



THE BCUN

BALLARAT CENTRAL UNITING NEWS



SPECIAL OCCASION: Rev Lauleti Tu'inauvai congratulates Janet and Ron Harris on their 70th Wedding Anniversary. **Story, Page 10. PICTURE:** Ron Fleming

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A big thankyou to all of the contributors who provided articles and photographs for this edition of BCUN. As always, they are very much appreciated. If you would like to contribute to BCUN in any way, please email me, Leanne Keem, at:

leanne.keem@gmail.com

Please note, items for the June!

July edition of BCUN, to be published on Sunday, June 1, will be due on Sunday, May 25.

SERVICES

- * Every Sunday - 10am
- * 1st Sunday of the month - Taize service, 7pm-8pm
- * 2nd and 4th Sunday - Sudanese service, 2.30pm
- * 4th Sunday of the month - Family service, 5pm

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands and waters in the Ballarat area, the Wathaurong People of the Kulin Nations. We pay our sincere respect to their Elders: past, present and emerging. The Uniting Church in Australia commits its members to walk together with compassion and justice as First and Second Peoples. We are committed to continue this stewardship and reconciliation.

An update on the Ballarat Sleep Bus

Representatives from the Committee for Ballarat, the Future Leaders program, Ballarat Central Uniting Church and Rotary have been meeting regularly over the past few months in an effort to clarify the status of the Ballarat Sleep Bus, communicate with our donors and to provide an overview of the process from our viewpoint, remaining factual and clear in what has transpired to this point. The letter below was prepared by the Committee for Ballarat to provide an update for our generous donors who have given to this project in good faith. It is our intention to get the bus for our homeless of Ballarat whose situation is dire.

— Mary Hollick

In October 2022, the Ballarat community commenced their campaign to bring a “sleep bus” service to Ballarat. A sleep bus service is an initiative that aims to provide safe overnight accommodation for people experiencing homelessness by utilising purpose-renovated buses, known as sleep buses. The initiative was driven by a small project team of five participants from Committee for Ballarat’s community leadership program, Future Shapers, who wanted to have a positive impact in Ballarat’s growing homelessness crisis.

Sleep Bus Ltd (**Sleep Bus**) is a registered charity and operator of sleep bus services in other regions. After Sleep Bus responded to our campaign with enthusiasm, the project team considered it appropriate to develop a working



relationship with them in order to progress the campaign. Its founder and director, Simon Rowe, initially suggested that if our community were to raise \$100,000, a sleep bus could be provided to Ballarat, with the ongoing operational costs and volunteers to deliver the service to be the responsibility of Sleep Bus as the registered operator.

When the fundraising commenced, the Ballarat community rallied together and, thanks to donations from not-for-profits and individuals, along with other fund-raising activities, the targeted amount of \$100,000 was raised by early 2023. In addition to the funds raised, project partner Mary Hollick of Compassionate Ballarat and Uniting Central Church, secured the donation of a bus from Ventura Bus Lines. The value of the bus to the project was approximately \$20,000.

With the bus and funds in place, Mr Rowe and his team got to work to transform the donated bus. Since then, our community has raised a further \$45,000 in response to Sleep Bus’s request for further funds needed as a re-

sult of unforeseen obstacles and rising costs. In total, the fundraising effort, including the donated bus, has provided \$165,000.

In January 2025, we were notified that the Sleep Bus operation will be winding up on 30 June 2025. We are yet to be provided with the sleep bus. Mr Rowe has since requested a further \$15,000 to complete the bus, and has stipulated that we must now find a willing organisation to manage its operations.

Needless to say, we are very concerned by this news and are investigating what this means for the project. We are working with our community towards determining what action should now properly be taken. We will not be making or proposing any further donations to Sleep Bus unless and until appropriate guarantees can be put in place to secure the project for Ballarat.

We will continue to keep you notified with any further updates as they come in.

Thank you to the ongoing support of our partners in helping to bring a sleep bus to Ballarat:

From our Minister's Pen 



A time of spiritual enrichment!

Following Jesus into the wilderness (Season of Lent) and to the Empty Tomb (Season of Easter) are unique times for spiritual enrichment and empowerment for Christians. I believe that these are the most sanctified time of our Christian discipleship when we journey in the Seasons of Lent and Easter.

When all the people were being baptised, Jesus was baptised too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened²² and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." (Luke 3:21-22) Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness,² where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. (Luke 4:1-2)

We are journeying towards the end of the Season of Lent (40 days). During this time, we follow the example of Jesus, who was baptised and divinely commissioned with words from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love;

with you I am well pleased" and who was led by the Spirit to a forty-day period in the wilderness just before he began his public ministry.

We, followers of Jesus, are also invited into this sacred wilderness experience with Jesus.

This is a period of reflection and prayer so that we can learn, as Jesus did, what it means for us to discover what God is calling us to do and also be graced by God to grow in strength, integrity, compassion and justice.

After the wilderness Season of Lent we enter into the exciting Season of Easter, beginning with celebrating Jesus' triumph over sin and death. The Easter Day follows with great fifty days of Easter which includes eight Sundays beginning with the Easter Vigil and concluding on the Day of Pentecost. The season celebrates the Resurrection and Ascension of Christ and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In John's gospel, the Risen Jesus first appeared to a woman, Mary, who became the first witness who proclaimed the Resurrection of the Lord.

¹⁵He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." ¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which

means "Teacher").

¹⁷Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

¹⁸Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her. (John 20:11-18)

The Season of Lent and Easter help us individually and collectively as a community to focus on Jesus, the head of the church, one of the Trinity, the Son of God, the Saviour, Redeemer of the world and Immanuel, God is with us. It is a period for the followers of Jesus to enhance, re-order, re-new, re-direct and re-excite their relationships with God and with each other.

Here are our special celebrations at BCUC for the next two months.

Holy Week Celebration

13th – 20th April

Palm Sunday celebration on 13th April with ecumenical gathering at 9am at Sturt Street Rotunda. Members will leave BCUC at 8:30am to join Anglican friends and Catholic friends. We will have our normal 10am service at BCUC. There will be a special Palm Sunday Evening Service led by The Explorers Group @ 7pm.

Holy Week Reflections on Monday 14th, Tuesday 15th and

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A time of spiritual enrichment!

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Wednesday 16th @ 7pm. All are welcome to come for this Holy Week Reflections led by Lauleti.

Maundy Thursday celebration on 17th April with a Service of Tenebrae led again by The Explorers @ 7pm.

Good Friday Service on 18th April @ 9am.

Easter Sunday Service - 20th April.

Mother's Day Celebration – Sun-

day 11th May.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – 1st – 8th June 2025.

Day of Pentecost – 8th June.

UCA 48th Anniversary – Combined with Brown Hill Uniting, 29th June.

We hope that we will receive in May the report of the Life and Witness Consultation Team to assist and guide us in our continuing discernment for God's current and future mission and ministry

through BCUC.

It is my wish and prayer that as we journey in the Seasons of Lent and Easter, we will be able to find times to enhance our individual and collective relationship with the Triune God through the embodiment of the Son Jesus Christ and in the power of the forever present Holy Spirit.

Blessings
Lauleti



World Day of Prayer 2025 – Friday, March 7

The Uniting Churches in Ballarat Central UC.

hosted the World Day of Prayer Women of the Cook Islands prepared the Liturgy for 2025 with the month, March 7, at 10am at the theme: "I made you wonder- Brown Hill UC; 2pm at Skipton full!"

Street UC and 5pm at Ballarat World Day of Prayer services

were also conducted at aged care homes in Ballarat and in regional towns.

The 2026 World Day of Prayer service will be prepared by the women of Nigeria.

Updating the Church Directory

Have you changed your postal address, your email address, your phone number or no longer use a land line? Can you please contact Sabine on 0491 706 667 or admin@bcuc.org.au to bring your personal information up to date.



Church Council Report

Rod Devenish, Chairperson

March 2025

Executive & Finance Committee of Church Council met on the 12th, and full Council on the 26th March.

Worship

Guest Worship leader

We offer thanks to the Rev. Suzie Castle who led our worship on Sunday 16th February and then again on Sunday 30th March, the two occasions she also lead the Life and Witness Consultation team in their meetings with the congregation.

Lent and Easter

We concluded the season of Epiphany in February and began Lent with an Ash Wednesday evening service on the 5th March. We next focus on Holy week, beginning with Palm Sunday on 13th April and concluding with Easter Sunday on 20th April. A full list of these services can be found in the

April notice sheet and elsewhere in this issue of BCUN.

COVID Safety

As we continue into the second quarter of 2025 and potentially colder weather we encourage all to take all possible care against the resurgence of infections within the community. It is perfectly acceptable to wear a mask at worship and other activities if you so wish. Our services continue to be live-streamed and offer an opportunity to participate in worship without attending in person if unwell.

Safety of movement in and around sanctuary/altar area

We ask all who might enter this space in the course of a service (or indeed at any other time) to consider carefully whether using the steps is a risk for their personal safety. Our worship leaders have taken the lead in using the ramp at the beginning and end of services and so we encourage all others to do likewise.

Funerals

Our funeral planning guide has recently been revised and is available on our website or from Laulet, or Sabine.

Uniting

Uniting In Ballarat

(Taken from the written report provided for the March Council meeting.)

CEO UPDATE

At Uniting, we celebrate diversity and embrace people of every ethnicity, faith, age, disability, culture, language, gender identity,

sex or sexual orientation.

And we reject any statement or action intended to invalidate, harm, erase or oppress transgender and gender diverse people's identities and lives. We cannot expect people to grow and thrive unless they feel a sense of safety – by having a roof over our heads, by being treated with fairness and respect – and I take comfort in knowing that at Uniting we will always strive to build an inclusive, connected and just world.

SERVICE OVERVIEW

AOD

- Phil Buatava has left Uniting and Warrick Davison is, for the interim, managing Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drugs programs.

BreezeWay

- BreezeWay continues to be extremely busy. The sharp increase in running costs has made it necessary to only provide take away on the weekends with additional expenditure required for packaging.
- Running a little short of consistently available volunteers.
- There continues to be a high demand for emergency relief services. There has been good support from our internal networks where applicable (e.g. a large donation of underwear to the Geelong Emergency Relief services was shared with Ballarat Emergency Relief).

Homelessness

Drop in Centre saw its busiest month yet in February, with more than 450 attendances. Nursing staff are seeing a demand for wound care and podiatry is booked out every fortnight.

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Really starting to see the demand for GP, mental health and dental care in this space.

- Entry points are seeing a larger number of people presenting in crisis with nowhere to go. Current increase of youth and middle aged women presenting in crisis.
- Number of homelessness programs with lapsing funding, still waiting for funding announcements causing issues for staff retention and wellbeing.

Lifeline Ballarat**• Push-Up Challenge Preparation:**

Getting ready for this national fundraiser, rallying support for mental health and crisis services.

• Volunteer Dedication: Our incredible volunteers went above and beyond when cyclones and fires impacted communities, ensuring support continued for Australians experiencing crisis while other centres were unable to take calls.

• Generous Community Support: A heartfelt thank you to a community member for their generous \$705 donation.

• New Volunteer Intake: Welcoming new students into our training program as we continue to promote and recruit more volunteers for the phones.

• Little Brass Band Fundraiser: The Little Brass Band is hosting its 3rd annual fundraising concert in support of Lifeline Ballarat—an incredible show of community spirit. Planning is well underway.

• Workplace & Community Training: Our team is traveling across the regions, delivering our in-house developed training to workplaces and community groups.

• Veteran & First Responders Expo: We were proud to attend this important event, where we connected with key community members and organized an ASIST train-

ing session with the RSL.

• Youth Suicide Prevention Collaboration: Partnering with the Orygen to deliver a project to work with young people, strengthening suicide prevention efforts.

Reid's Guest House

• The sale of Reid's Guest House has been advertised with interested parties now viewing the site.

Residential Site**Barnagnen**

• Almost at capacity and continues to be busy. The single vacancy should be filled soon.

The Hub

• The Hub is hectic with a high level of demand for service due to the difficulty encountered by people accessing "mainstream" mental health services. The Hub provides an easier entry point for support.

Outcomes of fundraising in support of Uniting

Three events have been very successful:

1. Bunnings Sausage Sizzle, Friday 31 January raised \$448.21
2. Pancake Luncheon, Sunday February 23, raised \$973.90.
3. The Book Fair and plant sale held over the Labour Day weekend raised \$10,421.83.

The funds raised will be distributed to Lifeline and BreezeWay, and also a small sum to Meals for Change.

Thanks for your support and especially to all those who staffed or contributed in any other ways to any of these events.

Our Building – next steps

During the last week of March more scaffolding was erected under the small gables on both sides of the worship space in order to

gain better access to the gables not possible from the roof space. Other 'non-visible' activity has been taking place involving assessing plumbness and vibrations of each gable which, together with information from the surveyor, will provide the final design detail for each gable. Once these designs are settled we will see more visible signs of activity. As a matter of safety we will be constructing temporary barriers that will prevent any unauthorised person from using the stair to the mezzanine level and potentially gaining access to the scaffolding.

Life and Witness Consultation

The Life and Witness Consultation (LWC) has been conducted.

The LWC team met with Congregation members after worship on Sunday 16th February.

The team held separate meetings with Uniting staff, the events committee and was in contact with many other individuals and groups to collect information.

On Sunday, 30th March, the LWC team returned to give brief feedback on information they collected and some of their overall impressions. The LWC team will now prepare a detailed written report which will go to Presbytery for ratification. At some point after that it will be made available to the congregation for reflection, response and perhaps implementation of any recommendations.

Changes to Council membership

A congregational meeting was held after the service on Sunday, 23rd March.

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At this meeting we elected one new Elder to sit on Council, Maureen Vallence, and Bron James was re-elected. Manesty Brown was re-elected to Council. Andrew Boatman and Clark Chester have concluded terms as Church Councillors. We are thankful to all who were newly elected or re-elected either to Council, or to other positions within our congregation.

Presbytery Representation

In recent years we have been very well served by three representations to Presbytery – Andrew Boatman, Manesty Brown and Eileen Devenish. At present we have only one representative – Manesty – who was re-elected at the recent congregational meeting. Church Council has resolved to continue seeking for persons to fill this important role which gives a voice to our congre-

gation at Presbytery and contributes to its workings. To this end a new period of nominations will open on April 6 and run to May 4. A vote on any nominees received will take place at our AGM in May.

Rod Devenish, Chair of Council

Below: Church members add their future ideas and dreams to many church activities listed as part of the Life and Witness Consultation.



Lectionary Readings — April 13 to June 1

April 13 — Palm Sunday: Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 118:1-2; Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 19:28-40

April 14 — Monday in Holy Week: Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 36:5-11; Hebrews 9:11-15; John 12:1-11

April 15 — Tuesday in Holy Week: Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 71: 1-14; 1 Cor 1:18-31; John 12:20-36

April 16 — Wednesday in Holy Week: Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 70; Hebrews 12:1-3; John 13:21-32

April 17 — Maundy Thursday: Exodus 12:1-4; Psalm 116:1-2; 1 Cor 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35

April 18 — Good Friday: Isaiah 52:13 - 53:12; Psalm 22; Hebrews 10:16-25 or John 18:1 - 19:42; Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9

April 19 — Holy Saturday: Job 14:1-14 or Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16 1 Peter 4:1-8; Matthew 27:57-66 or Lamentations 3:1-9, 19-24; John 19:38-42

April 19/20 — Easter Vigil: Genesis 1:1-2, 4a; Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18; Psalm 136:1-9, 23-26; Psalm 46; Exodus 14:10-31; Exodus 15: 1b-13, 17-18, 15:20-21

April 20 — Easter Day: Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Cor 15:19-26 or John 20:1-18 or Isaiah 65:17-25 Acts 10:34-43 or Luke 24:1-12

April 20 — Easter Evening: Isaiah 25:6-9; Psalm 114; 1 Cor 5:6b-8; Luke 24:13-49

April 27 — Easter 2: Acts 5:27-32; Psalm 118:14-29; Revelation 1:4-18; John 20:19-31 or Psalm 150

May 4 — Easter 3: Acts 9:1-6, (7-20); Psalm 30; Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19

May 11 — Easter 4: Acts 9:36-43; Psalm 23; Revelation 7:9-17; John 10:22-30

May 18 — Easter 5: Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148; Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35

May 25 — Easter 6: Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67; Revelation 21:10, 22- 22:5; John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9

May 29 — Ascension Day: Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47 or Psalm 93; Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-53

June 1 — Easter 7: Acts 16:16-34; Psalm 97; Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21; John 17:20-26



Servers and diners help to raise \$973 for Breezeway with a pancake lunch following church.



ABOVE: Elders Jacklyn Tanginoa, Lauren Martin, Rev Lauleti Tu'inauvai, Merriel Le Marshall and Anita Hinton preside at Holy Communion.



ABOVE: Elder Maureen Vallance serves John Olsen while Ken Jenkin receives the wine.



BELOW: The Bookers have a break while setting up for the Book Fair. The popular book and plant sale (above) raised \$10,500 for Breezeway.



ABOVE: Andy Gault delivers the early word, protecting the candle from the wind with a brick as our faith stands firm in the Lord and Geoff LeMarshall prunes Andy's daisy to give it another year. PHOTOS: Ron Fleming





LEFT AND BELOW: The Uniting Threads group gets creative on a Wednesday.



MUSIC: Around 150 people supported the Chamber Philharmonia Vivaldi, Mozart and Paganini concert at BCUC. Patrons enjoyed the music and church setting.



RIGHT: Rev Suzie Castle (Camperdown, Derriallum) leads morning worship as part of a pulpit exchange.



RIGHT: Rev Lauleti Tu'inauvai brings the message "Listen to Him/Jesus/God".



MORNING TEA: Friends Lesley Lyons, left, and Jenet Sharp catch up with each other for a chat at morning tea.



INPUT: Church members add their ideas to church activity lists.

70th Wedding Anniversary Celebration

70 years is a very long time. In fact apart from Janet and I, Helen Peart (Janet's sister who was one of our bridesmaids) and my sister Noelene who is now in care, we have outlived all the people who were with us on our wedding day!!!

When I was discussing this function with my 2 daughters they were quizzing me as to when I was first interested in Janet romantically. They were astonished by the fact that I already had a girlfriend and did not need another. It was not until the end of term 1 in 1948 when my girlfriend moved away from Ballarat that I took any notice of Janet. We became friends and I started to help her with her homework and the friendship flourished.

I can't remember much about the first time I saw Janet but I do remember our first date. We went to Carols by Candlelight at View Point, on Christmas Eve. We played pennant tennis for Ebenezer in the Protestant Churches Tennis Association. One of the members of our tennis club was in the booking office at the Regent and we could always get cancellations to have seats each Saturday night. When we did go to the pictures we had to be home by 11.00pm. I would quickly deliver Janet home to beat the curfew, and then pedalled home to Mt Pleasant. The bicycle was my means of transport!

When I married Janet Williams I was well ensconced in the running of the business known as Owen Williams. I started there as a message boy not long after my eleventh birthday and worked there



after school and in school vacations until I was sixteen. This was during WWII when there did not seem to be any restriction on employment age.

After WWII when the commercial travellers resumed their trade in visiting shops with their samples, Owen Williams would tell them to come back after 4pm to see the buyer. I think that I would have still been in short pants!

I had been doing the buying and checking the arrival of stock and marking the selling prices and

even attending to customer's requirements.

The months leading up to our wedding was an exciting time, designing our home and preparing the blueprints and specifications for the builder to quote. My father helped me dig the trenches and pier holes for the foundations and I helped my brothers make all the window sashes ready for the glazier. My father who was a cabinet maker, made a Queen Anne bedroom suite for us, plus dining

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room table and sideboard and six chairs. Janet worked diligently operating the switchboard at the Ballarat Commonwealth Bank on the corner of Sturt & Lydiard Streets. When we were married, married women were not allowed to work at the Commonwealth bank – so, that was it!

March 12th, 1955

We were married at Wesley Church in Lydiard Street. We caught a train to Melbourne and as the train pulled out of the station, there were several small explosions. Practical joker, my Uncle Harry, (a railway employee), had placed several detonators on the tracks that exploded when the train wheels went over them, which of course startled all the onlookers!

We stayed at The Windsor Hotel for the Saturday night. Early the next morning we flew to Coolangatta and stayed for 2 weeks at a small unit at Surfers Paradise just a few yards from the beach. It was Janet's first flight and our plane was delayed due to mechanical problems – which made Janet a bit more nervous! At that time there was only one 2 storeyed building in Surfers. We then went to Brisbane and boarded the MV Manunda to sail to Melbourne via Sydney.

Just 5 months after we arrived home to Ballarat to our new home in Bond Street Mt Pleasant, Janet's father (Owen Williams) died after a very short illness. For the next 22 years I continued to run Owen Williams in partnership with my mother-in-law, until her death in 1977. I continued running the store for another 31



At Janet and Ron Harris's 70th Wedding Anniversary lunch their daughter Lisa models Janet's dress with the help of Janet's original bridesmaid, her sister, Helen Peart.

years. These were very interesting times with Janet raising our 4 children and spending some time helping at the shop. One of her regular tasks was to look after our debtor's ledger and send the monthly accounts.

We only sold menswear in those days at our shop on the corner of Sturt and Camp Streets.

1986

The first big change to the business was in 1986 when I won a competition run by the company who made YSL clothing in Australia. The prize was a 1st class return flight to Paris. 2 weeks in a 5 star hotel and \$1000 spending money. I swapped the 1st class option for 2 business class seats and Janet and I were off to Paris. We needed to pinch ourselves often to realise that it was not some dream. In Paris we noticed many shops which were the equivalent size to

ours that sold both men's and ladieswear, with the same staff serving both. A while after, we returned home we gradually started to stock ladieswear. After about 4 years, our sales were about 50/50. In an endeavour to succeed, we would have to have stock different from the multitude of ladies' shops in Ballarat and decided to stock European made garments. A friend of mine in Melbourne suggested that I have a chat to the buyer in George's about which brands to stock. Her advice was invaluable. She said that German sizing would suit the Western district ladies. French and Italian sizing was too small and she gave me the name of a Sydney agent who represented many German brands. For a couple of years we would go to Sydney to view samples which they had brought out from Germany.

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This worked for a few seasons but the agents changed their program. Instead of them bringing samples to Australia we needed to go to Germany to see the entire collections. So for the next 20 years it meant travelling to Europe in March and September for a week. Janet came a couple of times and then I took Trudy a couple of times, Lisa once and then Ashlea, followed by Sage and by the time it was Lucy's turn the family decided I was getting too old to be gallivanting around the world and I should sell the business.

On the occasions that I did take Janet we would enjoy some time as holiday time and toured the British Isles, did some cruises around the Mediterranean and beyond.

We acquired a fascination of cruising and have very much enjoyed several ocean cruises.

In our travels we have visited many countries, continents and cathedrals and churches. I did embarrass Janet more than once. She thought that I overstepped the mark when I picked up a chair in the Cathedral in Auckland to take a photo of the makers details.

At the time, I was involved in the selection of chairs for our church alteration, and the architect was very keen for us to buy a chair that stacked very compactly. I was in favour of one that was comfortable to sit in and the NZ chair won the day.

Throughout our married life Janet has supported my interests. In my time as Chairman of the Begonia Festival, Janet co-ordinated the volunteers to produce some 15 floral carpets. Janet spent every Saturday as a very special PA to Trudy and Lisa, while they ran their Ballet School for over 30 years.

Janet also taught and played the

piano in the kinder part of the Sunday School for 30 years. We both continue to stay very connected with our Church and have put in a life's commitment to our Church.

OAM 2016

In 2016 I was awarded the OAM for services to the Community for my work helping with the construction of the 5th Ballarat Scout headquarters and work with the establishment of Lifeline here in Ballarat. I was extremely proud and honoured to receive this award.

Our four wonderful children, Philip, Trudy, Lisa and Ian have provided us with lots of memorable occasions and pleasure. Sadly, we lost Philip aged 25, which has been difficult for us all.

Trudy has taught ballet for the last 47 years and still enjoys every minute of it. She also works at Ballarat Grammar, and comes to do the occasional odd job around

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the house and keeps us on a short rein. Her son, Zachary, lives with his partner Penelope, in Melbourne and works in a managerial role in a logistics Company.

Lisa, our second daughter is married to Trevor and they now live in Ocean Grove. Lisa ran the Ballet School with Trudy, and then when they closed the school she worked in retail for a while, before moving to the beach. Lisa and Trevor have 3 daughters.

Ashlea is married to Ben Wood. Ashlea has appeared in several professional Musicals and more recently has been involved with producing several theatre works. Ashlea and Ben have 2 children, Otis and Goldie.

Sage is an Educator and has worked in Primary Schools in Ballarat and now in Cairns. She is married to Corey Fisher and lives in Cairns with their 2 children, Levi and Charli.

Third daughter **Lucy** works in an executive position at Australia Post. Lucy, and her partner Scar-



lett, a solicitor, spend a lot of time at Ocean Grove with their 2 cats.

Ian, has been involved with theatre for many decades both in Ballarat and Melbourne. He is married to **Lyn** and they have 3 children. **Millie**, a Primary school teacher at Mentone; **Ben**, who is in the throes of changing his uni course again and **Xavier** who is doing year 11 at Mazenod College in Mulgrave. Ian and Lyn both

work at different sections of Monash University.

The Uniting Church has played an important part in our lives and we thank you for your friendship over so many years. As an inspiration for our time ahead, we are following the message from Lauleti's Reflection on the text last week ... "Give it one more year".

— **Ron Harris OAM & Janet Harris**



BACK IN BALLARAT: Naval Chaplain Lyall Reid with Lyn Fleming at the commemorative service. **Photo: Ron Fleming**

Lyall makes flying visit

Former BCUC Ministry team member Lyall Reid made a flying visit from Perth on 9th February for the Australian Ex-Prisoners of War Memorial Service.

Chaplain Reid represented the Commanding Officer and Ship's Company of HMAS Ballarat at the service.

Chaplain Reid completed the pastoral component of his training as part of the BCUC congregation.

Lyall was delighted to catch up with Lyn and Ron Fleming prior to the service commencing.

Volunteering opportunities for families or friends

Do you know anyone who has the time and energy to offer Uniting?

Breezeway

Breezeway is badly in need of people to fill one of their seven shifts each week. Miriam Peck is happy to give the details of this most rewarding opportunity to any potential volunteers. Ph: 0435 296 636

BCUC Bookers

BCUC Bookers is a team of volunteers who meet weekly to sort the thousands of donated books and then staff the twice-yearly Book Fair which raises thousands of dollars for Uniting and Lifeline. But none of them are getting any younger and this most worthwhile ministry will soon need to 'pull up stumps' if no younger people come and join us. Men are particularly needed as manual handling is involved. For details, speak to any of the current Bookers or phone Alan or Anita Hinton, Ph: 0431 063 347.



Easter Services
Ballarat Central
Uniting Church

Palm/Passion Sunday 13 April
 8.45am Leave Central UC for 9am Ecumenical
 Palm Sunday service in Sturt Street
 10am Palm Sunday Service at Central UC
 7pm Palm Sunday Evening Service

Holy Week Reflections 14—16 April
 7.00pm at Central UC

Maundy Thursday Tennebrae Service
 17 April at 7.00pm

Good Friday Service 18 April at 9.00 am

Easter Celebration Communion Service
 20 April, at 10.00 am Communion Service

*For further information – Contact Rev. Lauleti M: 0413 115711
 E: lauletitui@gmail.com*

Mission Mary Alice Cairns Endowment

Women in Ministry 2024- 2025

Over the past 12 months, through the Mary Alice Cairns Endowment, we have assisted 6 students to continue with their theological studies and we have been able to follow them to their completion. Asinate, Amalaini and Toobora are at Pacific Theological College (PTC) and Mela, top right, and Luisa, bottom right, are at Davuilevu Theological College (DTC), both in Fiji. We also continue to support Rev Geraldine as she still works towards her PhD Thesis – with many revisions taking time. Luisa and Mela at DTC graduated on the 5th of December 2024. Asinate, Amalaini and Toobora

will Graduate in April 2025. Rev Asinate spent time in Brisbane, Adelaide, Sydney & Canberra in November last year, preaching, speaking, attending a conference, meeting with other Pacific Islanders and exploring Chaplaincy in UCA communities.

In November Rev Lauleti, Andy, Adri and I were involved in leading worship for the Tongan Congregation at Canterbury. We shared our relationship with the two colleges and the women's stories. We have no direct contact with the students at the Colleges who are from several islands. Mardi Lumsden, Donor Relations Manager, and Mia Berry, International Programs Manager Uniting World, are our contacts and have kept us up to date with the progress of the students.

Pam Toom, February 2025



Ballarat Central Uniting Church Rosters							April 6th — June 1st 2025		
Regular leaders Rev. L. Tu'inauvai Andy Gault	1.2. Readers 3. Bearer (See page 7 for readings)	Prayer	Musicians	Elders 1. Elder on duty 2. Communion El- ders	Welcome 1. General greeter 2. Welcome Support Group representa- tive	Door Stewards	Morning Tea		
April 13 Palm/ Sunday	1. Karen COAD 2. Barb SNIBSON 3. Atelaite TUPOU	H. DUGGAN	Roger PECK	Maureen VALLANCE	1. S. VANDERBOM 2. Glenice WARNER	Ken JENKIN Judy STONE	<u>Jan DIMOND</u> Theresa READ Betty STEWART Faye WITHERS		
April 17th Maundy Thursday	EXPLORERS GROUP				Faye & Charlotte WITHERS	Rod DEVENISH			
April 18th Good Friday	1. Rev. B. CLARK 2. Pat CLARK 3. Jean MITON	Pat CLARK	Evan DUGGAN	Jean MITON	M. LeMARSHALL	Lyn & Ron FLEMING			
April 20th Easter Day	1. Pam TOOM 2. M. BENNETT 3. Angus SH-COX	Lyn FLEMING	Graeme SUTTON Karen COAD C. WITHERS	1. Susan PIEROTTI 2. Anita HINTON Merriel LeM. Jacklyn T.	1. Jan TOZER 2. Nancy O'LOUGHLIN	Lyn & Ron FLEMING	<u>Alan HINTON</u> Lesley LYONS Miriam PECK Bev HUTCHINSON		
April 27th Easter 2	1. Heather GILBERT 2. Chris KYNOCH 3. Fila FIFITA	Graeme SUTTON	Ray HODDER	Margo CUNNINGHAM	1. Jacklyn T. 2. Atelaite TUPOU	Nur SISSON Nancy O'LOUGHLIN	<u>Helen PEART</u> Greta CHRISTIE Jan SOUTER Maureen VALLANCE		
May 4th Easter 3	1/2 A&A HALEY 3. L. MARTIN	Ron BROWN	Evan DUGGAN	1. Bron JAMES 2. Jen MITCHELL Jean MITON Nancy O'LOUGHLIN	1. Bev HUTCHINSON 2. Marg BENNETT	Merriel & Geoff LeMARSHALL	<u>Heather BROWN</u> Alice HALEY Jan JENKYN Shirley VANDERBOM		

Regular leaders Rev. L. Tu'inauvai Andy Gault	Reader (See page 7 for readings)	Prayer	Musician	Elders 1. Elder on duty 2. Communion Elders	Welcome 1. General greeter 2. Welcome Support Group representative	Door Stewards	Morning Tea
May 11th Easter 4	1. N. NETHERWAY 2. J. TANGINOA 3. John SCHULZ	Karen COAD	Ray HODDER	Jacklyn TANGINOA	1. Rod DEVENISH 2. Anita HINTON	Ken JENKIN Judy STONE	MOTHERS' DAY Men of the congregation provide morning tea
May 18th Easter 5	1. Rod DEVENISH 2. Glenice WARNER 3. Fila FIFITA	A. STICKLAND	Graeme SUTTON Karen COAD Charlotte WITHERS	Rod DEVENISH	1. Lauren MARTIN 2. M. VALLANCE	Lyn & Ron FLEMING	<u>Miriam GIBSON</u> Ros SUTTON Jan TOZER Glenice WARNER
May 25th Easter 6	1. Marg BENNETT 2. Susan PIEROTTI 3. Bron JAMES	Bill CLARK	Roger PECK	Nancy O'LOUGHLIN	1. Greta CHRISTIE 2. Anita HINTON	Nur SISSON N. O'LOUGHLIN	<u>Barb SNIBSON</u> Theresa READ Jan SOUTER Judy STONE
June 1st Easter 7	1. A. BOATMAN 2. Atelaite TUPOU 3. Emily SH-COX	Chris KYNOCH	Evan DUGGAN	1. A. STICKLAND 2. Jean MITON Rod DEVENISH Margo C'HAM	1. Bron JAMES 2. M. VALLANCE	Merriel & Geoff LeMARSHALL	<u>Mary HOLLICK</u> Jen MITCHELL Nina NETHERWAY Nancy O'LOUGHLIN

OOS/Notice Sheet folders: Lesley Lyons, Jan Tozer, Helen Peart, Betty Stewart

Flowers: Anita Hinton/Jen Mitchell / Bron James **Communion Preparation/Pack-up:** Elder on Duty and Communion Elders

IT/Video: Ben Daniel, Andrew Boatman **Choir Director:** Helen Duggan

Note: If you are unable to undertake a task on the date you are rostered, please go online to **Ministry Scheduler Pro** and request a substitute. Alternatively, arrange your own substitute via personal contact.