



A Good News / Good Neighbour Church

September 2023

From the Chair of Church Council

On Saturday 19 August QUC hosted a Presbytery meeting of around 35 people, with others joining by Zoom. Many thanks to the band of volunteers who catered for the event, providing tea and coffee on arrival, morning tea and lunch, and to Martin who volunteered to run Zoom for the meeting. Presbytery made a generous donation towards the catering costs.

The catering went very well and we received many compliments on the food, including the impressive range of gluten-free options. Delegates were in fine form and ate heartily – clearly attending Presbytery is hungry work! It was good for QUC to be able to contribute to the work of the Presbytery in this way.

The Jumble Sale and Shed on 26 August was another very successful day, with wonderful weather and good crowds looking for a bargain. Everyone was in good spirits and it was a very happy morning. We even sold the kitchen sink which has been part of the Jumble's stock for longer than most of us can remember! The Jumble raised an astonishing \$1,747.85 and the Shed team were busy, as usual, providing a warm welcome and a yummy morning tea to all comers. These activities are a major part of QUC's connection with the community and Church Council is very grateful to all those who put in so much effort to make them so successful.

As in the last few years, our mini-Spring Fair will be held in conjunction with the October Jumble Sale on 28 October, so it's time to get busy

preparing for the Fair. Plants, produce, craft and cooking are all needed, as is extra help on the day. It would be great if we could find a volunteer to co-ordinate the Fair and if you think you could help out in this way, please contact me or one of the members of Council. The Spring Fair is another important engagement with the Queanbeyan community and a useful fundraiser, so I encourage everyone to get involved in some way.

Council has been contacted by Uniting who has indicated that they are interested in renewing their lease of the church premises for a further two years. (The current arrangements expired at the end of June.) This is very welcome news, as the rental income from Uniting makes a major contribution to our budget. Council hopes to sign a new agreement with Uniting in the next few weeks.

Thank you to those who have so generously contributed to the cost of our new heaters, which are continuing to keep us toasty warm on Sunday mornings. If you have been meaning to contribute but haven't yet managed to do so, you will be relieved to hear that it is still not too late to make a donation (!), either by direct debit or in the offering box. Please mark any donation as 'heating fund'. Thank you.

Ian Robinson
Chair of Church Council

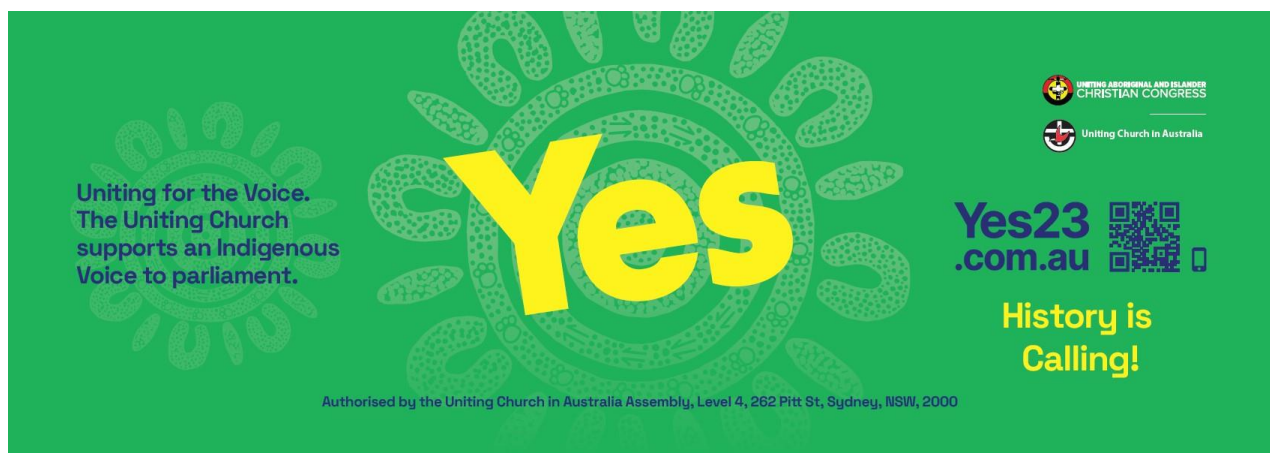
The Voice to Parliament Referendum

What the Uniting Church has said

President of the [Uniting Church in Australia](#) Rev Sharon Hollis and UAICC Interim National Chair Rev Mark Kickett have affirmed their strong support for a Voice to Parliament as a critical step toward honouring the sovereignty of First Nations Australians in this land and furthering the work of truth-telling and treaty.

The Assembly Standing Committee (ASC) in March declared the support of the Uniting Church in Australia for the change in the constitution to recognise an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament. The ASC resolved to call on church, community and political leaders to engage in respectful and constructive dialogue in response to the referendum.

In February, the Uniting Church joined a coalition of nine faith organisations in writing to all Federal parliamentarians urging them to co-operate across political divides in support of the Voice to Parliament.



The Voice to Parliament Referendum Information Session

To assist people in making an informed choice about the upcoming the Voice to Parliament referendum QUC is hosting a round table information session. There will be an opportunity to ask questions in a safe environment.

Special Guest

Councillor Esma Livermore, Deputy Mayor of QPRC and member of the Local Government NSW Referendum Working Group.

When: Sunday 24th September 2023 - 11:00am to 12:30pm.

Where: In the CAST area of the new church

RSVP: 23rd September by [registering online](#) to assist planning.

For more information and resources on the Voice visit
www.quc.org.au/resources/voice



Resources to help be informed and answer questions you may have

It is important to do your own research since there is so much misinformation being spread about the Voice in the news and across social media.

Uniting Church Synod of NSW and ACT First Nations Resources

The Uniting Church hopes for a nation that acknowledges the rights of Indigenous Australians as the first people of this land, respects the land on which we live, and is committed to empowering Indigenous people to take control of their own lives and destinies.

Presbytery Social Justice Group

At the March 2023 Presbytery meeting, arising from the discussion about the Presbytery Mission Plan, five small (quickstart) groups were created to take some immediate and concrete actions for each of the five commitments under the Plan. For the commitment to engage in social justice, equality, and local issues it was decided that the quickstart would work with the Presbytery Social Justice Group. The agreed action for the combined group is to encourage and support congregations across Presbytery to promote the 'Yes Vote' in the upcoming referendum.

Their recommended resources include:

- [Information from Yes23](#)
- [Uniting Church Assembly Resources](#)
 - [UCA Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Voice to Parliament: Debunking 10 myths and misconceptions](#) - A short article by two Monash law academics addressing some of the commonly heard criticisms of the Voice.
- [The Voice to Parliament Handbook](#) (Hardie Grant Explore 2023) by Thomas Mayo and Kerry O'Brien

Other Resources

- [Tearfund on the Voice](#) - Each year members of our QUC support TEAR through the purchase of cards through the [Useful Gifts store](#).
[An open letter](#) from Rev Tim Costello to church leaders on the Voice and why he thinks it goes to the heart of faith.

Official Resources

- [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice](#)
- [Referendum question](#)
- [Uluru Statement of the Heart](#)
- [Australian Constitution](#)
- [AEC - Australian Electoral Commission](#)

From The Worship Committee

With the approval of Church Council and the help of Glen Crawley, the Worship Committee is investigating the establishment of an Outdoor Chapel under the avenue of trees leading to the Jumble Shed.

A cross, made from old railway sleepers in Simon Hansford's time with us, would be the centre point, with a few seats for quiet contemplation. Additional

chairs could be added if we wanted to hold a service outside.

The cross would be a visible symbol of our faith, seen from across the car park and from the path through the avenue, and would remain in its current rough form.



Queanbeyan District Girl Guides Trivia Night

Queanbeyan District Girl Guide Olaves (18–30-year-olds) and Senior Guides (14–17-year-olds) are holding a Trivia Night fundraising in the church Cast area on **Saturday 23 September 2023**.

The **Olaves** are fundraising for **Backpack Beds for Homeless**. Backpack Bed for Homeless is a national registered charity (Swags for Homeless Ltd). The **Senior Guides** are fundraising for **HeartKids**. HeartKids is the only organisation in Australia dedicated to supporting families impacted by congenital or childhood acquired heart disease (CHD).

Tickets can be purchased at the following link www.trybooking.com/CKZZX.



Canberra Region Presbytery Zoom Sessions On Using Church Property To Build Relationships With Local Communities

Hear about what Uniting Churches in our region are doing to live out our Christian mission by using their church property to build relationships with people in their local community. Join in one or both of the two ZOOM sessions below:

- 7.30 am to 9.00 pm Wednesday 13 September 2023 with a focus on city congregations with presentations by Queanbeyan, Kippax, O'Connor and Tuggeranong; and
- 7.30 am to 9.00 pm Tuesday 19 September 2023 with a focus on rural congregations with presentations by Alpine, Braidwood, Bateman's Bay and Yass.

The evening will be introduced by the Presbytery Minister, the Reverend Andrew Smith, and there will

be the opportunity to ask questions and talk about the place of property in mission and building relationships with local community.

[Join Zoom Meetings](#)

This ZOOM presentation has been organised by a Quick Start Group formed by the Presbytery to promote this property initiative from the new Presbytery Mission Plan. For more information contact the Presbytery office: office@cruc.org.au



The next Jumble sale is on Saturday 23 September.

The Team sort goods on a Tuesday morning. They are always keen to welcome new helpers.

For more information contact Greg Toone 0412 060 465. For more info visit www.quc.org.au/support/jumble-sale

Bennie's Basket' Food Pantry



Congregation members are invited to bring along a grocery item or two each week to be placed in a basket at the church. Once a month these items will be passed on to St Benedict's.

Bennies has provided the following advice; UHT milk, CEREAL (only Weetbix, cornflakes & Rice bubbles), tinned tuna large or small, Spaghetti and Baked beans, 2 min noodles, Pasta; Spaghetti or Spiral, Baby food or formula. But DEFINITELY NO tinned beans or lentils. See the noticeboard for more details.

Church Council sees this as a practical way in which QUC can assist St Benedict's in its valuable work in our community and encourages those who can do so to participate in this scheme.

Ian Robinson
Church Council Chair

Ministries to connect with



20 National Circuit, Forrest ACT 2603

www.wesleycanberra.org.au/music

For all the latest concert dates and other information:

[CLICK HERE](#)

To receive regular updates via newsletter,
please email us your details at:

wesleymc@music.wesleycanberra.org.au

THE SPIRITUALITY OF CARE FOR CREATION

CARE FOR CREATION: LISTENING TO FIRST NATIONS AND CELTIC VOICES

CANBERRA REGION - NGUNNAWAL AND OTHER FIRST NATIONS

Friday October 20th 1.30-4 pm

At the Australian Centre for Christianity & Culture, Barton, ACT

Explore how can we draw on the spiritual and cultural traditions of all our peoples to help us care for Creation together, integrating care for humanity with care for the environment and nature around us.

A Dialogue Amongst

- Canberra First Nations Friends
- Iona Community Leader, Rev. Ruth Harvey, Minister of the Church of Scotland, Quaker, Co-Convenor of Scotland's recent Climate Assembly
- Brooke Prentis, Wakka Wakka Woman, First Nations Christian Leader

This is a free event but bookings are essential.
To secure a place, book through Humanitix here
<https://events.humanitix.com/the-spirituality-of-care-for-creation>

Hosted by The Australian Centre for Christianity & Culture and the Wellspring Community
Enquires: marjoriehouston33@gmail.com
For further information: <https://wellspring-community.com/events-1>

AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR CHRISTIANITY AND CULTURE
WISDOM FOR THE COMMON GOOD

iona community

Wellspring Community
Where spirituality and justice meet

Quakers

Safe Church Training



A safe church is who we are called to be

Safeguarding is the approach we take to ensure the wellbeing of children and young people, so they flourish and thrive into the people God calls them to be.

Safeguarding is about more than "safety", which is about preventing risk and harm. It is about working with them so they feel safe, supported, and their sense of wellbeing enables them to thrive.

God calls us to safeguard children and young people.

Our Church expects us to safeguard children and young people.

The law requires everyone over the age of 18 to safeguard children and young people, as individuals, groups and as an organisation.



On Sunday 3 September, the Uniting Church will mark Child Safe Sunday - an opportunity to celebrate our call to be a community of Christ in which all are safe and to recommit to the work required to make that a reality. Follow the Facebook page of the Uniting Church National Safe Church Unit (National Safe Church Unit | Facebook) for helpful resources to begin conversations on child safety.

Safe Church will be conducting a workshop on the 17th of November from 9.30am to 1.30pm at Kippax Uniting Church, Canberra.

Please [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

Regular Ministries of QUC

Ministry	When	Contact
Bible Studies and Small Groups	Various times, weekly or fortnightly.	Apelu Tielu
Jumble Sale	One Saturday per month (usually the 4 th), 9am-12pm.	Greg Toone
Pastoral Care		Apelu Tielu
Sunday Morning Worship	Sundays, 9:30am.	Apelu Tielu
The Shed	Same dates as Jumble Sale.	

If your ministry group's details are missing, or incorrect, please email news@quc.org.au to correct them for the next newsletter.



Your generous giving helps us fulfil our vision and mission – locally, nationally and internationally. There are a number of ways you can regularly give and/or make a once-off donation.

1. **Direct Giving** (encouraged) - is giving that you arrange with your own bank (can normally be set-up as weekly, fortnightly, monthly or annually) into:

**QUEANBEYAN UNITING CHURCH AT CALL ACCOUNT,
B.S.B. 634-634, ACCOUNT NO. 100 020 066**

2. **Cash** (or Cheque) offering put in the offering box each Sunday.
3. **Weekly Envelopes** - cash (or cheque) put in the offering box each Sunday before or after worship. The envelopes are freely available to be picked-up from the back table at the church.

For more information visit www.quc.org.au/giving



Find us on 

Church Office (by appointment)

For general enquiries (including [room use/hire](#)) please see our webpage www.quc.org.au

You can contact our **Minister** Apelu Tielu 0409 550 088 or email minister@quc.org.au. Apelu works from the church office on Monday and Wednesday mornings. Please check with him a suitable time.

Chair Church Council email council@quc.org.au



If you can't make it to church, you can join us on Zoom via [this link](#).

To access the service, you will need to have a Zoom account and be logged in.

Next Newsletter

Contributions for the October 2023 newsletter are due by Sunday 24 September for publication Sunday 1 October 2023. email to news@quc.org.au.

Read Presbytery, Synod, Insights and previous QUC newsletters at www.quc.org.au/news/news