covenanting Commission in the Waroona Uniting Church. The worship space was adorned with palm fronds from the Palm Sunday service just a few days before.

Last year during a meeting of the Covenanting Commission it was agreed to take the meeting to the regional town, where the Co-Chairperson of the Commission, who is also the Chairperson of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC) WA Regional Committee Rev Robert Jetta lives and works. The Waroona congregation where he is a minister is the only combined First and Second People's congregation in Australia, a joint UAICC and UCA church community.

Holding the meetings in the regional town was felt to be an important part of Covenanting in action, a way of walking together as first and second peoples. This was the second meeting the Commission have held in Waroona since last year. By having the meetings in the community it allowed for local

UAICC members to attend and contribute who would normally find it harder to travel to Perth for the meeting due to time and distance. The visits also facilitated some general maintenance work which was carried out by volunteers who were either connected to, or members of the Commission and was received with thanks by the local congregation.

Covenanting is at the heart of the Uniting Church. In 1994, the Uniting Church in Australia formally entered into a Covenant with the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress so that together we may contribute to a more just church and nation.

The Covenanting Commission WA is an elected commission of the Synod, Co-Chaired by the Chairperson of the UAICC WA Regional Committee and the Moderator of the Uniting Church WA, who's role is to provide an interaction between the work of the UAICC, the Synod and the Presbytery. The Commission also has a role of encouraging and assisting congregations, agencies and other activities of the Uniting

Church to be involved in the ministry of reconciliation between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and the other parts of the Uniting Church and the community.

Covenanting Action Plan

In 2021, the Covenanting Commission prepared a Congregation Covenanting Guide resource called 'Walking together as First and Second Peoples' for use in congregations. The resource was developed to provide a simple list of suggested actions congregations can take to progress their Covenanting journey.

At the 46th Annual Meeting of the Synod of Western Australia last year, it was agreed the WA Synod would 'Refresh the Covenant' and to work on a Covenanting Action Plan to outline specific and measurable steps the Synod can take to progress our Covenanting relationship. The view was that Covenanting is a whole Synod responsibility, not just one of a small Commission. A report will come to the 47th Annual Meeting in September on how this Covenanting Action Plan can be developed and progressed.

Waroona Congregation

Rev Robert Jetta, known in the community as Uncle Robbie, was ordained at the 14th Triennial Assembly of the Uniting Church in Australia in 2015. As well as being a UAICC chaplain at the time, he was also in a ministry role at the Waroona Uniting Church.

Uncle Robbie has strong family connections in the Waroona area and surrounds. He is now the recognised Nyungar Elder for the area, a role passed on to him from his late father. He is often asked to deliver Welcome to Country at community activities and ceremonies. As a Minister and an Elder his pastoral care and relationship building extends beyond the congregation into the community. Only recently he was introduced by the Shire President prior to conducting a Welcome, as a Reverend. He was happy to be recognized both as a Nyungar Elder and as a Christian Minister. When he turned 60, Uncle Robbie was presented with a certificate from the local Shire for his contribution to the community as part of the NAIDOC Week celebrations.

Of course Rev Jetta isn't alone in his ministry in the Waroona Uniting Church. He is supported by other members of the congregation like Jennifer and Daphne who contribute their own form of ministry in the church and community. He's thankful for their commitment in pastoral care and reaching out to congregation members. Jennifer is the secretary and runs the Sunday School, Daphne is the treasurer, and they are both church elders. The church currently offer weekly Sunday morning services. They feel it is important to have the door open. They love their building and the mix of generations that are a part of the congregation and have been a part of the church in its long history.

The importance of the Covenant

As we gathered for a meal at the picturesque Drakesbrook Weir following the Covenanting Commission meeting, we discussed the role of the Commission, and what it meant for the Commission meeting to gather in this place. Rev Jetta felt the Commission had a role in helping to raise awareness of UAICC and the importance of the Covenant. He felt the Covenanting



Rev Robert Jetta, Minister at Waroona Uniting Church.

Action Plan for the Synod would be one way to increase this awareness and keep covenanting in focus for the church and people.

At a gathering in Kalamunda last year on a forum to discuss the *Uluru Statement from the Heart* Rev Jetta spoke about the Covenant saying that to him, it was like in the Bible where they made covenants, for example the one between David and Jonathan. They said they would die before they broke their covenant. That's how important it is.

Resources:

The Congregation Covenanting Guide can be downloaded from the Uniting Church WA website unitingchurchwa.org.au/social-justice/first-peoples/

UNITING FOR THE VOICE



"At the heart of the Uniting Church is a commitment to walk together with First Nations people in seeking justice. We seek to work and pray together as First and Second Peoples for more just, inclusive and equal relationships in the church and in this nation. Inspired by this commitment, we support a constitutionally enshrined First Nations Voice to Parliament as an historic opportunity to recognise and honour First Nations people and to walk together as a nation toward a better future."

Uniting Church in Australia, Uniting for the Voice, uniting.church/voice/.

This year all Australians will be invited to vote on whether they support a change in the Australian Constitution to recognise an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament. The First Nations Voice is the first proposal contained within the *Uluru Statement from the Heart*.

The *Uluru Statement from the Heart* was made by the First Nations' National Constitutional Convention at Uluru in May 2017 as a consensus position of 250 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders from across Australia. It is an invitation to the Australian people to help build a better future for all Australians. The *Uluru Statement from the Heart* calls for the establishment of a First Nations Voice enshrined in the Constitution and a Makarrata Commission to supervise a process of agreement-making and truth-telling about our history.

In February this year, President of the Uniting Church in Australia (UCA),

Rev Sharon Hollis and Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC) Interim National Chair, Rev Mark Kickett affirmed their strong support for a Voice to Parliament as a critical step toward honouring the sovereignty of First Nations Australians in this land and furthering the work of truth-telling and treaty.

This position was formalised at the March 2023 Assembly Standing Committee (ASC) meeting which declared the support of the Uniting Church in Australia for the proposed change in the constitution to recognise an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament, noting that the decision was informed by the Uniting Church's commitment to the Covenant between the Uniting Church and the UAICC. The ASC resolved to call on church, community, and political leaders to engage in respectful and constructive dialogue in response to the referendum.

If you would like to know more about the First Nations Voice as our nation prepares to vote in the referendum you can find information about the Uniting Church's commitments and statements on the UCA Assembly website, along with resources, helpful links and FAQ's for individuals and congregations on what it means to support a First Nations Voice to Parliament.

uniting.church/voice

"The Uniting Church is committed to do justice and mercy to all. At this time as a nation, we are working together to give a voice to our indigenous brothers and sisters to the Parliament. I think we need to stand by them and support in whichever way we possibly can."

Susy Thomas,
Moderator, Uniting Church WA

Some of our UAICC WA Regional Committee leaders were asked about their thoughts on the Voice, and why it is important to them for the Uniting Church to support a constitutionally enshrined First Nations Voice to Parliament.

"I think it's important for the church to support the Voice to Parliament because it acknowledges the journey that they're on with indigenous people of this land. And how much they are willing to strengthen that bond and that relationship in order to make this place a better place to live. In accepting and supporting this Voice would only do what the church was meant to do in the building of God's Kingdom, helping those in need. To serve for justice and peace in this world for everyone."

Rev Mitchell Garlett, ordained minister in the Uniting Church and a member of UAICC WA Regional Committee.

"I think it's always good for the church to encourage things the indigenous people are trying to do. Being in the Uniting Church...we have the covenant agreement which supports indigenous people, especially in the church. So to take that a bit further, to put it into the parliament, into government, is a good move, and it shows that the church is supporting the indigenous people and the role that they want to do. Speaking up and being a voice, that's what it's all about."

Rev Robert Jetta, ordained minister in the Uniting Church and Chairperson of UAICC WA Regional Committee.

"We need that voice for our people, to help our people, supporting our young people, our emerging people, our future, because we need a strong future."

Jennifer Turner, a member of the Waroona Uniting Church and UAICC WA Regional Committee.

"For the church to support this, for me would show a deeper commitment to reconciliation and the relationship they have with UAICC."

Rev Mitchell Garlett



Rev Mitchell Garlett at the UAICC National Conference in April 2023.



Rev Robert Jetta and some of the WA representatives at the UAICC National Conference April 2023.



Uniting Church in Australia President, Rev Sharon Hollis at the UAICC National Conference in April 2023.

A reflection on the Voice

Rev Sharon Hollis

At a recent press conference Professor Marcia Langton said, 'the truth burns.' In that simple statement I heard a description of the work of the Holy Spirit who burns the truth into our lives, both our lives as a nation and as a Church.

The Holy Spirit has burnt the truth into my heart and mind and life as I have read and listened to the *Uluru Statement from the Heart*. I try to make time most days to either read or listen to the Statement. I listen to it in English and I listen to it in First Nations languages. As I read and listen, the Holy Spirit burns the truth into my heart, into my mind and into my gut.

It burns the truth that sovereignty has never been ceded and can't be wiped out by colonisation.

It witnesses to the truth that their children are removed in too great a number and their people are disproportionately incarcerated. Not because they don't love their children or are innately criminal, but because the system is unjust and cruel.

A First Nations Voice enshrined in our constitution offers the chance to put a spoke in the wheel of this system and help us all build a more just and compassionate way of being with each other in ways led by First Peoples.

As I knelt before Rev Mark Kickett, Interim Chair of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress at the reconvened 16th Triennial Assembly of the Uniting Church in Australia last year, I led the confession of sin on behalf of the Assembly. We acknowledged our actions have not matched our commitment in the Covenant or the vision of the Uniting Church in Australia's Preamble. The truth of this is burnt into my life. I know that, just as Australia must learn to listen to its First Peoples, the Church must also learn to listen to Congress as they struggle for self-determination to lead and guide ministry with First Peoples.

So I will go to the ballot box when the day for the Referendum comes and I will vote Yes. I will vote Yes to a First Nations Voice with the pain, the hope, the joy and the grace of the Uluru Statement ringing in my ears, the long struggle of First

Peoples for self-determination lodged in my heart and a longing in my gut for a better, more truthful way to be in these lands.

And I will leave the ballot box resolved to continue to be part of the work of justice seeking, for even as we work for a Yes vote, after we have cast our vote, there remains hard, good, holy work of truth telling and treaty making to do. There is also hard, good, holy work to do in the Church to bring about the vision of Congress to be self-determining in all ministry and advocacy for First Peoples in the Church.

I will vote for a Voice and I will remain committed to this work so that I might join in the reconciling work of Christ, which calls us to truth telling and justice making and which has the power to make all things new.

Rev Sharon Hollis, Uniting Church in Australia President

You can read the joint statement Assembly and UAICC Statement on the Voice at

uniting.church/supporting-the-voice/ and found more resources about why supporting a Voice is important to the Uniting Church here uniting.church/voice/



Be there for those who feel alone

Frontier Services Outback Links volunteers Ron and Gwen Coster.

Frontier Services Outback Links volunteers are ordinary people who make an extraordinary difference.

They're humble, hardworking, big-hearted people like Ron and Gwen, who drive around the vast expanse of Western Australia, helping people living on the land.

Ron says about being an Outback Links volunteer: "You don't need to be an expert. We started by looking on the Frontier Services website, which shows lists of jobs you can search. We found one, and thought, 'We can do that. Let's go!' "

"Frontier Services literally saved my life!" – Erika

One of the farmers Ron and Gwen helped said that without the support of Frontier Services Outback Links volunteers, she would have needed to sell up and leave town.

"Frontier Services literally saved my life!" she said.

Erika's property was ripped apart by Cyclone Seroja in 2021. "She'd only been on the property a short while before the cyclone hit, so it was a devastating situation for her," explains Gwen.

"She lost the roof off her house, her sheds were demolished, and her water tanks were blown off their stands."

Erika was there on her own and was still learning the ins and outs of farming.

Ron taught her how to use some of the machinery, so she could keep on with jobs after they'd gone.

He gave her real support and encouragement, building her

confidence in the tools she needed to use on the farm.

Teaching her these skills meant that every day of her working life is now less stressful and more efficient.

"She enjoyed taking us around, just showing us the property and talking about her plans and her hopes for what she could do in the future," says Gwen.

To this day, Gwen continues to knit little woollen jackets for the newborn lambs on Erika's farm. It's a wonderful, warm, and colourful way to stay connected.

You don't have to be an Outback Links volunteer to make a lasting impact. By donating to Frontier Services today, you'll be helping to fund the Outback Links volunteer program, so they can go out there and provide physical and emotional support to those who feel alone and isolated.



Frontier Services
Standing with people in the bush

WE NEED ONLINE SAFETY BY DESIGN



Our fight against the exponential spread of child sexual abuse and exploitation material (CSAM) online

JUSTACT

ACT WITH JUSTICE IN MIND

In a mailout earlier this year, congregations received a small quantity of postcards from the WA Synod, Culture of Safety Team, encouraging people to sign and send them to the Attorney General urging the Commonwealth government to introduce further reforms to protect children from online harm. This campaign, in collaboration with the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania and the Synod of Queensland, intends to highlight concerns around the increasing trend of children being subjected to sexual abuse and exploitation facilitated in the online world.

The Culture of Safety Team has a mandate to safeguard and keep vulnerable people safe through its Safe Church Policy. As children are recognised as the most vulnerable in society we particularly have a commitment to child safety and creating a child safe organisation. Our call, therefore, is to raise awareness about this crime and the need to fight against the exponential spread of Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) online. We ask, what are Australian governments doing to protect our innocent children from sexual exploitation and abuse in this online world? What about the technology

and social media corporations' moral and ethical duty to prevent this online criminal activity? Currently these corporations are not doing enough to protect children on their platforms.

In the Philippines alone in 2022, 20% of internet-using children aged 12 to 17 were victims of severe online sexual exploitation or abuse. The perpetrators directing their abuse are in places like Australia with any single Australian paying hundreds of dollars to access online CSAM for several years. Large and very profitable tech companies are turning a blind eye to this material being posted and accessed via their platforms. In 2022, 63,050 reports related to imagery which had been created of children aged 7 to 10 who, in many cases, had been groomed, coerced, or tricked into performing sexual acts on camera by an online predator.

Our postcard campaign is one step, asking for reforms to laws requiring online technology corporations to proactively detect, block or remove CSAM, and report this activity to the police; to embed the safety of the public in the design of online systems and make avenues of reporting this crime clear, accessible and easy to use.

The next step is up to all of us. This Campaign reminds us that children

are being severely harmed every day by sexual predators who post this abusive material online to be accessed and re-posted millions of times by people we may know in offices, bedrooms, and private spaces across Australia.

The impact of this sexual abuse and exploitation lasts a lifetime; adults are still impacted by their images posted when they were children. We must be aware of our children's and grandchildren's online activity, know how to set boundaries, and act when we are alerted to inappropriate behaviour.

In Australia, the eSafety Commissioner Julie Inman-Grant has taken a leadership role in launching the first ever Global Online Safety Regulators' Network - a collaboration between the first movers in online safety regulation intended to pave the way for a coherent international approach to online safety regulation, by enabling members to share information, experience and best practices. This is an important step, but the government needs to know the extent of our concern and to act.

Please join our campaign which only requires your signature and a stamp before posting. Postcards can be requested by emailing cultureofsafety@wa.uca.org.au or phoning 9260 9800.

Warning: this article contains information that may be distressing and trigger trauma responses.

THE UNITING CHURCH'S REDRESS COMMITMENT

One of the most challenging jobs for the WA Synod, Culture of Safety team springs from our commitment to the National Redress Scheme (NRS) victim survivors. Yet our commitment is underpinned with love and hope. We read terrible accounts of the abuse and harm experienced in their institutional lives, however we also feel honoured that we have an opportunity to listen and acknowledge the abuse, and to be a small yet important part of the reconciliation process.

Why reconciliation? In WA, two former care institutions for Aboriginal children: Sister Kate's in Queens Park (later becoming Manguri) and the Mogumber Mission, account for 85% of all NRS applications received by the Uniting Church WA. Therefore, our commitment, and that of the wider Uniting Church in Australia (UCA) to Redress, is also a commitment to reconciliation with First Nations people.

Our first response is to seek to make amends and to shine a light on the darker areas of our past. Another (natural) response from many UCA members to this Redress commitment has been fear of the cost and its effect on the Church as a whole. Without a doubt, the financial cost has been significant. The WA Synod alone has paid out \$5.9 million in Redress payments, counselling and Scheme administrative costs so far. Applications for Redress will be accepted up to June 2027.

The human face to this is that over 200 people from our former institutions have had to retell their painful stories of childhood trauma. Then comes the anxious wait while a process of research and assessment takes place. Over 120 people have now accepted their offers of Redress, while 59 have requested a Direct Personal Response (DPR) from the Moderator. We hope that our listening to their pain, our acceptance of the responsibility of the institution's part in the harm caused and for some, a personal apology, may help address that hurt and the distressing ongoing impact of the abuse on their lives and those of their family members.

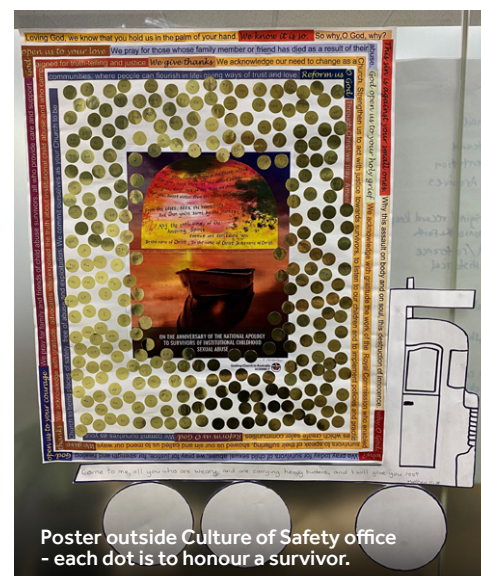
The Culture of Safety Team also commit to doing no further harm and take very seriously the recommendations of the *Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse*. The safety and protection of children involved in the services and programs/activities in our churches is a high priority. Safe Church Awareness/Refresher training workshops presented by our team are offered to all Uniting Church members throughout the year to help congregations and faith communities understand their duty of care responsibilities to everyone in their community and develop policies and practices that create a safe church environment for all people.

Our hope: Walking Together for Justice

Our purpose in writing this article is to share our hope that the commitment of our national body truly represents us and that we feel we are all walking together for justice and redress in every sense of the word. While the financial burden is considerable, Christ's promise is to make the burden light, and we can only do that together.

You may ask, what can we, as one congregation or faith community, do to assist the wider Church at this time? Our response is that your help would be appreciated in many ways including one-off financial donations to the Church at this time, your prayers for our leaders to make wise decisions as they try to balance tight budgets while maintaining the important Missional work of the Church and prayers for the victim survivors who have reached out to us through the Redress Scheme and trusted that we would respond with compassion and care.

The Culture of Safety Team is happy to visit congregations who may wish to hear about our work, consider how you might respond and walk together with us. We can share more of what Redress means so that others can also commit to reconciliation with a sense of love, hope and purpose. And who knows what may emerge from the power of being Church together?



A NOTE FROM ARCHIVES

Are your church records safe?

A reminder from the Uniting Church WA's Archivist to all congregations, of their obligation to keep up-to-date records of their Baptism and Marriage Registers, financial records and committee meetings. Registers should be kept in a safe and secure location until completion, after which they should be sent to the Archive.

For a full list of items that can be sent to the Archive please contact Marissa at archiveswa@wa.uca.org.au or phone 9260 9865.



Uniting in Prayer

Andrew Johnson

Between Pentecost (28 May) and the 46th Anniversary of the Uniting Church (22 June) we are in the midst of Uniting in Prayer. This is an intentional time of prayer where the whole Uniting Church is being invited into prayer for one another, our Church and the world.

This is at the heart of the national project called Act2, led by the National Assembly of the Uniting Church, to look again at the shape of our life as a Church and ask deep questions about whether it is the right one for the future as we faithfully seek to follow Christ.

Why is prayer at the heart of this project? It arises from our conviction that prayer matters. It makes a difference in our lives and in our life as a

community. When we meet to make decisions about our life, the book we use to guide those decisions, called the Manual for Meetings, invites us to spend significant time in worship, prayer and community building. In a sense, our time meeting together is a continuation of our time in prayer. This is not to say we cannot disagree or debate ideas, but we do it in a serious effort to seek to find what we believe God is calling us to.

But prayer is not always easy or comfortable. It is often challenging and unsettling. Every day through Uniting in Prayer we have been drawing prayers from across the Uniting Church and the tradition of the universal church. On the last day, we will be praying the Covenant Prayer which we trace through the Methodist tradition to John Wesley. The prayer begins, "I am no longer my



Andrew Johnson - Act2 Project Lead.

own, but yours." It goes on to say, "I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things to your pleasure and disposal" and concludes, "you are mine and I am yours." It is an expression of our total reliance on God.

Our own book for worship, *Uniting in Worship II*, highlights that this prayer cannot be prayed lightly.

As our time of intentional prayer comes to an end we are moving into a period of collective discernment about the shape of our life.

Throughout the first half of 2023 we have explored our life as a Church, diverse contexts, what is important to us and the ideas we have for where God may be leading. The Act2 team has been in contact with over 1700 local Uniting Church communities and every presbytery in

the country. In person we have met leaders in every Synod, and through 2023 we will attend Synod meetings.

In the second half of the year our councils will discern deeply about options and directions for our life together, before a report and recommendations are prepared for the 17th Triennial Assembly of the Uniting Church in July 2024.

As we explore and imagine what our life could be like, we are fuelled by the vision to which scripture, our Basis of Union, and the Act2 Project is calling us. A calling to life-giving communities of faith that make and grow disciples in a life of worship, witness, and service. To a voice from the margins a world crying out for justice. To order and deploy resources based on need, responsibility and opportunity, not legacy or power. A calling to a theological culture where all can grow deep in the faith and ministry to which they were baptised.

Across this whole process, in every conversation, we are laying open our lives and the life of our Church: not ours, but God's. May the Spirit accompany us all as we seek to discern and respond to God's call for the next moment of our life as the Uniting Church.

God of hope

May we be attentive to the call of the Spirit as we consider afresh our life together.

May we be courageous to your invitation to embrace the vision to which you call us.

May we be not afraid of the future and instead rejoice in your inbreaking into our world.

May we renew our commitment to your precarious pilgrimage of love.

Amen.

You can sign up to be part of *Uniting in Prayer* and use the provided worship and prayer resources in your community at any time: <https://www.act2uca.com/unitinginprayer>

More about the Act2 Project: www.act2uca.com/



Working alongside our Papuan neighbours

Lee-Anne Burnett

Late in 2022, six members of the Black Pearl Network (BPN) set out from Australia to visit our partners in the Papuan provinces of Indonesia.

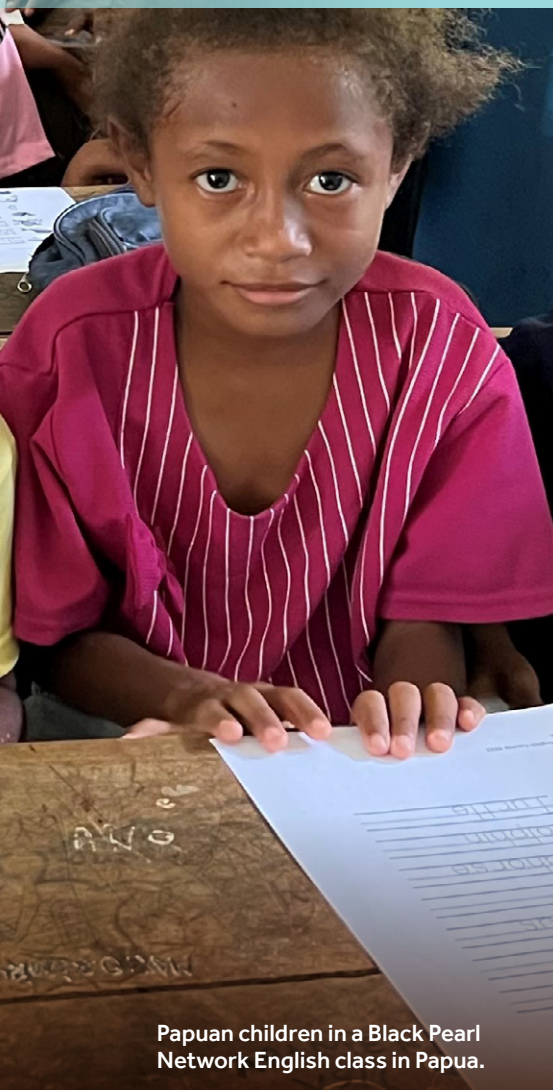
After almost three long years of travel restrictions resulting from the COVID 19 pandemic, the team were looking forward to visiting the sites of our many projects in Papua. Thanks to the gift of Zoom, we had been able to stay in close touch with our partners and to involve them in our discussions and decision making during this time. The manager of our partner organisation, the Black Pearl Foundation (Papua) (BPPF), Fred Bundah had been keeping our projects operational in country but it was a huge job for one man and

we were keen to show him and all the BPPF workers our support by visiting them. They were also keen for our visit and prepared amazing welcome presentations for us all over the Papuan provinces.

There are fourteen Black Pearl English Centres (BPEC) in the Papuan provinces and seven first flush clean water project sites to date with another one scheduled each month until the end of 2023. During our time in Papua we visited every BPEC site and were delighted with the standard of English language demonstrated by the students of those centres. The teachers, almost exclusively indigenous Papuans, often work in conditions of isolation from other educators and some have only very patchy internet coverage or none at all. They are dedicated and highly

motivated to teach their students and equip them for a bright future elevated by the advantages granted by English language fluency. They are also wonderful role models for the students they teach.

In June, 19 teachers and two administrative workers will travel to Perth for an intensive English Teaching Professional Development course to be held at a college in central Perth. It is expected that the English Immersion nature of the course will be of huge benefit to the teachers' own English language fluency and the interactive teaching strategies they will learn will motivate their own creativity in teaching. All of the teachers have been raising their own airfares, and the BPN have committed to meet all other expenses and have been working hard to recruit



Papuan children in a Black Pearl Network English class in Papua.

sponsors and financial supporters. The visitors will be billeted for the three weeks they will be here thanks to our generous network of supporters in the Perth metropolitan area.

During our journey from one end of the Papuan provinces to the other we met with many officials of our partner church, the Gereja Kristin Injili di Tanah Papua (GKI TP) and discussed projects upon which we will work together to improve the future prospects of indigenous Papuans. One of the most exciting of those is an initiative to set up a Vocational Training Program in one or more of the tourism centres of Papuan Indonesia. Generally, there is very little capacity in Papua to cater to the needs and expectations of western tourists and those who are benefitting from the developing

tourist industry tend to be the better educated and resourced migrants from other islands of Indonesia. By training Papuans in tourism-related fields, it is hoped that they can begin to benefit from the proceeds of the developing tourist market in their extremely beautiful country.

After planning and hearing about all the First Flush clean water projects, it was wonderful to be able to visit a few of the completed projects. At last, we could see the results of all those meetings, plans and donations from our highly valued team of supporters. We visited First Flush projects in North and South Biak and saw for ourselves how highly those systems are valued by the local people. The projects are planned by a team led by David Scott, now of the United Kingdom, and a young Papuan graduate engineer, Ribka Yoteni. Ribka is our person on the ground who ensures that all necessary materials are available for the construction phase of the projects and instructs local people in the principles underlying the system and the construction and later quality testing process. It is hoped that all those local volunteers will then take the simple and economical technology back

to their own homes and villages to build additional First Flush projects.

Clean water underpins the health of the village people of the Papuan provinces and was the first thing they asked for when we met the people of Papua back in 2008, on our first visit. English language competence opens doors to higher educational opportunities, employment in government jobs and with international companies. Over the past 14 years of our partnership with the GKI TP we have seen how these gifts can change lives. Now we are determined to work towards handing over the capability of providing these skills to the Papuan people themselves, to take forward into a better future.

All of these projects require funding so the BPN in Australia is actively searching for sponsors for all these programs. Contact us to know more about our partnership, or to find ways to support the projects. blackpearlnetwork.org.

The Black Pearl Network is a project started by All Saints Floreat Uniting Church, and now strongly supported by Trinity North Uniting Church, in partnership with the Uniting Church WA and the Uniting Church partner in Papua, the Gereja Kristin Injili di Tanah Papua (GKI TP).



Black Pearl Network's Lee-Anne Burnett and Kerry Povey with a lady from the remote village of Apawer.



A Century of Values

One of Wesley's oldest living Collegians, Dr Joseph Walter Green (38-43) cuts the birthday cake.

Ross Barron – Head of Wesley College

One hundred years ago, in 1923, Wesley College opened its doors to students for the first time. If any of us were transported back there from today, we'd experience some culture shock... the unrelenting dust, the formality of interactions, the heavy clothing.

But, within the gates of Wesley, we'd quickly find shared values with the Methodists who began the College. Principles of being 'for others' that haven't changed in a century.

Founding the College, the then Premier, Sir James Mitchell, stood proudly in his top hat and tails and said: "A school performs one important function if it teaches children to behave well and show consideration for others."

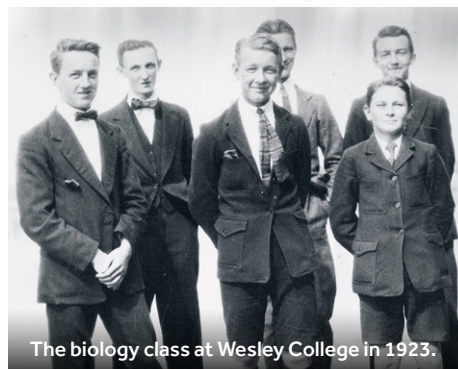
At the time, Australia was just a few short years out of the horrors of the Great War. It was the hope of Sir James and Wesley's first Headmaster, John Frederick Ward

OBE, that the College would always support the principles for which gallant lives had been lost. Values they now class as: Respect, Integrity, Compassion and Courage.

So, from day one, Wesley was designed to be a place of freedom, where children from all backgrounds could create, learn, and play in a Christian environment. A place where students and staff strive to ensure that the future will always be better than the past.

Of course, the students of 1923 would be stunned by the 3D printers in Design and Technology, virtual reality in the Hamer Wing, or video links to Indonesian students in the Languages Centre.

But true delight for those early Methodists would not be in the bricks and mortar. It would be discovering how much the College raised for the Leukaemia Foundation last year. Or seeing how Junior School students use their Buddy Bench to look out for each other. Or watching how the Wesley



The biology class at Wesley College in 1923.



Wesley College 1923.

Community community rallies round in times of need.

These are the things they believed in then, the things we believe in now, and the things we will believe in for the next one hundred years too.

Making Memories

Some of our readers may remember the Wesley Cafeteria located on the second floor of the Wesley Arcade. I remember as a child going in the lift to the second floor café with my Nanna in the school holidays for a sandwich and a sweet treat as part of our excursion. I'm sure my Nanna appreciated the friendly faces and the quiet place to rest with a cup of tea before going out into the busy city streets again with excitable grandchildren. Many church folk and community would enjoy a low cost meal and fellowship at the café while it was operating.

When the café closed its doors for the final time back in May 2007, Rev Lorraine Stokes, the Supply Minister at the time, led the community through a service of lament as they prepared to say goodbye. Lorraine recalls that at the time there was much grief – as much for those who would no longer be able to come for the meals as for the workers who were going to lose their jobs after many years of service. It was the closing of an icon of Wesley Uniting Church.

An excerpt from the lament read on the day:

"Help us to trust you in the days and months and years to come.

Lead each one of us along the path to renewed hope and energy for the future.

Open our minds so that we can see how you are with us and providing for us.

May we celebrate your love; Sing praises of your tender care,

As we venture into our unknown futures."

This Coconut and Honey Cherry Cake recipe was given to Lorraine by the ladies who worked at the cafeteria at the closure service, and may bring back some memories for people who used to frequent the café.

Wendy Hendry

**Have you got a favourite recipe?
Send it in to revive@wa.uca.org.au
or mail them to Revive magazine,
GPO Box M952, Perth, 6843.**



Coconut and Honey Cherry Cake

Ingredients

150g butter or margarine
 $\frac{3}{4}$ cup sugar
 2 eggs
 2 cups SR flour
 1 cup coconut
 1 cup chopped cherries
 1 cup honey
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup milk

Method

Cream butter and sugar.

Add egg and honey – beat until combined.

Then add milk, and most of the coconut.

Sift flour then add chopped cherries into flour.

Gradually add flour to your wet mix.

Add a little coconut over the top of the cake before cooking.

Bake in a 180 degree oven for 30-45 minutes until cooked.



Lafaek Diak - a Good Crocodile.

Alison Dyll

A 'good crocodile' seems like an oxymoron to most people around the world but for the East Timorese it's the symbol of their creation story. The story concerns a young boy who helped a small crocodile to escape from a drying pool to the sea and later the crocodile helped the boy by taking him to see the world. As the crocodile knew it was dying it turned its body into the island of Timor as a home for the young man and his descendants.

'Helping each other we overcome problems' is the motto of Fundação Lafaek Diak (FLD), the Good Crocodile Foundation, a grassroots non-government organisation serving rural and remote East Timorese communities with no government funding but with an impressive program.

I think this motto also touches on the Jesus story, his mission and the work of the Social Justice Units of the Uniting Church right around Australia. It is certainly one of the reasons that I keep going back to East Timor.

When I first went there in 2001, through the Action by Churches Together (ACT) under their Joint Churches Emergency Group, the country was devastated by post-referendum violence and destruction and FLD was still only a registered name. However, as people from around the world rallied to help the East Timorese it became an independent nation, working through political turbulence and social conditions. It was slowly changing. FLD was established in 2004 in the Baucau District, focusing primarily on food security and health but also having a role in education and small business. Currently, the main focus of the work is health with a very large part of that being a mobile health clinic visiting remote communities who have very little, if any, access to health services. Supporting this mobile health clinic is one of the projects of the Uniting Church WA International Partnerships and Development Commission, and one of the ways the people of the Uniting Church are helping others overcome problems.

Personally, I was also in a state of change in 2001, working through

divorce, chronic fatigue and spiritual malaise and I also am changing and growing in a large part through my interaction with the people of East Timor. In East Timor I have taught English, helped with report writing and setting up ways to help FLD meet its commitments to donors, visited numerous villages and facilitated, on behalf of the Melville congregation, the replanting of a now productive orange orchard destroyed during the occupation.

I am inspired by the people's faith, dedication, persistence, kindness and willingness to help others often at their own expense. They help me grow. It's a two-way street this legacy of the good crocodile and the Jesus mission.





Alison with Dirse and Ana who both stayed with her in Australia during a 3 month English immersion.



Inge, Alison and Josefa.



Noranda Lego Challenge first place winner. Titled "An Egg Hatching".



Lego Challenge participants at the sorting table.

The Lego Challenge

Rev Ivan Clark

The church is one of the few places where we can truly celebrate different generations working together. Wouldn't it be great if we could invite our local neighbourhood into that ideal?

In late 2019 at Noranda Uniting Church we had an idea - to get grandparents and grandkids to build Lego together. Then COVID hit and we put it off and put it off until now.

We knew that we had grandparents in our neighbourhood who looked after their grandkids during the school holidays, so we put the word out. They were invited to form teams of up to four, with a mixture of grandparents and grandkids, to build something around the theme of 'New Life' (it was Easter time after all).

Over those three plus years we had collected, washed and sorted about 20kg of second-hand Lego. And so on the 18th of April five teams came to our patch and over the next

90 minutes created some wonderful creations. We had the honour of our local MP, Amber-Jade Sanderson, our local primary school Principal, Janice Cuculoska, and our Uniting Church WA Moderator, Susy Thomas judging the creations while the rest of us enjoyed a sausage sizzle in the courtyard and all chatted together.

It was a day of social connections, of building relationships, and of celebrating different generations working together.

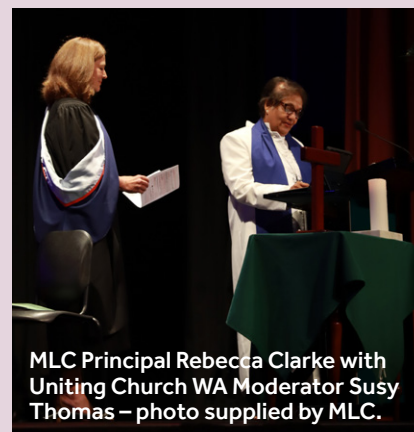
MLC Welcomes New Principal

On Friday 10 March 2023, members of the Methodist Ladies' College (MLC) community gathered on campus for the Service of Commissioning of their new Principal, Ms Rebecca Clarke. Ms Clarke becomes the 13th principal to lead the College.

Ms Clarke joins MLC from South Australia, where she held the position of Principal at Walford

Anglican School for Girls for a decade. Known for her ability to empower her staff and students, Ms Clarke's relational approach to leadership and future-focused vision for MLC have been warmly welcomed.

Uniting Church WA Moderator, Susy Thomas, conducted the Opening Prayer and Commissioning, and a lovely event was had by all warmly welcoming Ms Clarke to the school and community.



MLC Principal Rebecca Clarke with Uniting Church WA Moderator Susy Thomas – photo supplied by MLC.



Palm Sunday Walk for Peace and Justice for Refugees 2023 – photo by Marziya Mohammedali.

Walk for Peace and Justice for Refugees

After three years of alternate Palm Sunday Justice for Refugees WA activities due to COVID restrictions the Perth event returned to its traditional gathering place, in the grounds of St George's Cathedral in the city.

Church and community groups, concerned individuals and refugees gathered for the 2023 Palm Sunday Walk for Peace and Justice for Refugees. The representative groups say that Australia's refugee policies still have a long way to go before people seeking safety in Australia are treated fairly. They are

also concerned that the new AUKUS deal may be an unhelpful move for Australia to be involved in, adding to global tensions and the movement of people across borders if further conflicts erupt.

Those who attended heard from a range of speakers, and joined together for a walk through the city to show community support for peace and justice for refugees. During the event people had the opportunity to donate to CARAD (Centre for Asylum Seekers, Refugees and Detainees) to support people seeking asylum and refugees in Perth. There were also

information stalls by community groups working in the refugee space. People were encouraged to fill out and send the postcards supplied by Australian Refugee Advocacy Network which were distributed during the event.

If you would like some more of these postcards, they are available from the Uniting Church Centre – contact communications@wa.uca.org.au



'Green Shoots'

The theme for our Presbytery of Western Australia meeting in March was 'Green Shoots'. Could there have been a better theme to begin conversations about new possibilities for education and learning throughout the Uniting Church in Western Australia?

In 2022, the Commission for Education for Discipleship and Leadership (CEDAL) decided to undertake a comprehensive review to find fresh, new ways to make the most of the limited resources we have in providing education and learning opportunities for the church in Western Australia. This review will acknowledge those things we are doing well, while considering new opportunities for collaboration and developing new models to take us into the future.

A working group was created late 2022, and we began the new year with a CEDAL planning day.

The Commission spent the day examining the regulations to bring clarity about our 'job description' - the essential elements of our role. We also explored opportunities with each member of CEDAL being given five minutes to present their 'passion pitch'. A diversity of topics was covered including how we can better learn from the First Peoples of this land, the possibility of an internship model for ministry, education of lay people, having a space for education and much more. It was evident that the passion for education within our church was alive and well within CEDAL.

At the March Presbytery meeting the CEDAL Review Working Group invited members to dream with them about what education and learning could look like. Groups ran out of space on their butchers paper and the ideas were flowing. The following week members of the Working Group collated the responses and began looking for themes.

Seven broad themes were identified and, in the weeks leading up to Easter, Zoom Forums were held for more specific conversations on those themes: a space for education, theological education, rural education, lay education, children and young people, mission and outreach, and continuing education. Each evening a small, but dedicated group gathered to discuss the given theme. The responses from these rich conversations have been collated and the Working Group is analysing and synthesising them now.

At the time of writing, the Working Group is preparing to have individual conversations with those who have expressed a particular interest in the review. There are also conversations taking place with Synods and theological colleges around the country to investigate how we can best work together. CEDAL and the Working Group are excited about the possibilities. We invite you to join us on the journey of learning moving forward. To sign up for our SEEDS newsletter and hear more information please email PA.Education@wa.uca.org.au.



CEDAL Commencement Service – Candidates for Ministry 2023 with Rev Dr Cathie Lambert. (L-R) – Reuben Edmonds, Ana Lea'aetoo, Cathie Lambert, Susan Sydney-Smith, Samuel Annan, Sue Thompson and Julie Ridden.

Refugee Sunday Resource – 18 June 2023

The Social Justice Commission of the Uniting Church WA has collated a series of prayers and reflections that could be used in worship on the Sunday during Refugee Week, 18 June 2023.

Rev Gordon Scantlebury, Chairperson of the Social Justice Commission said, "There are many people in our world and our own communities who face dire circumstances and require our compassion. Yet those who have left everything behind as refugees due to war, famine and oppression are perhaps the most traumatised and in need. I encourage Churches to use these resources, not simply to raise awareness of issues, but much more to celebrate our spiritual call to hospitality for the stranger in our midst, and particularly those in need of asylum and refuge."

Finding Freedom

The commission have chosen readings and prayers that relate to the Refugee Week 2023 theme, *Finding Freedom*.

In the introduction to the theme the reader is asked - what does it mean to be free?

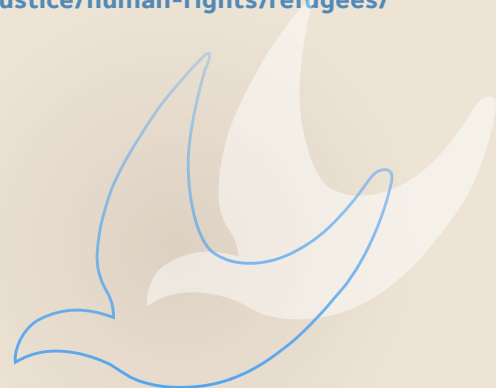
To live without the fear of war, to have your basic human rights upheld, to live in equality and without the fear of persecution are just some of the examples of what freedom can entail.

Every day millions of people across the world embark on dangerous journeys for the sole purpose of finding safety and freedom. From Australia to nations across the globe, settling into a new environment after experiencing the perils of a refugee's journey can also provide the opportunity to live, to love and to dream.

In 2023 we, as the followers of Christ, are encouraged to show

compassion and celebrate the resilience that makes up parts of our wider community. Freedom should not be a privilege, it should be a way of life.

You can download the resource from the Uniting Church WA website unitingchurchwa.org.au/social-justice/human-rights/refugees/



Refugee Sunday

Worship Resource | 18 June 2023

Finding Freedom

Social Justice Commission, Uniting Church WA

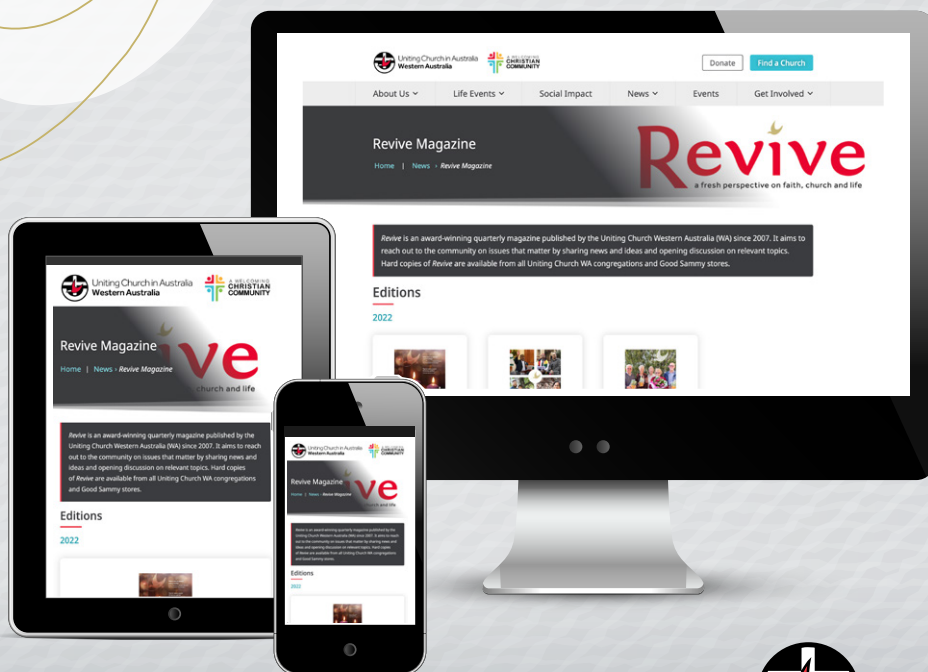


Uniting Church in Australia
Social Justice WA

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Read more news, stories and reflections. Find previous issues of *Revive*. Keep up-to-date with all the events and activities of the Uniting Church WA and our community.

unitingchurchwa.org.au



Uniting Church in Australia
Western Australia

EDUCATION WITH Uniting Church Schools

Our seven independent schools provide education for over 8,000 students from Pre Kindergarten* to Year 12. They offer a variety of learning environments, from some of the oldest and best-known independent schools in WA to the more recently established colleges in new suburbs on the edge of the Perth metropolitan area. While these schools respect the faith diversity of all students, the story, values and practices of the Christian faith are expressed with integrity in order to nurture young lives for sound learning, faith, compassion and responsible service.



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* Not all schools offer Pre Kindergarten.