



THE BCUN

BALLARAT CENTRAL UNITING NEWS



TRIBUTARIES: Andy Gault gets help from the congregation as he delivers the early word on River Sunday. He said: "I like to think of us all as tributaries. We have all got a little something that we can add to the big river ... John7:38 — Whoever believes in me will have rivers of living water flowing from within them. When we let God's love into our hearts it doesn't just stay there like a puddle, it flows out of us like a river through the kind things that we do and the way that we share and help others. Just like a river keeps plants and things alive and green along its banks, God wants us to use his love to encourage and care for those around us."

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

leanne.keem@gmail.com

Please note, items for the December/January edition of BCUN, to be pub-

lished on Sunday, December 6, will be due on Sunday, November 29.

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.



Food for thought

Helen Duggan came across the following quote from Elisabeth Elliot and felt it was worth including as food for thought...

Elisabeth Elliot (1926-2015) was a missionary and a critically acclaimed author and speaker. She said:

"Worship is an act, and this takes discipline. We are to worship in spirit and in truth. Never mind about the feelings. We are to worship in spite of them."

We've been taught to evaluate worship by how it made us feel.

Did I get goosebumps?

Did I feel moved?

Did I enjoy the music?

But what if worship isn't first about an atmosphere?

What if worship is an act of obedience offered to God whether we feel inspired or not?

Feelings aren't bad.

But they make terrible masters.

The deepest worship may happen not when our hearts are overflowing, but when we choose to honor God through tears, dryness, exhaustion, and unanswered questions.

Because He is worthy whether we feel it... or not.

Greetings from Melbourne

Miriam Peck reports that Claudia Forsberg is very happy in her new 8th floor Footscray apartment which has city views from every direction. She sends greetings to her BCUC friends.

Readings: October 11 to December 6

Lectionary Readings Year A

October 11, Pentecost 20: Exodus 32:1-14; Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23; Philippians 4:1-9; Matthew 22:1-14

October 18, Pentecost 21: Exodus 33:12-23; Psalm 99; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22

October 25, Pentecost 22: Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17; 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Matthew 22:34-46

November 1, All Saints Day: Revelation 7:9-17; Psalm 34:1-10, 22; 1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12

November 1, Pentecost 23: Joshua 3:7-17; Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37; 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13; Matthew 23:1-12

November 8, Pentecost 24: Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25; Psalm 78:1-7; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13

November 15, Pentecost 25: Judges 4:1-7; Psalm 123; 1 Thessa-

lonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30

November 22, Christ the King: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Psalm 100; Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46

Year B

November 29, Advent 1: Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37

December 6, Advent 2: Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8

From our Minister's Pen 



Keep visioning and imagining with God!

We concluded the first month of the Spring Season, September, and our celebration of the Season of Creation (1 September to 4th October) with a great and hopeful vision about the "River of Life" in the new heaven and new earth from Revelation 22:1-5:

- *the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb;*
- *On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month, and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations;*
- *Nothing accursed will be found there any more;*
- *his servants will worship him;*
- *they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads;*
- *for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.*

And what a vision! What an im-

age! And also a hopeful encouragement for Christians today. Revelation is an apocalyptic (eschatological, end time, final destiny) vision given to John, traditionally believed to be the beloved disciple, around 95 CE, revealing Christ's ultimate victory over evil, God's final judgment, and the creation of a new heaven and new earth.

This year, we celebrated the Forest Sunday, Land Sunday, Wilderness/Outback Sunday and River Sunday. The Season of Creation offers intentional time to consider the role of creation in Bible stories and in our lives and to remember that humans are just one part of the ever-unfolding story of God's incredible Creation. We are invited to reconnect with our relationship with other creations of God. We are invited to sit together with the forest, land, wilderness and river and enjoy their company, hear their story, and find ourselves invited into worship of Creator together with creations.

We need to keep visioning and imagining today in a world infected with many wars, and it is continuous. A world where peace and harmony seem to be a dream that will be realised in many more years to come, a world with unstable political situations, fluctuating economic strength, climate change, extreme natural disasters, the influences of artificial intelligence (AI) and other technological developments.

It is our hope and prayer that we

will continue to vision and imagine with God for a faithful future and a promised end. Let us continue to commit to what we are as a congregation: worship, witness and serve.

OUR UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES:

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS - UCA 50TH Anniversary Celebrations:

- Sunday 22nd November
CHRIST THE KING/REIGN OF CHRIST
- Sunday 29th November
ADVENT 1 "Hope" – Outdoor Combined Service 10am at Buninyong Uniting Church, 302 Scott St, Buninyong. Shared Lunch!
- Sunday 6th December
ADVENT 2 "Peace"
- Sunday 13th December
ADVENT 3 "Joy"
- Sunday 20th December
ADVENT 4 "Love" - Carol & Lesson Service (Led by Helen Duggan and the Choir)
- Thursday 24th December
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
* 7.30pm Family Christmas Service
- 11pm Candlelight Communion Service

Continued next page

Keep visioning and imagining with God!

From previous page

- Friday 25th December
CHRISTMAS DAY
 - * 8am Coffee & Croissant Breakfast
 - * 9am Christmas Service
- Sunday 27th December — End of Year Service
- Sunday 3rd January 2027 — Holy Communion & Renewing of Covenant Service.

“BUBBLE CHURCH” IS COMING TO BALLARAT CENTRAL!

The Church Council has approved to introduce “Bubble Church” to Ballarat Central. Bubble Church is a Sunday church service especially for babies, toddlers, and young families. It's a puppet-packed, Jesus-centred, coffee-and-food-fuelled, 30-minute kids and families adventure. It features action songs, puppets, Bible stories, and simple activities. It originated at

Ascension Church, Balham, and has since expanded to many churches across the UK. Bubble Church is coming to Victoria through the Uniting VicTas Synod Younger Generations Unit. I had the privileged, together with Bron James, to attend a “Bubble Church Taster” gathering at Heidelberg Uniting Church on August 26th.

This is a real church worship service, only run for 30 minutes. It is aimed at 3 – 9 years old children with their parents/grandparents. Preparation time is minimal. Liturgy and materials (puppets) will be provided by Bubble Church Leaders (From the Anglican Church in England & Uniting VicTas Younger Generations Unit).

We have possible target families at Ballarat Central. We have baptised 17 families in the last 7 years. We have a great reason to

invite them back to church for a worship service that aims at children and their parents/grandparents.

We need leaders to organise and lead this Bubble Church worship service. If you are interested, please talk to Andy and/or Laleti. Please note that Laleti will be on annual leave from 12th October to 15th November. Worship leaders have been organised to lead worship at Ballarat Central while Laleti will be on leave: October 18 – Rev Peter Mather; October 25 – Rev David Leach; 1st November (Remembrance Sunday & Holy Communion) – Rev Trevor Bassett; 8th November – Rev John Thornton; 15th November – Rev Susan Malthouse-Law; 22nd November – Rev Dr Graeme Sutton. Keep visioning and imagining with God!

— *Laleti*



Intercultural Neighbouring Sunday at Ballarat Central Uniting on Sunday, 16th August, 2026 with Rev Dr David Dong Won Kim, Multicultural Ministries Coordinator, Discipleship and Advocacy – eLM (Equipping Leadership for Mission). In the photo are Stanilla Salve, Sumit Singh, Rev Laleti Tu'inauvai and Rev Dr David Kim.



Church Council Report

Rod Devenish, Chairperson
September 2026

Executive & Finance Committee of Church Council met on the 9th, and full Council met on the 23rd of September.

Worship

Our focus over recent Sundays has been on the Seasons of Creation 2026 – LIVING WATER. Through September, Lauleti has led us in celebrating Forest Sunday, Land Sunday, Wilderness Sunday, and finally River Sunday.

Need for new Door Stewards

As a congregation we are wanting to recruit some persons to be door stewards. This need is becoming urgent because various circumstance have reduced the numbers of stewards over recent months. Please give this request serious consideration; please speak with Rod or Ron Fleming if you would like further information about the role – but key duties are the handing out of orders of Service and notice sheets, taking up of the collection and counting the collection after the service.

New furniture at the Peart Wing entrance

Many have remarked on the beautiful table that now graces the entrance to the Peart Wing and is used to hold Orders of Service, Notice sheets and other information for members of the congregation.

The table is a gift from the Jones family and was originally gifted to the Neill St congregation by Ross' parents, Muriel and Charlie. We acknowledge the gift as a tribute to the past and continuing commitment to ministry and service by the Jones family.

Uniting

Uniting In Ballarat

Journey to Social Inclusion (J2SI). Uniting Vic/Tas partners with Sacred Heart Mission in a statewide consortium to deliver this program aimed at ending chronic homelessness.

Key Updates

- The engagement period for Intake 2 has closed, with all 30 clients engaged.
 - There has been a slowdown in housing offers for Intake 2 clients.
 - Recruitment for Case Manager positions remains challenging.
- #### Current Pressure Points and Gaps
- Limited housing stock for single people.
 - Increased travel time for people who have moved out of the Grampians area.

What's Working Well

- An art exhibition is planned for October as part of the Mental Health Collective activities, with clients entering works.
- Strong internal collaboration with Uniting services, particularly

Private Rental Assistance Program.

Collaboration, Advocacy or Support Needed

- Advocacy for increased housing availability.
- Flexible funding and brokerage options.

Homelessness Work

Key Updates

A new Assertive Outreach Worker, Bobby, has joined the team from BADAC.

• Supportive Housing has transitioned to a Homes First model. Referrals will be considered by a panel, with 18 packages available; the program will support people sleeping rough through outreach until housing is secured, aiming for housing within 12 months and providing support for up to three years.

• Assertive Outreach and Zero currently have 114 open supports, with 49 people consenting to be included on the Zero by Name List. HAP (Homelessness Access Program, a collaborative community initiative run by Ballarat Community Health and Uniting) continues to see approximately 390–540 people per month in the drop-in space, with health outreach continuing.

Current Pressure Points and Gaps

• Having referrals accepted by tertiary mental health services remains a barrier for the team.

What's Working Well

• The team is very positive about commencing new referrals into the Homes First supportive housing model.

• Collaboration between teams is working well, with strong outcomes achieved through recent work with J2SI.

General Comments

Continued next page

Church Council Report continued

From previous page

• HAP health activity includes dental, podiatry and Hep C nursing support. The drop-in space is now closed every Wednesday, with Nurse Bec undertaking outreach with the Assertive Outreach team on that day.

Albert Street Housing

The build project at Uniting's Albert Street site continues to move ahead quickly towards its 'practical completion' of 17 large one-bedroom apartments and 7 two-bedroom units. To aid in facilitating completion, at the request of Uniting VicTas, we have allowed management staff of the builder, Figurehead, to use the offices at the rear of the church building.

Fundraising in support of Uniting

The Coffee Cup Challenge is back for 2026-7. It will run from 1 October 2026 until Shrove Tuesday, 9 February 2027. The idea again is to put aside the cost of a coffee (or your favourite hot drink) each week to help people in crisis in our community through Uniting's programs.

Book Fair

The next Book Fair (and plant sale) will be held on the following dates:

Saturday 31 October – 9 am to 4 pm

Sunday 1 November – 10am to 3 pm

Monday 2 November – 10 am to 3 pm.

If you have books, DVDS, CDS, games and jigsaw puzzles for donation please speak with Alan Hinton.

Building Access, Security and Safety

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 when leaving to check that lights and heating are OFF, the security system has been re-activated and that your exit door is locked.

Solar Panels for the Manse

Council received the support and approval of Synod Property Services for the installation of solar panels, battery and compatible hot water service at the manse. The installation of solar panels and battery is scheduled for late September and the hot water service shortly thereafter.

Roof Repairs for the Church Building

It has been determined that the roof ridge capping of our church building requires repair owing to corrosion issues. Application has been made for approval to use St Andrews property sale proceeds to fund the necessary repairs that are anticipated to cost approx. \$15,000. It is hoped approval will be granted in October and that the repairs can be made quickly thereafter.

Music in October 2026

Hymn Sing. The next afternoon of Hymn singing at BCUC will be held on Sunday, 11th October, at 2pm. Followed by afternoon tea in the 'old manse' lounge – please bring a small plate to share.

Bubble Church

As indicated in my last report 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 engage with the Bubble Church concept and Lauleti will be seeking interested persons willing to be involved in supporting and / or delivery of these services, so please speak with him if this is something that interests you.

Advance notice of Congregational Meeting

Our second congregational meeting for 2026 will be held after worship on Sunday, 11 October. As well as receiving updates on aspects of our life and mission as a congregation there will be an election for Congregational representatives to Presbytery. Nominations have now closed and we have one nomination: Alison James.

— Rod Devenish, Chair of Council

Reconciliation Action Update

Background

Presbyteries and Synod have been engaging in a project called “Faithful Futures” to discern ministry and mission ahead.

The recommendations from this project include the aim that all communities of faith will be able to tell some of the story of the Country on which they are located by 2028 and be invited to develop local and appropriate ways to respond.

The invitation to participate

To meet the Faithful Futures aim, Brown Hill Uniting Church is leading a local project under the guidance of the Village Church Network.

The project offers members of Ballarat and surrounding congregations the opportunity to participate in a Reconciliation Action Group and or be part of a research team that will collect local stories, language and increase our members’ understanding of Wadawurrung culture.

This is a chance for leaders and

people who are not in a leadership role to come together and share their gifts and talents.

The project will follow these steps:

1. Establish a Reconciliation Action Group (RAG). Jen Mitchell and Peter Mather have expressed an interest in joining the RAG as Central’s representatives, with the first meeting scheduled for October 8th.
2. The action group will develop a 12 – 18-month action plan that includes events and activities that church members and the community can attend that increases our understanding of Treaty and local stories of country.
3. Invite church members to be part of the research team that can find and document local stories, explanation of culture and increased knowledge of Wadawurrung language. These resources would be shared with participating congregations.

The outcomes for each participating congregation would be:

- * Increased understanding and support for regular and meaningful acknowledgement of country in church services
- * Increased understanding and support of Treaty
- * Have increased knowledge of Wadawurrung language in place names and know some creation stories.
- * Have planned action in Reconciliation week and Naidoc week 2027.

It is intended that Reconciliation Action Update will be a regular column in the BCUN.

An urgent reminder if you support the Victorian Treaty, sign up as an ally at yarn@gellungwarl.org for important news and information.

For further information contact Jen Mitchell at jennifermitchell300@gmail.com

— Jen Mitchell



Lauleti Tu'inavai looks on as Andy Gault gets help from the young people to create a river on River Sunday as part of the early word.



ABOVE: Rev Lauleti Tu'inuavai lights a candle for focus on Homelessness Week. LEFT: Mary Hollick outlines the latest news on the Ballarat Sleep Bus project.



ABOVE: Intercultural Neighbouring Sunday with Rev Dr David Dong Won Kim, Rev Lauleti Tu'inuavai and Jean Milton reading the lesson. RIGHT: Items of cultural significance, contributed by members of the congregation, adorn the communion table.



ABOVE: The Older and Wiser forum on "When should I give up Driving" is led by Dr Kirrily Hartnell and Anthony Cunningham. RIGHT: Rev Dr Graeme Sutton on keyboard, flautists Charlotte Withers and Karen Coad and guitarist Steve Holoyda bring another dimension to church music.



LEFT: Prayers of the people are led by Lyn Fleming.



ABOVE: Rev Lauleti Tu'inuavai breaks bread during the monthly communion service and is assisted by Elders Anita Hinton, Jen Mitchell, Bron James, Merriel Le Marshall and Nancy O'Loughlin.



ABOVE: Lesley Lyon, who has knitted many Emotional Support Chickens, raising funds for Breezeway, gives Lauleti a Hawthorn themed mascot. **RIGHT:** Youth/Family Worker Andy Gault and Rev Lauleti Tu'inauvai listen as Rod Devenish shares Joys, Concerns and Notices with the congregation.



LEFT: Lauleti listens as Manusiu Tu'inauvai reads the scripture lesson.



ABOVE: Rev Lauleti Tu'inauvai prepares to serve Holy Communion, assisted by Elders Rod Devenish, Susan Pierotti, Jen Mitchell and Bron James. Pictures: Ron Fleming



ABOVE: The church choir under the direction of Helen Duggan leads the congregational singing. **BELOW:** The Holy wine is received by Merriel Le Marshall and Bron James.

RIGHT: Elder Nancy O'Loughlin serves Holy Communion to Robyn Giles. **BELOW:** Rev Lauleti Tu'inauvai serves bread to Anita Hinton and Jen Mitchell.



Older and Wiser Forum:

When should I give up driving?

Following church on Sunday, August 30, we gathered to hear GP, Dr Kirrily Hartnell, and Occupational Therapist, Anthony Cunningham, present a further session in our Older and Wiser Forum.

This session focussed on a topic close to the hearts of many of us as we age: How Long Should I Continue to Drive?

While Anthony and Kirrily delivered a comprehensive presentation that covered: how ageing affects driving abilities, the common causes of “unsafe” driving, and driving and dementia, they did so with great empathy, acknowledging that this is a very sensitive topic, as giving up your driver’s licence is often equated with losing your independence. I think we all sighed with relief at the first slide in the PowerPoint — older age doesn’t make you a bad driver!

In fact, when compared to drivers in younger age groups, older drivers are usually more cautious, more experienced and more responsible.

They’re more likely to obey the law and are less likely to drink drive or speed.

However, whilst we were reassured that there is no set age at which we must stop driving (Victoria does not mandate testing of older people...yet!), we do need to be aware of how ageing affects driving abilities.

All road users have a responsibility for driving safely and making choices to avoid risky behaviours.

Key take-outs from the presentation:

Health and driving

Common causes of “unsafe” driving in ageing:

- Vision impairment
- Cognitive impairment
- Medications that slow thinking and reflexes
- Substance use and abuse (alcohol/drugs)
- Mobility problems that affect head, neck, hands or feet
- Dementia

Less common causes:

- Any condition that causes fainting/passing out
- Seizures
- Severely low blood sugar (hypoglycaemia)

How we can make driving safer in ageing

- Address any medical/health issues – as above
- Make driving less challenging
- Drive shorter distances
- Stay in familiar areas
- Minimise night driving
- Avoid complicated intersections
- Avoid driving in bad weather
- Consider a vehicle with more advanced sensors and safety features
- Take some sessions with a driving instructor to boost your confidence, refine your skills and stay driving safely for longer ... or have an objective person tell you that it’s time to “hang up the keys”.
- Fill out a self-assessment guide to help you think objec-

tively about your current driving capability (a sample self-assessment guide will be made available at church and others can be found online at VicRoads and RACV)

The most common cause of accidents in older drivers is failure to give way at Give Way signs or to obey Stop signs.

When to stop driving in ageing

- **Temporary situations** – certain medications that can slow the brain; recovering from illness; post-surgery; after a stroke; certain eye conditions and fractures; delirium (e.g. after illness, surgery)
- **More permanently** – If there are enough **signs of unsafe driving**, delayed reflexes, getting lost on familiar routes, unexplained dents on the vehicle or close calls, passengers afraid to ride with you (See also **Red Flags for Dementia and Driving** below)
- Failing an on-road driving test (and it can’t be improved – VicRoads usually does give that opportunity)
- Alzheimers or other forms of dementia
- If doctor recommends stopping

Transitioning to life without driving

It is important to think about how we can transition to life without driving:

Continued next page

Prayer for UN International Day of Peace

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

The United Nations International Day of Peace was commemorated on 21 September with the Uniting Church joining people around the world in prayer for peace.

President Rev Charissa Suli offered a prayer for the occasion, holding before God communities affected by war, violence and climate change, with particular attention to First Nations and Pacific voices, including Tuvalu. Her prayer, which follows, was read at an interfaith service held in Sydney.

*Creator God of peace,
Attentive to First Nations and Pacific
voices, especially those from Tuvalu,
we hear creation groaning and com-
munities crying out
as homes, cultures and futures are
threatened by climate change.
Hold in your tender care those who
live amid war and violence,
those displaced from their homes,
and those longing for safety, dignity
and hope.
Teach us that peace is more than the
absence of conflict.
Peace is life in right relationship:
with you, with one another, and with
the earth.
Its fruits are justice, reconciliation,
belonging, and wholeness.*

*Turn our prayers into courage.
Move leaders to invest not in fear
and destruction,
but in justice, climate action and the
common good.
Draw us together, across our differ-
ent faiths and traditions, as peace-
makers
in our homes, communities and na-
tions.
May your shalom flow throughout all
creation—
for everyone, everywhere, every day.
In the name of Christ, the Prince of
Peace.
Amen.*

Prayer written by Rev Charissa Suli
President, Uniting Church in Australia

Older and Wiser Forum: When should I give up driving?

From previous page

- Delivery services (supermarkets, pharmacies, meals) can be very helpful, as can on-line shopping.
- Taxis/Uber can help keep you independent. (They may seem expensive, but factor in not needing to pay registration/fuel/servicing costs.) Check with your GP to see if you are eligible for a taxi card which reduces the cost of taxi fares. My Aged Care can also arrange taxi vouchers or a support worker to take you shopping, run errands or access the community in other ways to maintain your quality of life.
- What about a Gopher!

Red flags/warning signs for dementia and driving

- Missing things in your peripheral vision.
- Noticing traffic signs and signals late, or not at all.
- Turning or stopping too

late.

- Getting overwhelmed or angry when more than one thing happens at once.
- Mixing up the brake and accelerator.
- Struggling to understand what's happening.
- Mixing up left and right.
- Getting confused or lost on familiar routes.
- Drifting out of the lane.
- Struggling to follow maps.
- Noticing new bumps or scratches on the car.

In Conclusion:

- **Physiotherapists and occupational therapists** can play an important role in determining whether someone is fit to drive. Don't be scared to discuss it with your GP, for example at an annual health assessment or Care Plan review. "We always want to support older adults in driving for as long as possible." Kिरrily
- It's reasonable to tolerate some increase in driving risk,

to provide more independence and autonomy, but **when there are too many driving warning signs or the licence has been revoked, it's important to help a person to stop driving** (even if they don't agree!) Be respectful and try to understand how the person feels. It might be a sign of status, a hobby or even a job. Think about ways that this relationship to the car and driving might be addressed in other ways.

We were left with many helpful hints for recognising when it might be time to transition away from driving and alerted to resources we can access to help us form an honest answer to that nagging question, "How long should I continue to drive?"

If you would like a copy of the complete set of notes from the presentation, please see Maureen Vallance.

— Glenice Warner

Photo identification after surrendering your licence

At the recent Older and Wiser Forum, "When should I stop driving", concern was expressed about no longer having a legal photo identification after surrendering a licence. There is provision for this circumstance under Victorian law in the form of an Official Victorian Proof of Age Card.

This is the standard photo ID card issued by the government to replace a driver's licence. Because it requires a physical signature witness and an in-person photo check, you cannot apply for this card entirely online.

These are the steps required:

Step 1: Pick up a form. You can collect a paper application form from a participating VicRoads office, participating Australia Post office or selected pharmacy, or you can request one via email from Liquor Control Victoria.

Step 2: Gather identity documents. You will need two original documents: **Category A** (such as a full Australian birth certificate, current or recent passport or citizenship papers).

Category B (such as Medicare card, pensioner concession card or a bank

card).

Step 3: Find a witness. You must have someone who has known you for more than 12 months witness your application and sign the back of your photos.

Step 4: Lodge and pay. Take the completed form and your identity documents to an authorised photo point agency (such as a participating Australia Post or VicRoads) to sign the final declaration, take your photo, and pay the \$10 fee.

— Maureen Vallance

Circle of Friends

On Tuesday, October 6, Circle of Friends will meet in the Peart Wing at 6pm. The evening will begin with a casserole dinner. Casseroles sup-

plied. Members are asked to bring a salad, dessert / slice for afters.

GUEST SPEAKER: Glenice Warner, speaking on her experiences in France. For further information contact Anita 0431 063 347



Sock donations grow, help many

For many months now Greta Christie has been collecting new socks to give to those who need them. At first the collection was for men's socks, but now women's and children's socks have been included.

Donated socks have been given to Peplow House, the Shower Bus and Cafs.

Thank you everyone for being so generous.

— Bron James



ANNUAL REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

*In which we remember
our loved ones who have died*

10.00 a.m. Sunday 1st November 2026

Ballarat Central Uniting Church

Cnr Lydiard and Dana Street

You are invited to bring a flower to place in memory of your loved one and/or please send a photo (jpeg format) of your loved one to be included in the powerpoint presentation

to admin@bcuc.org.au
or M: 0491 706 667



There will be a list of names at the door of the church for you to add the names of those who have died in the past year that you would like to have read in the service.

Ballarat's Biggest Book Fair

Yes, it's that time of year again. Ballarat's Biggest Book Fair will be held from Saturday, October 31, to Monday, November 2. New stocks are in and there are thousands of books for sale, so tell all your friends and come along and bag a bargain.

If you would like to help over the 3 days of the Book Fair, your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

OPEN HOURS: Saturday 9am - 4pm, Sunday and Monday 10am - 3pm at St Andrew's Church Hall, corner Sturt and Dawson Streets, Ballarat.

For more information contact Anita Hinton 0431 063347 or Alan Hinton 0439 829 085



Coins take tree total to 655

National Tree Day on July 26th marked the end of our coin collection for tree planting via Fifteen Trees.

To celebrate the occasion a small tree (pictured) decorated with prayer leaves and birds by the Drawing Breath Group was on display near the coin trail.

This year we raised \$762.75 which enabled us to buy 70 trees. This took our total to 655 trees being planted which is an amazing effort.

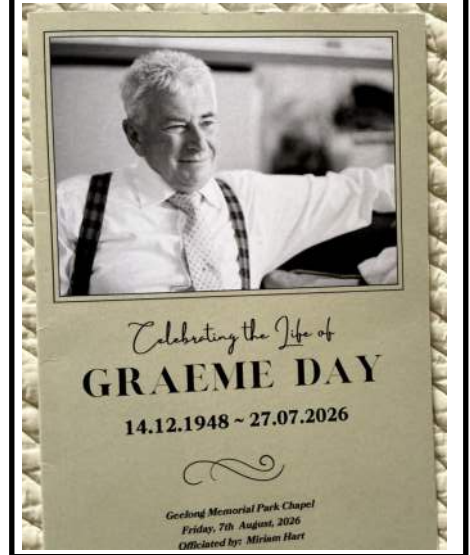
Thank you to everyone who participated in any way.

— **Bron James for the Social Justice Group**

Thank you

To those in our congregation who remember my brother Graeme, I appreciated very much your expressions of sympathy on his sudden death. Thank you all once again.

— **Gwenda**



Ballarat Floral Art Display

The Robert Clark Centre in the Ballarat Botanical Gardens will host the Ballarat Floral Art Display on the weekend of October 24 and 25. Funds raised during the weekend will support the Snooze Bus. The display will be held on Saturday from 10am - 4pm and Sunday from 12 noon to 4pm. There will be demonstrations and displays of floral art work. Entry: Adults \$12, includes Devonshire Tea. Children under 12 years free. There will also be a raffle and trading table. For more details contact Anita Hinton 0431 063 347.

Sunday 22nd November after the Morning Service

- Get in early - and buy our beautiful Christmas crafts, and yummy goodies!



UNITING THREADS CHRISTMAS STALL
Great gift ideas!



BALLARAT'S BIGGEST BOOK FAIR

Books are flying out the door, come in and grab a bargain. Huge variety of books - new stock and rare & collectable books
Plus Plants

NOVEMBER 2026

SATURDAY 31ST OCTOBER
9am - 4pm
SUNDAY 1ST NOVEMBER
10am - 3pm
MONDAY 2ND NOVEMBER
10am - 3pm

St Andrew's Church Hall,
cnr Sturt & Dawson Streets,
Ballarat
In Support of Uniting
Ballarat programs.



Pacific women call for climate action

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

From Tuvalu, Pacific women are calling on world leaders to listen deeply, strengthen community leadership and pursue climate action grounded in local experience and wisdom.

For the women who gathered in Tuvalu this September, climate justice reaches into the everyday work of keeping communities safe. It concerns the water families drink, the food they grow, the safety of women in their homes and the connection to land that carries generations of belonging.

These concerns shaped the Tuākoi Lei – Faith, Gender and Climate Regional Convening, held in Funafuti, Tuvalu from 5–10 September. According to its draft outcome statement, the gathering brought together 40 women leaders from across the Blue Pacific, including Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand, to strengthen women's leadership in the climate decisions affecting their communities. Convened at the invitation of the Government of Tuvalu through its Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, in partnership with the Pacific Conference of Churches, the gathering was supported by the hospitality of the Ekalesia Kelisiano Tuvalu (EKT).

Uniting Church in Australia President Rev Charissa Suli joined the women leaders in Tuvalu, continuing the Church's engagement with its Pacific neighbours. The Uniting Church's participation sits within its commitment to live out faith through care for creation, justice and relationships with partner churches. Through UnitingWorld, the Church works alongside Pacific churches on disaster preparation, sustainable livelihoods, gender equality and leadership. These are closely connected concerns in the communities represented at the convening. There is also a responsibility to listen in ways that allow others to shape our direction. Speaking at the Pacific Church Leaders' Meeting in Fiji in April, President Suli raised the concern that Pacific and Indigenous people are too often invited to share their stories without being given the opportunity to influence what follows. Her call for humility and deeper listening helps explain the importance of being present in spaces such as this one.



At the heart of the Tuvalu gathering was *Tuakoi lei*, the understanding of being a good neighbour, grounded in Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan. The draft outcome statement, titled *Kalaga ke Fakatino : Call to Action*, draws on the instruction in Luke 10:37: "Go and do likewise."

The women gave that call practical meaning through accompaniment, action and accountability: coming close enough to listen, responding to what communities need, and following through on commitments.

Their shared accounts show how deeply climate pressures are woven into other parts of life. Women from Solomon Islands described coastal erosion and the loss of ancestral ground. Contributions from the Marshall Islands connected climate concerns with the continuing legacy of nuclear testing. In Vanuatu, disaster preparedness and the role of churches in helping communities respond were central concerns.

The statement also confronts violence against women and girls. Drawing on experiences shared from Papua New Guinea, Kiribati and Tuvalu, it describes how displacement, disaster and economic strain can deepen existing dangers. It calls on churches and governments to make women's safety an essential part of climate responses, alongside food, water and shelter.

This has implications for the decisions

ahead.

Fiji will host the official pre-COP preparatory meeting, with a leaders' event in Tuvalu from 5–8 October. COP31 will follow in Antalya, Türkiye, from 9–20 November, with Australia serving as President of Negotiations. These meetings offer an opportunity to carry the priorities raised in Tuvalu into international decisions.

Meaningful participation by Pasifika women could help leaders examine whether their proposals will work in the communities they are intended to serve. Women leading food production, preparing families for disasters and sustaining cultural knowledge bring experience that should inform how funding is allocated and how success is measured.

The draft statement is specific about what is needed. It calls for direct support for women working in agroecology and organic farming, educational resources in local languages, and the preservation of cultural knowledge. It asks governments to support women, young people and people with disability to participate in decisions, and to include their perspectives in climate strategies.

Taken seriously, these proposals would ask more of leaders than an invitation to speak. They would require resources for participation and a clear place for women's recommendations in the work that follows.

Ballarat Central Uniting Church Rosters October 11th 2026 to December 6th 2026

Regular Leaders Rev L. T'uinvaiu Andy Gault	Readers 1,2 Readers 3. Bible Bearer	Prayer	Musician	Elder/s 1.Elder on Duty 2.Communion Elder	Welcome 1: Greeter 2: Welcomer	Door Stewards	Morning Tea
Oct 11 Pentecost 20	1.Adri S. 2. Manusui T. 3. Lauren M.	Helen DUGGAN	Roger PECK	Miriam PECK	1.Nancy O'L 2.Bron JAMES	Ken JENKIN Judy STONE	Nina N Nur SISSON Faye WITHERS Betty STEWART
Oct 18 Pentecost 21 <i>Rev.Peter MATHER</i>	1. Karen COAD 2.Helen PEART 3.Glenice WARNER	Karen COAD	Graeme SUTTON Karen COAD Charlotte WITHERS Steve H.	Margo C'HAM	1. Lauren MARTIN 2. Anita HINTON	Lyn & Ron FLEMING Barb SNIBSON	Mary HOLLICK Fila FIFITA Bev H'SON Ros SUTTON
Oct 25 Pentecost 22 <i>Rev.David LEACH</i>	1. Andrew B. 2.Corrie OLSEN 3.Emily SH-COX	Andrew BOATMAN	Ray HODDER	Carol GANNON	1. Greta CHRISTIE 2. Maureen V.	Rod DEVENISH Bev H'SON	Judy STONE Jan DIMOND Corrie OLSEN Larry GRIFFIN
Nov 1 Remembrance Service <i>Rev.Trevor BASSETT</i>	1. Barb SNIBSON 2. Miriam PECK 3.Lauren MARTIN	Adri STICKLAND	TBA	1.Bron J. (S) 2.Miriam P. (S) 2. Jen M. (P). 2. Margo C. (P) 2. Rod D. (P)	1.Betty S. 2. Glenice W.	Merriel LeMARSHALL Nancy O'L	Shirley V. Andy GAULT Jan JENKYN Nina N
Nov 8 Pentecost 24 <i>Rev John THORNTON</i>	1.Jen M. 2.Helen D. 3. Fila FIFITA	Susan PIEROTTI	Roger PECK	Jean MITON	1. Betty STEWART 2. Bron JAMES	Lyn & Ron FLEMING Maureen V.	Faye WITHERS Charlotte W. Shirley V Helen PEART

Regular Leaders Rev L. T'uinalau Rev Lyall Reid Andy Gault	Reader	Prayer	Musician	Elder/s 1. Elder on duty 2. Communion Elder	Welcome 1: General greeter 2: Welcome Support Group representative	Door Stewards	Morning Tea
Nov 15 Pentecost 25	1. Mary H. 2. Glenice W. 3. Emily SH'COX	Graeme SUTTON	Graeme SUTTON Karen COAD Charlotte WITHERS	Susan P.	1. Shirley V. 2. Jen MITCHELL	Judy STONE Ken JENKIN Carol GANNON	<u>Ros SUTTON</u> Miriam GIBSON Barbara S. Glenice W.
Nov 22 Christ the King	1. Greta C. 2. Margo C'HAM 3. Andy G.	Karen COAD	Ray HODDER	Miriam PECK	1. Maureen D. 2. Merriel L.	Rod D. Nancy O'L. Anita H.	<u>Bron JAMES</u> Corrie OLSEN Carol GANNON Jan DIMOND
Nov 29 Advent 1	COMBINED SERVICE AT BUNINYONG						
Dec 6 Advent 2	1. Bron JAMES 2. John OLSEN 3. Fila FIFITA	Mary HOLLICK	TBA	1. Jen M. (S) 2. Miriam (S) Jean M. (S) Susan P. (P) Bron J. (P) Anita H. (P)	1. Bev H. 2. Carol G.	Merriel LeM Barb S. Judy STONE	<u>Helen PEART</u> Maureen D. Mary HOLLICK Nur SISSON

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

Flowers: Anita Hinton/Jen Mitchell/Bronwen 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 a task on the date you are rostered, please go online to **Ministry Scheduler Pro** and request a substitute. Alternatively, feel free to contact Miriam Peck, 0435 296 636 remgpeck@gmail.com