



WA Presbytery Meeting – 16 March 2024 Rural and Remote Ministry Network

Since the last Presbytery meeting in November 2023, the Network has only been able to hold one meeting. That was in December, when the main item of business was the proposal to create a joint position between the Presbytery Rural and Remote Resource Minister and a half-time Minister of the Word at Wagin UC. However, due to a difference of understanding of the role of the Rural and Remote ministry position and the demands on it, at the conclusion of the discussions it did not prove possible to move forward with that proposal. So a search continues for an appropriate person for the half time Rural and Remote Minister position.

In January the Network took a summer break, but the intended February meeting had to be cancelled because our convenor, Yuko Tonai-Moore, suffered a family bereavement and had to travel to Japan to be with her family at this time. At the time of writing this report, the next meeting is intended to be held on 12 March 2024.

An issue faced by the Network for holding meetings is that by its very nature the members are very widely dispersed. Developments in communications technology have been vital in this, as the Network only meets via Zoom. As Presbytery has an account this has required someone from Presbytery office to make the bookings. Rev. Rob Douglas has continued to be available to do this, although the Network is not part of his range of responsibilities. As ever, thank you, Rob! This almost became an issue in February when the Presbytery Zoom account was already booked when planning the February meeting, which was only averted by the cancellation (see above). Alternative networking sites, such as Google Meet, Microsoft Teams or Skype, are also only available on a subscription basis or if free are limited by time, numbers participating or both. So there would be a cost for the Network to have its own account.

In presenting this report on Yuko's behalf, I would like to record my appreciation of her commitment and hard work on behalf of the Network and ask that Presbytery members remember her and her family in your prayers.

Prof. Richard Hugman

(on behalf of the Convenor)

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