



A Good News / Good Neighbour Church

July 2023

From the Chair of Church Council

The big news this month is that Church Council has agreed to upgrade the heaters in the main body of the church. ('About time!' I hear some of you mutter.) The existing heaters were the ones installed when the church was built. They are worn out and it is no longer possible to obtain the parts needed to repair them. Glen Crawley has sourced expert advice on the new units best suited to our needs and has negotiated a very favourable price for their purchase and installation. We expect the new heating to be installed in the coming week; it may even be in place by the time you read this.

The all up cost of the new heaters is expected to be just under \$16,000, which is a very good price for what we are getting, but which is also a significant 'hit' to the church budget. For this reason Council has agreed that we invite any congregation member who wishes to do so to make a contribution to the cost of the new heating. This can be done by a direct payment to the church bank account or by a donation to our collection box. In both cases, donations should be marked as "Heating Fund". Thank you, in advance, to anyone who is able to assist in this manner.

We now have the defibrillator installed on the back wall of the CAST area, near the kitchen. Again, thanks to Glen for installing this. There are definitely no prizes for being the person who 'christens' the defibrillator! Hopefully, we never have to use it, but it's good to have it there just in case we do need it.



The Jumble and Shed teams had another very successful morning on Saturday 24 June. Despite a chilly wind, a lot of customers turned up, everyone was in good spirits and there were many bargains and enjoyable morning teas. The Jumble Sale raised \$1324.10, which was a great result.

The Worship Committee is organising another "Meet our Neighbours" function to coincide with the next Jumble Sale and Shed on 22 July. On this occasion we will be offering a cup of soup to those attending. Council is very grateful to all those involved in this initiative.

After an approach from Presbytery, QUC has agreed to host the Presbytery meeting on Saturday 19 August 2023. In addition to providing the venue, we have agreed to provide morning tea and lunch to the 40 people expected to attend. We have plenty of time to get our act together for this event, but I would be grateful if anyone who thinks they will be able to help with the provision of food or serving on the day could let me know.

Stay warm.

Ian Robinson
Chair of Church Council

Giving Voice to the First Peoples

From Rev Dr John Squires June 2023

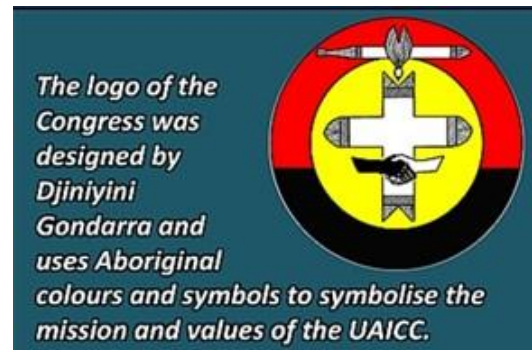
Giving a **Voice** to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples is in the news. This week we learnt that a referendum about this matter will be held (the talk is that mid-October is the preferred time). The Uniting Church Assembly has already indicated its strong support for a YES vote in this referendum, and our Presbytery decided this earlier this year at the March meeting at Melba.

But did you know that, within the Uniting Church, we have been giving a **Voice** to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples for almost four decades? That Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are guaranteed places as members of Synods and Assemblies whenever they meet? That an Aboriginal or Islander person will often sit beside the Moderator of a Synod or President of the Assembly, and serve as co-chair of that meeting? That Aboriginal and Islander voices have a permanent pathway to speak to the whole church, through the *Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Conference* (Congress?)

In 1988—the year that Australia celebrated the Bicentenary of white settlement—the Assembly published a *Statement to the Nation*, which focussed on Aboriginal people, who had lived on and cared for the country we know as Australia for many thousands of years. You can read the full text of that 1988 Statement at <https://www.assembly.uca.org.au/resource/s/introduction/item/133-statement-to-the-nation-australian-bicentennial-year-1988>

That *Statement* noted that “the movements of history have brought together here in one nation ... people of many cultures and races, both Aboriginal and migrant”, and affirmed that within the Uniting Church, “Aboriginal and newer Australians have determined to

stand together”. The Church was committing to a co-operative partnership with First Peoples—in 1988.



Before that Statement, in 1985, the Uniting Church had formed the *Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Conference* (UAICC). The logo of the UAICC is depicted here. The *Congress* (as it is usually known) gave Aboriginal and Islander people a voice within the structures of the church—they are consulted about decisions and have a guaranteed number of members in the Synods and Assembly meetings of the church. The vision of the UAICC, in their own words, is:

- We determine our own goals and objectives and decide policies and priorities;
- We run our own programs and institutions;
- We aim, in collaboration with other people, to bring to an end the injustices which hold Aboriginal and Islander people at the fringes of Australian society and to help Aboriginal and Islander people achieve spiritual, economic, social and cultural independence.



A decade later, in 1994, the President of the Uniting Church, Dr Jill Tabart, signed a *Covenant Agreement* with the Chairperson of the UAICC, Pastor Bill Hollingworth (pictured here). The *Covenant* expressed “our desire to work in solidarity ... for the advancement of God's kingdom of justice and righteousness in this land”. Since then, the church has really worked hard at putting this into practice.



Then, in 2014, people from all over Australia travelled to Canberra to hold a prayer vigil for *Our Destiny Together* in front of Parliament House. Rev. Ronang Garrawurra, Chairperson of the *Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress* (UAICC) and Assembly President, Rev. Prof. Andrew Dutney, led a service of worship. From remote communities in places like Arnhem Land and the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands and from the centres of our big cities, people gathered to pray, pass the peace, and share in Holy Communion.

“It is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher”, Jesus says in this week’s Gospel reading. These developments within the Uniting Church show how we are striving to be like Jesus, sharing together with all

people—especially the First Peoples of this continent (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people).

And we know that it is possible—and, indeed, that it brings good value—for First Peoples to have a place in the councils of the church, discussing and deciding policy, and for their **Voice**, through the Congress, to be heard and responded to in appropriate ways.

That’s another good reason why we need to Vote YES in the referendum, surely. We need to ensure that, as well as recognising First Peoples in the Australian *Constitution*, we have a permanent **Voice to Parliament** in our ongoing structures.



LISTENING TO THE HEART: UNDERSTANDING THE VOICE

Come along to a workshop to learn about the Indigenous Voice to Parliament, and how to have conversations promoting a positive outcome on The Voice Referendum.

Hear from the speakers Professor Asmi Wood and Minister Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA. Professor Wood is a First Peoples Australian, a member of the Referendum Constitutional Expert Group, and professor at the ANU Law Faculty. Minister Stephen-Smith has been Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs since 2016.



SAT 1 JULY

10AM-1PM



**CANBERRA CITY
UNITING CHURCH**

69 Northbourne Ave
Free parking available at the
underground parking off Rudd St
*Coffee, tea and sandwiches
provided*

Please
register



Next Newsletter

Contributions for the August 2023 newsletter are due by Sunday 30 July for publication Sunday 6 August 2023.

Email to news@quc.org.au.



The next Jumble sale is on Saturday 22 July.

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, on communion Sunday, these items will be blessed as part of our offering to the work of God in our community, before being passed on to St Benedict's.

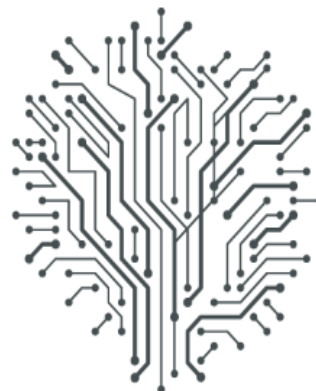
Bennies has provided the following advice;
UHT milk, CEREAL (only Weetbix, cornflakes & Rice bubbles), tinned tuna large or small, Spaghetti and Baked beans, 2 min noodles, Pasta; Spaghetti or Spiral, Baby food or formula. But DEFINITELY NO tinned beans or lentils. See the noticeboard for more details.

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



SALTBUSH

UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY
<https://saltbushcommunity.uca.org.au/>



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

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.



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.