



THE BCUN

BALLARAT CENTRAL UNITING NEWS



DEADLY: As part of NAIDOC Week celebrations the church was decorated with Indigenous art and The Explorers Group presented a number of deadly stories to the congregation including Miriam Peck, at the lecturn, speaking about Pastor Sir Doug Nicholls.

Picture: Ron Fleming

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

2. Congregational report, Readings
- 3-4. From our Minister's Pen
- 5-6. Church Council report
7. Visit from John and Charles
- 8-9. Photos
10. Pastoral care, home visiting
11. Church activities
- 12-13. Frontier Service
14. New UCA appointment
- 15-16. Rosters

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 the next BCUN in any way, please email me, Leanne Keem, at:

leanne.keem@gmail.com

Please note, items for the October/ November edition of BCUN, to be

published on Sunday, October 4, will be due on Sunday, September 27.

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.



Adri Stickland

Attendance at the Easter Sunday service, which was also a communion Sunday, being the first in April, was unusually high. This was a delight but caused a little concern among the serving Elders as they found extra glasses.

That, and the steady flow of a new face or two, has prompted me to compare the numbers for the first six months of 2026 with those of last year.

Despite an attendance of 145 on Easter Sunday our average for this year so far is still 83.4, only one more than in 2025 and the same as in 2023. So the influx of new people balances those we lose which is something to be grateful for and welcome them warmly. We are sorry that Claudia felt the need to move back to Melbourne but appreciated her presence while she was here and wish her well there. We are required to hold two congregational meetings per year and

Council has agreed the second one should be on Sunday October 11th. We still do not have any lay representatives on Presbytery and a volunteer would be much appreciated. As you know, Presbytery meetings are held quarterly across the region, so only 4 times a year and Lauleti has offered a ride to anyone prepared to stand. Nominations will be called for closer to the meeting date but please think about it. Just a word of thanks to Andy for all his innovative efforts but particularly for the inspiring and enlivening décor on the Day of Pentecost, your imagination is endless.

— Adri Stickland

Prompt for a moment of meditation and challenge

Every now and again it is helpful to just stop, grab a cuppa and sit, pray, allowing the moment to be one of meditation and challenge. Here is a prompt from Sunday's Gospel reading:
Lord, is it you? Call me to come to you from my security on to the sea.
Lord, is it you? Hold and encourage me,

save and empower me to walk on the sea.
"Fear not. Take heart. Step out and come to me,
Leave your security. Come to the world."
Lord, it is you! "Keep your eyes fixed on me,
use my authority, care for the world."

Lord, it is you! *Crucified, Risen Lord!*
Now worshipped and adored, King of all Kings.
Lord, here and now, Spirit of Jesus send,
May His rule never end. Come, reign as King.
Graeme R Sutton © September 1993

Lectionary Readings: August 9 to October 4

Readings August 9-Oct 4

August 9 Pentecost 11: Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28 Psalm 105: 1-6, 16-22, 45b

Romans 10:5-15 Matthew 14:22-33

August 16 Pentecost 12: Genesis 45:1-15 Isaiah 56:1, 6-8 Psalm 133 Psalm 67

Romans 11:1- 2a, 29-32 Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28

August 23 Pentecost 13: Exodus 1:8-2:10 Psalm 124 Romans 12:1-

8 Matthew 16:13-20

August 30 Pentecost 14: Exodus 3:1-15 Jeremiah 15:15-21 Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26

Psalm 26:1-8 Romans 12:9-21, 45b Matthew 16:21-28

September 6 Pentecost 15: Exodus 12:1-14 Psalm 149 Romans 13:8-14 Matthew 18:15-20

September 13 Pentecost

16: Exodus 14:19-31 Psalm 114 or Exodus 15

Romans 14:1-12, 20-21 Matthew 18:21-35

September 20 Pentecost

17: Exodus 16:2-15 Jonah 3:10-4:11 Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45 Philippians 1:21-30 Psalm 145:1-

8 Matthew 20:1-16

September 27 Pentecost 18: Exodus 17:1-7 Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16 Philippians 2:1-13 Matthew 21:23-32

October 4 Pentecost 19: Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20 Isaiah 5:1-7 Psalm 19, Psalm 80:7-15 Philippians 3:4b-14 Matthew 21:33-46

From our Minister's Pen 



The Kingdom of Heaven has come near, Jesus proclaimed!

We read in the Gospel of Matthew about Jesus, who began his ministry in Galilee with the central core message and Good News:

"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." (*Matthew 4:17*)

Jesus also told many explicit "Kingdom of Heaven" parables in Matthew 13 that we recently had as lectionary gospel readings about: the Sower, Wheat and weeds, Mustard seed, Yeast, Hidden treasure, Pearl of great price, The fishing net, and Master of household.

Matthew also recorded other kingdom parables in chapters 20 (Day labourers) and 22 (Wedding feast).

Moreover, Matthew 5:10 also states: "Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven". This verse is the eighth Beatitude in Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, highlighting a paradoxical blessing: suffering for doing what is right is considered a spiritual reward rather than a misfortune. The central and core good news of the Kingdom of God/Heaven is the message of salvation and the promise of eternal life through Jesus Christ. It is a message of hope and restoration, offering

freedom from sin and the promise of eternal life. This kingdom gospel is the foundation of the Christian faith and is shared through the preaching of Jesus and his apostles. It is a message that calls people to repentance, faith in Jesus, and a commitment to live according to God's will. The good news of the Kingdom of God is a message of love, forgiveness, and the promise of eternal life, and it is shared with all who will accept it.

Therefore, every kingdom has its culture, values, and expectations for its members. As members of the Kingdom of God/Heaven, we are called to live by/with heavenly principles, not worldly standards, revealed in the scripture. The scripture makes it clear that although we are in the world, we are not of the world (John 17:16). Our membership and discipleship journey and purpose is in heaven, and we must conduct ourselves in a manner that reflects our allegiance to God's kingdom. Living as a Kingdom citizen requires a transformation of mind and lifestyle. It means prioritising God's will, walking in righteousness, and demonstrating God's love in all that we do.

We celebrated the baptisms of Mikayla and Alana Scilini and Archie John and Jack Charles Reeves on Sunday, 31st May, 2026, when we had our combined worship with Brown Hill congregation, held on every 5th Sunday.

We celebrated the UCA 49th Anniversary on Sunday, 21st June, in worship with a 49th anniversary cake shared during morning tea.

We are currently journeying in the UCA 50th Anniversary.

We also celebrated NAIDOC Week with a special service on Sunday, 12th July, 2026, led by The Explorers Group, together with Ms Faye Clarke who is a First Nations woman and a Ballarat resident. The theme for NAIDOC Week 2026 was "50 Years of Deadly," celebrating five decades of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, leadership, and achievements. NAIDOC Week 2026 marks a significant milestone: fifty years since NAIDOC expanded to a full week of celebration and recognition of First Nations peoples. The theme, "50 Years of Deadly," uses the Aboriginal English term "deadly," which means excellent, brilliant, or something to be proud of, reflecting both pride and resilience. It honours the Elders, organisers, artists, activists, and communities who have sustained NAIDOC over the decades.

We hosted at Ballarat Central on Friday, 24th July, a funeral of a long-term client of Ballarat Uniting Homelessness Program. She requested her funeral to be at the Uniting Church beautiful building. Over 80 people (family, friends, staffs, volunteers) attended the funeral as we offer this special ministry together with Uniting Ballarat to clients. This is the 3rd funeral of Ballarat Uniting clients we hosted at Ballarat Central congregation.

We will be celebrating Intercultural Neighbouring Sunday (INS) on Sunday, 16th August.

Continued next page



BOOKS: There was barely room to move at the latest one-day Book Fair. In a single day we raised more than \$8000 for Breezeway and Lifeline. Picture: Miriam Peck

The Kingdom of Heaven has come near, Jesus proclaimed!

From previous page

This celebration emerged from a decision of the 16th Assembly in 2022. INS celebrates the rich tapestry of cultures and languages that make up the body of Christ and encourages us to push deeper into what it means to live our life and faith interculturally in the Uniting Church. It is also an invitation to go beyond our own communities to make connections with culturally diverse communities around us and join in with what God is already doing in our neighbourhood. We have invited Rev Dr David Dong Won Kim, Vic-Tas Synod Multicultural Ministries Coordinator, Discipleship and Advocacy – eLM, to preach at Ballarat Central on the day. Church

members are invited to bring something “intercultural” (food, clothes, symbols etc) to share on the day.

We will celebrate Seasons of Creation 2026 from 1st September – 4th October with the theme: **LIVING WATER:** Immersion in Living Water (Ezekiel 47:9, 12). We’ll focus each Sunday on different creation: September 6 - Forest Sunday & Holy Communion; September 13 - Land Sunday; September 20 – Wilderness Sunday; September 27 - River Sunday; October 4 – Holy Communion.

Our church members continue supporting Aged Care Facilities Worship Services together with

Rev Suzie Castle, Supply Chaplaincy Co-ordinator at Kelaston, Talbot Place and Bill Crawford Lodge at Queen Elizabeth Centre, Nazareth House and Pineview Residential Care.

May we continue, as disciples and followers, Jesus’ mission and ministry of proclaiming, in words and deeds; in worship, witness and service, the Kingdom of Heaven has come. Unlike the people of the world who are guided by worldly desires, greed and temporary pleasures, kingdom disciples and citizens set their hearts on eternal and heavenly things.

Blessing.

— Lauleti



Church Council Report

Rod Devenish, Chairperson
July 2026

Executive & Finance Committee of Church Council met on the 8th, and full Council met on the 22nd July.

Worship

There have been two recent highlights.

The first was celebrating the UCA 49th Anniversary on Sunday, 21st June, 2026, with the opportunity to afterwards sample our "birthday" cake, expertly prepared by Jacklyn Tanginoa. The second was our NAIDOC Week Service on Sunday, 12th July, 2026, with the theme "50 Years of Deadly", led by our Explorers group together with Ms Faye Clarke, First Nations woman and Ballarat resident.

Uniting

Uniting In Ballarat

We did not receive the usual report from Uniting for our Council meeting.

Many people have commented on the build project at Uniting's Albert Street site. Details about the purpose of the build are still under embargo, but it will provide housing for a particular group of persons. The "practical completion" date is projected to be December 2026, so hopefully it will be occupied early in 2027.

Fundraising in support of Uniting

The Book Fair held on the 6th of June was a great success, raising over \$8,000. The proceeds will be shared between BreezeWay and Lifeline.

Future of the Book Fairs

Some of our volunteers are considering their ongoing involvement given age and/or health issues. **New volunteers are needed to see the Book Fairs continue!** If this is something you would like to know more about please speak with Anita or Alan Hinton.

Support for Uniting's Meal for Change program

You may recall that Eureka Brass held a concert on Saturday, April 18th, with the entire profits of the concert being donated to BCUC to use/distribute for a charitable use of our choice.

Accordingly, Council has decided to donate the \$800 raised to Uniting's Meals for Change program.

Building Access, Security and Safety

Our upgraded security system will be activated from Monday, 3rd August. If you are one of those who regularly access the building when it is not usually open you will need a code (personalised) and some (brief) training on how

to deactivate and reactivate the system. Please contact Sabine if you need a code.

For health and safety reasons we strongly recommend that individual congregation members avoid being present by themselves in the buildings wherever possible. Where this is unavoidable please keep your stay as short as possible. In all cases we recommend there being someone who knows of your presence.

When groups are meeting we recommend locking the entrance used once all members are present, particularly at night. Please remember to check that lights and heating are OFF and that your exit door is locked.

Solar Panels for the Manse

After receiving quotes for the installation of solar panels, battery and compatible hot water system Council has now resolved to seek the support and approval of Synod Property Services to move forward with this initiative.

Church Council Office Bearers for 2026-27

Following the election at our most recent meeting the Council Office Bearers for the forthcoming 12 months will be:

Chair – Rod Devenish

Deputy Chair – Andy Gault

Secretary – Mary Hollick

Treasurer on Council – David Pratt

On your behalf, I thank Andy, Mary and David for their willingness to continue in the role to which they were elected. We thank all members of Council for their contributions over the past 12 months.

Continued next page

From previous page

Choir Director

Council enthusiastically endorsed the re-appointment of Helen Dugan as our Choir Director for the next 12 months and expressed their appreciation for her past and ongoing efforts in the role which contribute much to our worship services.

Music in August/September 2026

Hymn Sing. The next afternoon of Hymn singing at BCUC will be held on Sunday, 9 August, at 2pm.



Bubble Church?

In June some members of the congregation attended a video presentation facilitated by Inter-gen on Bubble Church. It comes from the UK where it has helped churches successfully re-engage young families and build lasting connections.

What is it? "Bubble Church" is a Sunday church service designed especially for babies, toddlers, children and families. It's a puppet-packed, Jesus-centred, coffee

-and-food-fuelled, 30-minute kids and families' adventure. Families sit together on the floor, meaning children can jump, dance, do action songs and be themselves. It is designed for "unchurched" families, meaning everything is simple, jargon-free, and incredibly welcoming for people who have never set foot in a church before."

Council has decided to look into this concept further and consider whether it could be something BCUC takes on. Lauleti will be convening a group of interested persons to engage with this new idea for worship, so please speak with him if this is something that interests you.

We have now been advised of a Bubble Church Taster! The taster will offer the opportunity to experience a live, 30-minute demonstration of a typical Bubble Church service, thereby seeing how all the service components come together. Information will be provided about the training, digital resources, and ongoing support available to run Bubble Church.

Details on the Taster are:

Date: Wednesday 26th of August

Time: 2pm-4pm

Location: Heidelberg Scots Uniting Church, located at 187 Burgundy St, Heidelberg

Cost: Free (Registration re-

quired)

If interested in attending please speak with Lauleti or Rod to learn how to register. Lauleti will be attending and offers 3 places for travel by car on the day!



Advance notice of Congregational Meeting

UCA regulations require us to hold two meeting of the congregation each calendar year. The first of these was our AGM held in April; the second will be held after worship on Sunday 11 October.

— Rod Devenish, Chair of Council

Older and Wiser Forum

Sunday, 30 August, at 11.30am following the morning service at Ballarat Central Uniting Church.

When should I stop driving? Guest Speakers: Dr Kirrily Hartnell (General Practitioner) and Anthony Cunningham (Occupational Therapist

with Driver Assessment training)

There will be opportunities to ask questions about issues of concern also.

Everyone welcome.

— Maureen Vallance
(Chair of Elders)

A visit from John and Charles



This year at Central we commenced a Sunday afternoon Hymn Sing-a-long, the 2nd Sunday of the even months of the year.

For our June gathering we were blessed that John and Charles Wesley fronted up and we had a great time hearing about as well as singing their hymns. Needless to say, we only got through 11 of them leaving about 7,989 or so for another time! But we did sing all 18 verses of "O for a thousand tongues"!

Over the last few weeks I have reflected on what we did that afternoon. These are some of my (maybe controversial) thoughts which challenge what we do of a Sunday morning in worship.

- John and Charles were sons of a Church of England priest and both were ordained as priests despite later stating that they had not actually ever made a meaningful profession of faith in Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. (I hope that when I die I will go to heaven! Rather than because of what Christ has done on the cross "I know".) It was head stuff, not heart.

- Charles experienced an unmistakable conversion on Sunday May 21, 1738 and John described his heart being "strangely warmed on May 24th 1738. Had this happened to them today, this experience of being "baptised in the Spirit" would be expressed in terms of them being charismatic or pentecostal (hence they were eventually banned from preaching in the church, so they took to the village green or local hall.) The Wesleys confronted the strict

elitist "class system" of the day and the ritualistic form of Church of England worship of the time. Christ died "for all."

- Hymn singing was not a usual practice in the Church of England.

- It was through their hymns that the Wesley's taught the elements of Christian doctrine.

- There were two forms of "hymn singing". One was called "lining out"—the leader would recite a line, and the congregation would repeat it (many worshipers could not read so what was the use of a printed hymn book!) Or, words would be sung to a contemporary tune commonly known within the local community, a tune which matched the metre of the verse.

- Many of these tunes were characteristic of common of village green dance melodies of the C18th, or folk tunes endemic to a county or village, Others may have been sung heartily in homes or the local pub; very much as our pop songs today having new words to known tunes.

- In the 1820's hymn singing in the Church had become more popular, led in the big churches by the grand organ – definitely not conducive to the notion that hearts that are full of Christ will overflow with praise, testimony, life and purpose; a freedom which flows through our spirit, soul and body. Hymns singing began to drag, become slow because the organ in large cavernous cathedrals could not replicate the freedom that accompanies spirited singing. We experienced this challenge on that June afternoon. It was hard to "keep up"

I love the pipe organ. I love hearing it and I love playing it. But I struggle with a number of questions:

1. Why do we not sing the beloved C18th hymns in the style they were meant to be sung and have instead force them into the music style of the 19th century church which, as it did in the time of the Wesleys, continues to alienate ordinary people, and especially the younger generations, from the freedom of spirited singing which is embracing of spirit, soul and body.

2. Why do we seem to reject the "pop" tunes of today when they can be vehicles to teach us still the elements of our faith but expressed in the contemporary music of our time?

3. What do we need to do (change) so that our worship truly is a demonstration that our "heart is full of Christ, and longs its glorious matter to proclaim."

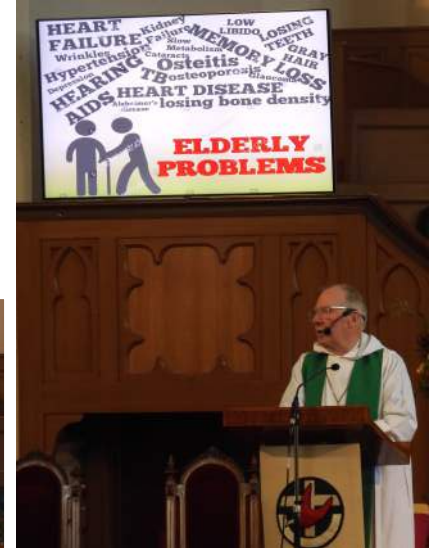
4. Worship is central to who we are and what we do, so how can we, not only as a congregation, but also more broadly as the "denomination" as the Uniting Church, seek to address these questions?

Lord, may our tongues that try to sing glory to You and praise and love, now join with the thousands of tongues of men and of angels; may they become loosened tongues; tongues that can not keep quiet even if they tried, so that in Christ the deaf may hear, the dumb may speak, the blind may see and the lame may walk. Come, Holy Spirit!

— Rev Dr Graeme Sutton



LEFT AND BELOW: Gambler's Help Community Engagement Officer with CAFS, Joanne Smith, discusses the extent of gambling in our communities.
RIGHT: Rev Dr Graeme Sutton delivers the message "Age is Irrelevant".



LEFT: Rev Lauleti Tu'inauvai reflects on the journey leading to the formation of the Uniting Church in Australia and later achievements.
RIGHT: Jan Tozer receives Communion in the pew from Rev Dr Graeme Sutton and Elder Jen Mitchell.
PHOTOS: Ron Fleming



ABOVE: Rod Devenish, Rev Dr Graeme Sutton and Chris Kynoch, who led the prayers of the people.

COMMUNION: Rev Dr Graeme Sutton leads communion with help from Elders Miriam Peck, Rod Devenish, Bron James, Jen Mitchell and Anita Hinton.



PARTICIPATION: The congregation participates in responsive actions.

FREWELL: Miriam Peck presents a quilt made by the Sewing Group to Claudia Forsberg who is returning to Melbourne.



RIGHT: Aunty Faye Clarke explains the significance of the Possum Skin Coat to First Nations People during NAIDOC Week celebrations.



LEFT: Margaret Bennett, Aunty Faye Clarke and Rod Devenish present a dialogue on the Parable of the Sower.



RIGHT: Miriam Peck reads the Old Testament lesson.

LEFT: Rod Devenish extends a welcome to worship on behalf of The Explorers Group as we celebrate NAIDOC Week



RIGHT: A pathway of silver coins leads to more trees being planted by the congregation in the "15 Trees Project".

FAR RIGHT: Andy Gault presents the Early Word on the "Tares amid the wheat plants".

BELOW: The Explorers Group members, Alec Dean, Adri Stickland, Glenice Warner and Joy Nice, presented a number of Deadly stories during the NAIDOC Week celebrations.

BELOW RIGHT: Nina Netherway brings the Gospel reading.



Pastoral Care and Home Visiting

Ballarat Central Uniting Church has an active Pastoral Care model which seeks to support members of our church and the wider community during times of significant challenge, such as illness and/or bereavement.

Our Minister, Lauleti and elders are available during special times of need for hospital or home visits. Further, the 'Elder on Duty' on Sunday is available to discuss issues of concern following the church service.

At other times pastoral care is

conducted in the face-to-face interactions that we have with each other in small group activities and private conversations. Here we can provide support through various means, such as listening, providing food, transport, personal follow-up or referral to Lauleti or an Elder.

Currently with few active ministers of religion in the Southwest Vic Tas Uniting area, Lauleti has responsibilities at Synod and Presbytery levels as well as our own community. He balances his responsibilities with compe-

tence, integrity and empathy. Regular social home visiting was a feature of ministry decades ago but is no longer a realistic proposition.

Our concerted aim is to achieve much in terms of pastoral care and support through group and personal interactions while directing any major concerns to elders or Lauleti, who will do their best to provide appropriate support and assistance.

— **Maureen Vallance**
(Chair of Elders)



NAIDOC WEEK: Matthew, left, and brother William had a chance to try on Aunty Faye Clarke's possum skin coat following the service which celebrated NAIDOC Week. Picture: Joy Nice

THURSDAY STUDY GROUP



This Group meets on the 2nd & 4th Thursdays of the month to study the material in "With Love to the World" a daily devotional guide.

We meet at 1.30pm in private homes to discuss the material provided, share concerns & fellowship over a cuppa at the end of our discussions.

**NEW MEMBERS
WELCOME!**

For more information contact Anita Hinton
0431 063 347 or
EMAIL: hintonshideaway@gmail.com



TUESDAY STUDY GROUP
meeting 9.30am
every Tuesday of the Month
at Beechworth Bakery, Ballarat
All Welcome.

(not meeting during school holidays)
Speak with Lauleti M: 0413 115 711 or
Laura Shearer-for more information.



Intercultural Neighbouring Sunday
Sunday 16th August 2026

Emerging from a decision of the 16th Assembly in 2022, Intercultural Neighbouring Sunday (INS) celebrates the rich tapestry of cultures and languages that make up the body of Christ and encourages us to push deeper into what it means to live our life and faith interculturally in the Uniting Church.

It is also an invitation to go beyond our own communities to make connections with culturally diverse communities around us and join in with what God is already doing in our neighbourhood. Ballarat Central UC has invited Rev Dr David Dong Won Kim, Multicultural Ministries Coordinator, Discipleship and Advocacy – eLM, to preach on the day.

We invite church members to bring something "intercultural" (food, clothes, symbols etc) to share on the day.

INTERGENERATIONAL FUN EVENING

FRIDAY 14th August 6-9pm

(Youth Group till 9pm)

Meeting in the Peart Wing for
FUN

PUZZLES

CHALLENGES

FOOD & FELLOWSHIP

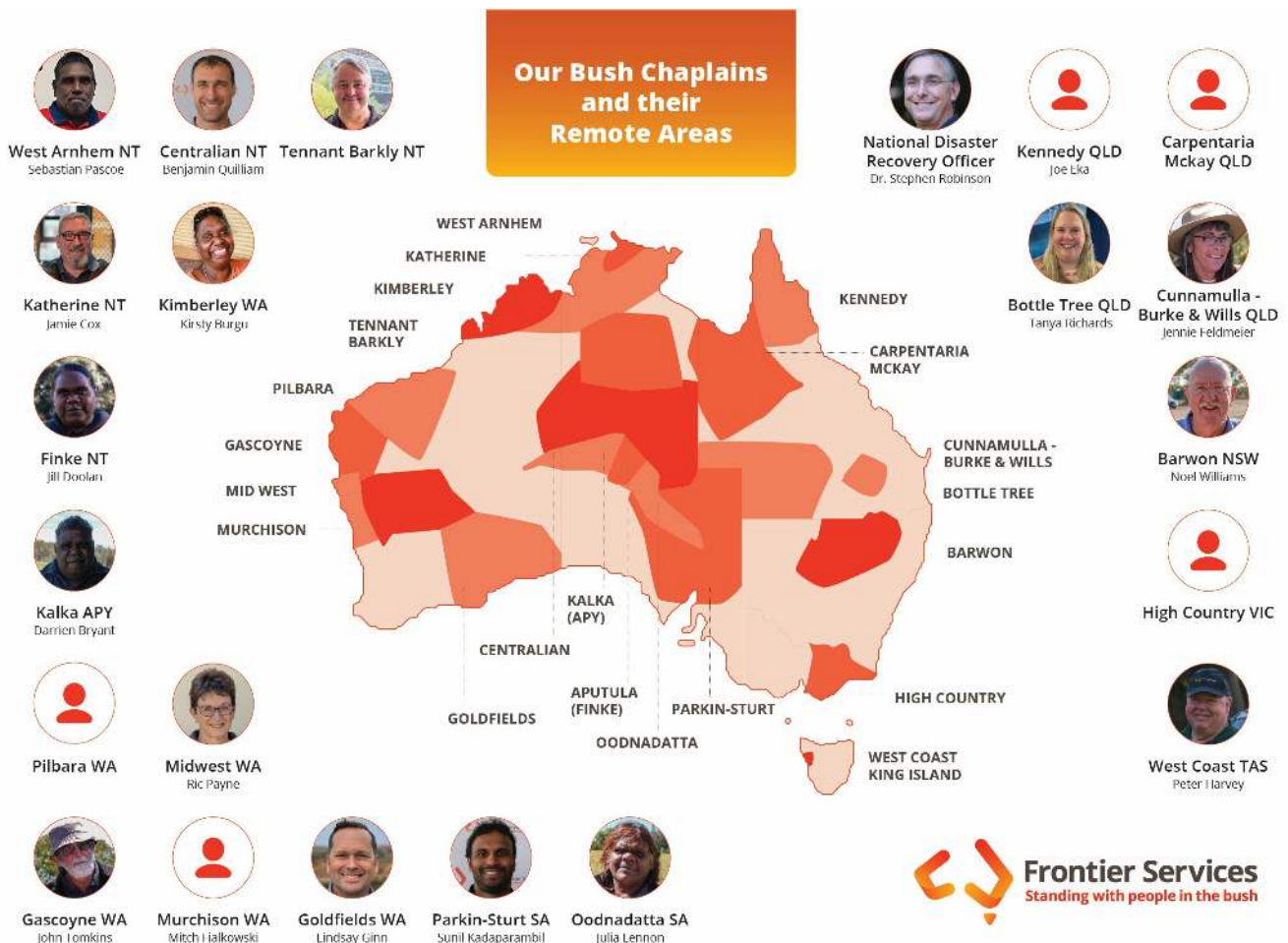


**COME AND JOIN US FOR
INTERGENERATIONAL FUN**

Speak with Andy to let him know you are coming



CELEBRATION: Senior members of our BCUC congregation, from left, Jennet Sharp, Ron and Janet Harris, Lesley Lyon and David Pratt with the special cake to celebrate the 49th Anniversary of the Uniting Church in Australia. Picture: Ron Fleming



Frontier Service

Sunday 30th
August
combined with
Brown Hill UC
10am

Frontier Services is Australia's oldest bush charity, dedicated to supporting people in rural and remote communities. For over a century, we have been a trusted presence in the outback, offering practical, pastoral, and spiritual care to those facing isolation, hardship, and limited access to essential services.



Changing times



Frontier Services
Standing with people in the bush

Assembly appoints inaugural Director for Advocacy and Justice

Taken from the Uniting Church in Australia Assembly National Update email...

The National Assembly of the Uniting Church in Australia is delighted to welcome Hannah Jackson as Director, Advocacy & Justice.

Hannah brings to the role almost two decades of experience across advocacy, public policy, communications and government affairs, alongside a lifelong commitment to the Uniting Church.

Throughout her career she has sought to build coalitions, shape public debate and amplify the voices of people whose lived experience should inform public policy.

Advocacy Grounded in Experience

Hannah joins the Assembly from Diabetes Australia, where she served as Group Executive, External Affairs. During her time there she significantly advanced the organisation's advocacy agenda, strengthened its national profile and helped shape its strategic direction. Her work brought together key stakeholders, health experts and people living with diabetes to advocate for better outcomes for Australians.

Before that, Hannah served as a Chief of Staff in the Queensland Government, leading policy development, communications and stakeholder engagement across portfolios including housing and the environment.

Reflecting on the journey that has brought her to the Assembly, Hannah sees a clear thread running through her career.



Hannah Jackson

"For almost 20 years I have worked in roles where I can build coalitions, shape public debate and highlight important social justice issues."

Advocacy as Discipleship

For Hannah, advocacy is about much more than influencing decision-makers. It is about creating opportunities for people of faith to live out the Gospel through action.

"I am passionate about advocacy that is informed by lived experience," she says.

"In this new role I am looking forward to creating pathways for people to engage in advocacy as part of their own discipleship journey. I'm excited to see how God can use our collective work as a prophetic witness to bring about important change."

That vision closely reflects the Assembly's understanding of advocacy as an expression of Christian discipleship in listening deeply and speaking faithfully into the issues shaping Australia's future.

Deep Roots in the Uniting Church

While Hannah brings significant professional experience, she also comes to the role with longstanding involvement in the life of the Church.

A lifelong member of the Uniting Church, Hannah has previously served on the UnitingWorld National Committee, has been a member of her local church council for the past ten years and is a lay preacher.

"I'm excited to bring to this role both professional expertise and a deep commitment to the mission of the Uniting Church in Australia," she says.

Those experiences have shaped both her faith and her understanding of the Church's calling to serve the world with hope, courage and love.

Looking Ahead

Hannah joins the Assembly as the Church continues to engage with national conversations around justice, reconciliation, creation care and the wellbeing of communities across Australia.

As Director, Advocacy & Justice she will help strengthen the Assembly's advocacy ministry, work collaboratively across the Church and encourage more members to see advocacy not simply as the work of specialists, but as an expression of faithful discipleship. The Assembly looks forward to welcoming Hannah and to the wisdom, leadership and vision she will bring as the Church continues to bear witness to God's justice, hope and transforming love in the world.

Hannah will commence in the role in late September.

Ballarat Central Uniting Church Rosters August 9th to October 4th 2026

Regular Leaders	Readers	Prayer	Musician/s	Elders	Welcome	Door Stewards	Morning Tea
Rev. Lauleti T'uivaiaia Andy Gault	1 & 2: Readers 3: Bible Bearer			1. Elder on Duty 2. Communion Elders	1. Greeter 2. Welcomer		
August 9 Pentecost 11	1. Helen DUGGAN 2. Margo C'HAM 3. Fila FIFITA	Andy GAULT	Roger PECK	Rod DEVENISH	1. Maureen DOONAN 2. Merriel LeM.	Ron FLEMING Judy STONE	<u>Faye W.</u> Carol G. Corrie O. Nina N.
August 16 Pentecost 12	1. Andrew BOATMAN 2. Lesley LYONS 3. Andy GAULT	Graeme SUTTON	Graeme SUTTON Karen C & Charlotte W Steve HOLOYDA	Anita HINTON	1. Shirley V. 2. Susan PIEROTTI	Lyn & Ron FLEMING	<u>Jan T.</u> Miriam G. Ros S. Barb S.
August 23 Pentecost 13	1. Pam TOOM 2. John OLSEN 3. Glenice WARNER	Andrew BOATMAN	Ray HODDER	Margo C'HAM	1. Betty STEWART 2. Susan PIEROTTI	Nancy O'LOUGHLIN Rod DEVENISH	<u>Bron J.</u> Greta C. Merriel & Geoff L.
August 30 Pentecost 14	1. Helen PEART 2. Adri STICKLAND 3. Bron JAMES	Mary HOLICK	Roger PECK	Jean MITON	1. Lauren MARTIN 2. Rod DEVENISH	Nur SISSON Merriel LeMARSHALL	<u>Andy G.</u> Larry G. Helen P. Nancy O.
September 6 Pentecost 15	1. Jen MITCHELL 2. Andy GAULT 3. Miriam PECK	Lyn FLEMING	Evan DUGGAN	1. Susan PIEROTTI (S) 2. Anita(S) Jen (P) Nancy (P) Bron (P)	1. Carol GANNON 2. Glenice WARNER	Merriel & Geoff LeMARSHALL	<u>Shirley V.</u> Alan H. Miriam P. Maureen V.

Regular Leaders	Readers 1 & 2: Readers 3: Bible Bearer	Prayer	Musician/s	Elders 1. Elder on Duty 2. Communion Elders	Welcome 1. Greeter 2. Welcomer	Door Stewards	Morning Tea
Rev. Lauleti T'uinaiaua Andy Gault							
September 13	1. Rod DEVENISH						Jen M. Faye W.
Pentecost 16	2. Greta CHRISTIE 3. Lauren MARTIN	Helen DUGGAN	Roger PECK	Maureen VALLANCE	1. Greta CHRISTIE 2. Bron JAMES	Ron FLEMING Judy STONE	Charlotte W. Andy G.
September 20	1. Karen COAD		Graeme SUTTON		1. Jan TOZER		Jan D. Shirley V.
Pentecost 17	2. Graeme SUTTON 3. Fila FIFITA	Karen COAD	Karen C & Charlotte W Steve HOLOYDA	Carol GANNON	2. Miriam PECK	Lyn & Ron FLEMING	Larry G. Mary H.
September 27	1. Heather GILBERT				1. Marg BENNETT		Miriam P. Betty S.
Pentecost 18	2. Marg BENNETT 3. Bron JAMES	Andrew BOATMAN	Ray HODDER	Merriel LeMARSHALL	2. Jen MITCHELL	Nancy O'LOUGHLIN Rod DEVENISH	Fila F. Jan J.
October 4	1. Andy GAULT			1. Nancy O'L (S)	1. Adri STICKLAND		Glenice W. Lesley L.
Pentecost 19	2. Manusiu T'VAI 3. Emily Sh-COX	Adri STICKLAND	Evan DUGGAN	2. Rod (S) Maureen (S) Susan (P) Carol(P) Merriel(P)	2. Anita HINTON	Merriel & Geoff LeMARSHALL	Bron J. Nur S.

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

Flowers: Anita Hinton, Jen Mitchell, Bron James **Communion Preparation:** Communion Elders: (S) = Set up (P) = Pack up

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

Note: If you are unable to undertake the task on the date for which you are rostered, please go online to Ministry Scheduler Pro and request a substitute. Alternatively, feel free to find your own replacement.