

# JOURNEY

UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA QUEENSLAND SYNOD

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"I feel like it is the goal but it is also the doorway." **Rev Jock Dunbar**

## DISCUSSING THE PREAMBLE

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# LIVING WITH HOPE

By Mardi Lumsden

The 28th Synod meeting of the Uniting Church in Queensland was a celebration of the diversity of the Church.

From the opening service, complete with a welcome to country done like never before, to the closing service, another worship full of many languages.

In an historic moment Rev Kaye Ronalds was voted in as Moderator-elect.

When she takes up the role of Moderator at the 29th Synod Ms Ronalds will be the first woman to hold this position in the Queensland Synod.

Dr Shirley Coulson was affirmed as the next General Secretary.

Dr Coulson will be the first lay person to hold this position in the Queensland Synod.

The Synod heard that the Church continued to be in a financial crisis and committed to working to find a solution.

In a formal vote, changes to the preamble to the Constitution of the Assembly were affirmed by 220 people, 68 people did not support the changes and two people did not vote.

The *Together on the way, enriching community* journey to discern the future of the Church was affirmed with a call to mission in the words: Uniting in Christ, witnessing in faith, acting with love, working for justice, living with hope.

As Moderator Rev Bruce Johnson put it this is not meant to be a comfortable statement.

He urged members to live out the call.

The Synod heard that since the last Synod meeting 15 Ministry of the Word candidates and four Deacon candidates were received by ordination.

Eight MoWs and five Deacons were received by ordination (transitional phase) and a youth worker was received by commissioning.

Six ministers had passed away since the last Synod and members celebrated the retirement of 11 ministry workers.

Queensland farewelled eight ministers to other synods but welcomed nine from other synods and 19 ministers on secondment from other denominations.

Overall the meeting was full of hope and the courage to follow the call into the future.



# Spirit at work

IT IS THE day after Synod. It is difficult at this point to have a clear picture of all that God was seeking to do in and through us.

As I think back however I begin to see glimpses of the Spirit's work among us.

Through our discussions about the *Together on the Way, enriching community* process we came to affirm the call to mission in the words:

Uniting in Christ  
witnessing in faith  
acting with love  
working for justice  
living with hope

As I think about all that happened during the five days, I see God in our midst.

The opening celebration on Friday night saw us Uniting in Christ as we were welcomed to the place by the Indigenous elders who told us that the place on which we were meeting was an ancient "birthing place".

In her welcome Aunt Val spoke about our common faith in Christ.

We then witnessed our Uniting in Christ as people came from east and west, north and south from many cultural groupings all praising our one Lord Jesus Christ in their own language.

In word and sacrament we proclaimed the one who came among us that all might be

reconciled to God the Father of us all.

I hope that everyone found it as exciting and inspiring as I did.

During the Synod we addressed the question of the preamble to the Constitution that had been agreed by the Assembly.

This provided opportunity for some valuable discussion about how the ideas expressed in the preamble might help or hinder our relationship with the First Peoples of this country and whether the wording of the preamble was consistent with the faith of the holy catholic and apostolic church.

Sometimes this was a tense conversation, but through it all we

will not only help parents share their faith in Jesus, but also help some adults think about their own relationship with God.

Throughout Synod we were told stories of what God is doing in and through our congregations, schools and colleges and UnitingCare agencies.

These stories often go unnoticed and only touch a handful of people at a time.

Yet they are reminders that God is faithful and that God still longs to use this Uniting Church in Queensland in reconciling the world to himself.

This message of hope and excitement also shaped the Signposts of Hope conference that occurred just prior to Synod.

During that conference we heard stories from Phil McCredren, who shared the journey of six small suburban Churches of Christ congregations in Melbourne who found a way to unite in mission that began to touch

parts of their communities which had not been involved in churches before.

This story was a mixture of joy and pain, disappointment and hope, failure and success.

However it gave many people confidence that some of the things they had begun may eventually

Uniting in Christ  
witnessing in faith  
acting with love  
working for justice  
living with hope

acted with love, worked for justice and found ourselves expressing a hope for our future together.

During our lunch break on Monday, Paul Clark launched his children's books which seek to proclaim the gospel to children through truck stories.

Paul hopes that these books

## Listening in the silence

A FUNNY thing happened to me at this Synod meeting ... I lost my voice.

For the entire five days I could barely speak (quite an ask for a journalist).

Consequently I had to listen and not respond.

I ate meals with people and did not contribute to the conversation.

Sometimes this stopped people in their tracks.

Sometimes it made no difference at all.

But the more I listened the more I realised that if you don't have a voice

people often forget you are there.

It made me think of two things.

Firstly, that just because I could not speak did not mean I had nothing to say or add.

Secondly, not speaking did not mean that I wasn't listening and

taking things on board.

As always the Synod meeting was a mix of working through issues offered to this group of people representing congregations and agencies as well as worship and relationship building.

We heard stories of the strug-

If you don't agree with someone listen for the wisdom behind what they are saying.

gles and joys of congregations, agencies and the Synod office.

The Synod committed to working for justice.

I would like to encourage members of the Uniting Church in Queensland to listen to the voiceless, oppressed

and marginalised in our communities and the world and to speak out for justice.

I urge people to stop and truly listen.

Sr Margaret Endicott, facilitator of the *Together on the way, enriching community* journey, said something in a meeting recently that forced me to change the way I heard people.

She said if you don't agree with what someone is saying or the words used you need to listen for the wisdom behind what they are saying.

The closing worship began with the chant *Listen in the silence*.

Very appropriate.

Mardi Lumsden  
Editor

## Message from the Moderator

Rev Bruce Johnson



bear fruit for the Kingdom.

For many it was nice to know that we are not the only Christians looking for new expressions of the community of faith.

I also believe that God was speaking loudly and clearly to us through the daily Bible Studies led by Rev Alistair McRae, the president of the Assembly and through Rev Dr Steve Taylor who delivered the Norman and Mary Millar Lecture.

Each of them, in his own way pointed us to the heart of our calling as God's people united in Christ.

They reminded us that the heart of our faith is in Christ and that we need to keep returning

to Jesus and the way he lived and served and taught.

They reminded us that it is God who empowers and sustains our life and sets us our direction.

We all need to commit to building a community of the Kingdom and reach out in grace to others.

I hope that as you meet with others who shared these past five days at Synod they can also tell you how they experienced God's presence and how they saw the signs of God's grace shooting forth.

Thanks to all who joined the fellowship of the Synod and helped me experience these signs of God in our midst.

## Sign of the times



SITUATED ON busy Moggill Rd in the western suburbs of Brisbane, Kenmore Uniting Church has an ideal location for their church sign.

Each morning and afternoon thousands of peak-hour commuters have time to sit and ponder the message as the traffic crawls past.

Kenmore Uniting Church minister Rev Heather den Houting said the congregation tries to use their sign to its full advantage.

"I regularly get feedback from people in the community about the sign and I know that it does inspire people to reflect and talk about the message," she said.

"The sign was inspired after reading *Journey*, which again reminded me to support and encourage people who might even just be thinking about whether to volunteer."



Sign of the Times is sponsored by Blackstar Coffee. The chosen entry will be contacted by Blackstar to receive their prize of freshly roasted organic fairtrade coffee. [www.blackstarcoffee.com.au](http://www.blackstarcoffee.com.au).



# Healthy partnerships in the Pacific

By Tom Ganderton

IN APRIL UnitingWorld Associate Director for Church Solidarity (Pacific), Bruce Mullan, led a team of highly talented and motivated individuals from Queensland to the Solomon Islands to engage with our overseas partner church, the United Church in Solomon Islands.

The team included Queensland Synod Moderator Rev Bruce Johnson, Newlife Uniting Church (Robina) minister Rev Stuart Cameron, and Brisbane based audiologist and community health worker Annette Kasper.

A group from UnitingCare Queensland were also visiting the Solomon Islands to provide in-service training programs to health staff at the Helena Goldie Hospital, operated by the United Church in Solomon Islands.

For many it was their first time visiting the Pacific Island nation.

The trip provided participants with a transformational experience, but Mr Mullan witnessed one story that left him with a deep appreciation of the work that he and the group were involved with.

"Dr Jenny Longbottom, a local doctor at the Helena Goldie Hospital, was leading a touring clinic in the Western Province of the Solomon Islands to the isolated village of Hopongo on Rendova island.

"She was shocked at what she discovered – a small three-and-a-half-year-old child suffering from Kwasiorkor, a life threatening condition caused by a deficiency in protein."

A child with this debilitating condition can be left with permanent physical and mental impairments if not treated quickly.

"Hopongo has no resident doctor, but fortunately the mobile clinic headed by Dr Jenny



Sharyn Robinson with teacher at Seghe Vocational Training School. Photo courtesy of UnitingWorld

was visiting and the doctors recognised the symptoms.

"After some initial treatment at Helena Goldie Hospital, the child was transferred to the National Referral Hospital in Honiara for further checks and treatment."

Dr Jenny, the health care network and the family were delighted when the child returned home healthy.

The United Church in Solomon Islands plays a vitally important role in the community.

The church runs several primary schools, a hospital, and some primary health clinics.

The clinics were launched by Helena Goldie Hospital in April 2009.

A team of medical professionals hop between islands by canoe

each day, unloading supplies and setting up a temporary clinic that can see between 50 and 100 patients a day.

Stories of transformation like these are just a few of the reasons why UnitingWorld is proud to work in partnership with the United Church in Solomon Islands.

# St Andrews Hospital re-opened



UnitingCare Health Executive Director Richard Royle and Governor-General of Australia, Ms Quentin Bryce, AC, cut the St Andrew's cake. Photo by Mardi Lumsden

By Mardi Lumsden

AFTER MORE than two years of operating in the midst of renovation, the new look St Andrew's War Memorial Hospital in Brisbane was officially opened by the Governor-General of Australia, Ms Quentin Bryce, AC, on 7 May.

The \$76 million redevelopment of St Andrew's War Memorial Hospital meant enormous disruption to hospital staff, patients and volunteers.

UnitingCare Health Executive Director Richard Royle said the manner in which people kept the hospital running under such difficult circumstances was a credit to them.

Ms Bryce said St Andrew's War Memorial Hospital held a special place in her heart.

Her eldest sister was one of the first trainee nurses who graduated from St Andrew's.

She said things such as visionary leadership, outstanding health professionals providing exemplary care and commitment to research, teaching and exploring technology have made St Andrew's a world class health facility.

"But what makes St Andrew's a cherished institution and an essential part of the fabric of this community and nation, is the dedication of its people to the life and purpose of this hospital," she said.

A large, modern reception area greets patients and visitors to the new-look hospital, which now includes 14 operating theatres, 233 beds, an allied health rehabilitation gym, new ICU unit, three floors of medical suites and a chapel which includes the original chapel's stained glass windows.

St Andrew's General Manager Dr Ian England was proud of the end result.

"Our excellent facilities and resources ensure we can attract the best medical, nursing and support staff, further cementing our outstanding reputation in health care in Queensland," he said.

"Our redeveloped hospital shows our commitment to maintaining our world-class standards and ensuring our ongoing success."

Queensland Synod Moderator Rev Bruce Johnson said it was a pleasure for the Church to be active in health care, specifically the redevelopment of St Andrew's.

"This hospital embodies the ongoing healing ministry of Jesus, and adds to the wonderful work that has emanated from this place for many years," said Mr Johnson.

"The Uniting Church recognises that all it does has its source in the life and work of Jesus Christ.

"We ask his blessing upon this place and its staff and patients."

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# Moreton Rivers ordains six ministers



Richard Cassady, Keren Seto, Kerry Pierce, Jock Dunbar, Linda Hamill, and Sandra Jebb. Photo by Mardi Lumsden

By Mardi Lumsden

IN WHAT is surely some kind of record, the Presbytery of Moreton Rivers held a joint ordination for six people in May.

Jock Dunbar is now the minister at St Mark's Uniting Church in Mount Gravatt.

He said he and the congregation hope to grow in numbers, faith and many other ways while he is there.

"I am really hoping to move in a direction of intentional mission so what we do locally and what we do globally actually tie in to each other."

He said his ordination was the end of one chapter and the beginning of another.

"Maybe even the end of one book and the beginning of another. I feel like it is the goal but it is also the doorway."

"I'm very happy, very relieved and very excited."

Keren Seto is in placement as a chaplain at the Wesley Hospital in Brisbane. She hopes to meet the

daily challenges of that role.

"I've been in congregational ministry for a number of years and the role of chaplain is a different one with its own challenges."

"I hope with God's grace to meet those challenges and to be as useful to God as I possibly can in that environment."

Richard Cassady has been the youth worker at The Gap Uniting Church for three years and looks forward to his new role there.

"I have a sense that there is a fair bit of excitement in my congregation as I go through this rite of passage."

"This has been a journey for me in terms of struggling with my place within the life of the Church so I am really looking forward to exercising my gifts and abilities to their full extent."

Sandra Jebb is in placement at the Kairos Uniting Church cluster in Brisbane's north.

"Ordination for me is following on from baptism, discipleship, being called into a particular role in the Uniting Church."

Linda Hamill has high hopes for the Maranoa Cluster (in the Downs Presbytery) where she has been in placement since August 2009.

"My hope is that they begin to move from the place of survival to the place of abundance."

"I'm privileged to be God's servant in ordination."

Kerry Pierce is at West End Uniting Church and hopes that the congregation connects more with their local inner-city community.

"I hope we grow into a place of open doors."

"It is really well situated geographically in the community and there is an opportunity for a lot of spirituality and prayerful participation from various groups in the community that aren't necessarily touched by the church at the moment."

"Ordination means responding to God's call and taking up that place in the apostolic tradition with energy, enthusiasm and excitement for the future."

## Ministry expo

By Jenny Brecknell

THE BREMER Brisbane Ministry Expo proved to be a huge success with more than 30 congregations and agencies setting up displays reflecting a wide variety of ministry activities.

The Expo was held at two venues on different days in April (once at the Glebe Road Uniting Church and once at Centenary Uniting Church).

An initiative of the Presbytery's Capability Building Team, it was intended to be an "ideas market,"

to bring people together from across the Presbytery to share what they were doing in ministry and to learn from one another.

Seminar topics included information on the Kids' Hope program, how to run a Café Church, a Country Market, a Community Centre, an Op Shop, a Day Camp, a stewardship program, and an Alpha Marriage Course, doing Men's Ministry, and how to set up a free DIY church website.

One participant said: "It helped us to appreciate that what

we were doing in our Church was just as valid as any ministry that a larger church might have."

Another said: "We enjoyed the day, gave out heaps of flyers, and had the opportunity to see and learn what other churches in the Presbytery were doing."

Agencies represented included Vision for Mission, ncy11, Pilgrim Learning Community, Prison Ministry and inspiring music was performed by the Glebe Road music team and Katie Wallis's band, Remember Seven.

Rev Heather Griffin said, "It gave me a great sense of connectedness with the Presbytery community of churches. It was an opportunity to feel actively part of something



Just one of the many stalls at the Bremer Brisbane Ministry Expo. Photo by David MacGregor

bigger, something on the move as the various ministries of the church across the Presbytery came alive to me."



Lin Martin (a Buddhist and environmental scientist), Clive Ayre and Sophie Langlois at Caloundra Uniting Church. Photo courtesy of Lin Martin

## Finding unity in bio-diversity

By Clive Ayre

WORLD ENVIRONMENT Day is celebrated on 6 June each year.

The consequent media spotlight represents a great opportunity for the Church to become involved in a really crucial issue – to be seen and heard in a seriously relevant way.

A national Uniting Church website will provide resources for congregations, but possibilities for engagement could begin with worship that has an ecological theme or an exploration on how faith relates to the environment.

Congregations could commit to an energy audit or solar power, become

involved with others in a clean-up program, or better still, begin a process of discerning ways of engaging in mission with an environmental focus.

But it is more than just an opportunity for pragmatic activism. The theme for this year is *Many species. One planet. One future.*

Take a deeper look at our theology, our place in God's economy, and what we are doing to God's creation.

World Environment Day is an invitation to explore issues affecting all life.

What emerges clearly in both a theological and a scientific approach is that we face the ultimate choice of one world or none.

A number of biblical themes reflect unity in biodiversity, beginning with the ancient theme of covenant.

An early expression of that is the covenant that God established with all life.



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# Far out schoolies

By Louise Edwards

OVER THE last nine years a group of young people from across Queensland have chosen a radical and adventurous alternative for Schoolies Week travelling by plane, boat, bus and truck to Taveuni, the remote garden island of Fiji, for a faith and culture exchange.

Participants have been overwhelmingly positive about the visit describing it as an amazing experience particularly because they are exposed to real Fijian life, not just resort life.

There is the opportunity to dive into crystal clear mountain pools from spectacular

waterfalls, barter at local craft markets and visit the International Date Line (the only place on Earth where you can kick a football today and catch it tomorrow).

Stay in a traditional village where you can gain a different understanding of what happiness truly is.

One participant said, "The people I met in Qeleni (village) had a contentment and joy inside them, even in times of trial. This can only come from God and it is something that I want more of in my life."

Another said, "The children taught me more about acceptance, love, happiness and proper life perspectives

than I ever learnt in school, and we didn't even speak the same language!"

Participants experience village life as the locals do with fresh Fijian food and scarce electricity.

Another participant said the trip "led to some changes in how I perceive culture and material wealth."

"For the first time in a very long time I am not consumed with materialistic wants."

For more information about the Fiji Schoolies trip contact Louise Edwards on 38498548 or Anna Mulcahy on annamulcahy@gmail.com



Louise Edwards with her young friends in Qeleni village, Fiji



Magician Christopher Wayne.  
Photo by Matt Gees

## Bringing magic to ncyc11

By Bek Polley

EVER WONDERED how a magician does his tricks? 2009 Magician of the Year, Christopher Wayne, sums it up in one word - "brilliantly".

Mr Wayne will be speaking at the National Christian Youth Convention 2011 on the Gold Coast, along with performing some of his magic tricks.

"The cool thing about my job is

all the people I get to meet so I'm really looking forward to meeting all those who come."

At ncyc11 Mr Wayne will be speaking on his faith along with the story of how he came to be a magician.

"I consider myself blessed to be an entertainer not just a magician."

"God altered my career path about five years ago when I was working in a factory."

"I didn't know what I wanted to do with my life and I asked myself- if I could do anything, my dream job, what would it be?"

Mr Wayne said that he knew then that he wanted to work full time doing magic tricks to entertain people and share the story of God's transforming power in his own life.

The toughest act was in front of his biggest audience yet at the Christian music festival Easterfest earlier this year.

"I really want to encourage

others to pursue their dreams and to believe not only in their talent but also themselves."

"If anyone can take something away from my show, it would be to trust in God and dream big."

And for all those who like to know how he performs his magic tricks- Chris' advice is simple.

"Turn off for once whilst I entertain you!"

For more information or to register visit [www.ncyc11.com.au](http://www.ncyc11.com.au)

# Kids rendezvous with the spirit



Wayne McHugh. Photo by Osker Lau

By Wayne McHugh

FUN, FOOD, friends, God, miracles, and rain featured heavily at CQ Rendezvous, an annual youth camp held in May by the Central Queensland Presbytery.

Forty teens and young adults from around the Presbytery came together at Action Challenge, north of Sarina.

Some campers were shocked at the back to basics campsite featuring long-drop toilets, fire heated water for showers and tents. Despite this everyone survived to tell the story.

Guest speaker Fiona Saxby, a full-time volunteer with YWAM in Townsville, explained that all of life is spiritual, rightly belonging to God.

She challenged us all to let God out of the Sunday box and had many private conversations with campers, some of them life-changing.

A small number of campers accepted Jesus for the first time in their lives and half the camp stood and testified to the difference God had made in them over the weekend.

On the Saturday evening we joined with the Mackay Baptist camp, being held at George's Farm nearby. Together we enjoyed an evening of fun, food, worship and challenge.

Two (known) healings took place over the weekend.

One young woman twisted her ankle, and on Sunday evening three campers prayed for her (a new activity around the campfire) and her ankle was healed.

On Monday she was walking without any pain.

Another had scoliosis of her spine and on Saturday was in a lot of pain.

Co-camp director David Ferguson prayed for her on Saturday afternoon and

again that night.

On that second occasion her back was immediately healed, and her hips as well.

This was great for the two young women as well as those who prayed and those who witnessed God at work in all these ways over the weekend.

Tribute must go to camp directors Wayne Davidson and David Ferguson, Kate Wilson who cooked, and everyone else who helped.

We will all remember the tyre tube six-way tug-of-war, not for the winners, but for the spectacular ways that some managed to lose. Likewise the cardboard box car rally as cars slowly (or quickly) disintegrated on the track.

New friends and memories will be cherished for years to come.

CQ Rendezvous 2011 is to be held in Yeppoon and campers are already making plans to attend.

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# Jesus: the Weeper

*Journey* continues its exploration of Brian McLaren's 10 questions he says are transforming the church. This month we look at the Jesus question.

By Colin Gurteen

OVER TWO thousand years of church history we have heard many things about Jesus, but this is the one that keeps me awake at night: "Jesus wept", we're told, and surely he still does.

He weeps at needless death and suffering, and he weeps at our failure to believe that there just might be something called "resurrection".

In my grumpier moments I find myself thinking that in two thousand years the church still hasn't grasped that resurrection means new life, and new life means something which is different from what we have known before.

It is both new and life.

The cynic in me looks at those places where the church puts its time and energy into life-support systems for its institutions and wonders, "When did we stop believing in death and resurrection?" And I look at all

that is said about the importance of getting to heaven, and wonder, "When did we stop believing in living?"

We read the gospels and find story after story about new life following death – the healing miracles, the parables, the calling of disciples, and ultimately the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus himself – and all some people seem to take from it is how important it is to build a church, to all believe the same things, and to sing catchy songs about Jesus my boyfriend.

Perhaps if we really believed in resurrection we would let some things die: some congregations, some institutions, our addiction to full pews, all of those things which keep us inside our buildings and which stop us from living.

And I give thanks to God for all of those courageous congregations and individuals who are prepared to let things go, believing in new life after death.

We have myriad understandings of Jesus because we are contradictory creatures: we love to be comfortable and we love to be frightened.

We love to be comfortable and sing about Jesus shining rather than get our hands dirty alongside the kinds of people with whom Jesus spent his time.

We love to be frightened and invest our energies in keeping the doors open rather than face the uncertainty of what "new life" might be like.

If we were truly an Easter people we might just walk away and start again.

How do we get a more balanced and accurate understanding of Jesus?

Well, I'd do it this way: I'd read Matthew 25 – the story of sorting the sheep from the goats – and then I'd close my Bible without reading another word.

I'd get up and go looking for someone who was hungry and



needed feeding, or who on a brisk winter's morning didn't have enough clothes to wear, or someone who just needed a friend.

In the company of those folk I'd find the most balanced and accurate understanding of Jesus there is.

Jesus himself said, "Just as you did it to one of the least of these

who are members of my family, you did it to me."

If I could get over my fear of the unknown I'd want to practise death and resurrection in the company of the Weeper.

Colin Gurteen is minister with the Kingston Uniting Church congregation in Tasmania

## \$100,000 travel grants offered



By Phil Smith

AUSTRALIAN TRAVEL agency Mission Travel Group is giving away \$100,000 in grants to Christian organisations, churches and individuals this June.

Mission Travel Group co-founder Lisa Scerri said God had prompted the organisation to provide 13 individual grants to help Australians make a difference locally and overseas.

Grants of \$5,000 and \$10,000 are available in categories including overseas experiences, Bible college scholarship, Compassion sponsor child visits, and cash.

"My husband Frank and I started Mission Travel Group four years ago as a travel agency

that could help facilitate the global movement of God's people – people with a heart to serve those who are poor, persecuted, refugees, or in need," said Ms Scerri.

"We are giving back \$100,000 this month because as a Christian business we believe it's important to invest

a substantial amount of our profits back into the Christian community."

**we believe  
it's important  
to invest ...  
our profits  
back into  
the Christian  
community.**

Specific grants are available for a minister to make a 16 day pilgrimage study tour of the Holy Land, and for a theological student to receive funds toward tuition fees.

Cash grants of five and ten thousand dollars are available to individuals, churches, ministries and not-for-profit groups.

Volunteer Africa opportunities will create one month placements for volunteers in Zambia, Kenya, Mozambique, Zanzibar or Cape Town, with all flights, travel, food and accommodation included.

"We want to hear from people and ministries around Australia about what God is calling them to do and how a grant could make that happen."

Mission Travel recently launched Australia's first Christian online travel booking website [www.missiontravel.com.au](http://www.missiontravel.com.au).

God led them to create a travel agency that is about more than just putting people on planes.

Applications close 30 June.

Apply online at [www.missiontravel.com.au](http://www.missiontravel.com.au).



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For role description ph. 5491 5353 or email [caloundra@dovenetq.net.au](mailto:caloundra@dovenetq.net.au)

Applications close Friday 25 June



**The Boys'  
Brigade  
Queensland**

**FIELD WORKER**

Applications are invited for the position of field worker with The Boys' Brigade Queensland.

The position will be for approximately 25 hours per week, and will involve making and maintaining contact with local churches and Brigade groups within the State.

For a Position Description please contact:

**Gordon Wallace**  
P: 07 3374 3224  
E: [bbqld@brigadeaustralia.org](mailto:bbqld@brigadeaustralia.org)



# Finance still priority

By Mardi Lumsden

OVER FOUR days members of the 28th Synod meeting grappled with the financial situation of the Church in Queensland.

On the final day of the meeting members recognised, by consensus, the significance and complexity of the financial position of the Synod and supported the process which has commenced with presbyteries and agencies to identify underutilised assets and reallocate those resources.

Part 3(b) of the proposal was also passed by consensus, that the Council of Synod, resourced by the Finance, Investment and Property (FIP) Board, develop, approve and implement a new model for contributions by

presbyteries, congregations and agencies to the Synod.

Part 3(a), that the same group would progress the work outlined in the previous statement to deal with the current financial deficit and sustain resourcing for mission and ministry into the future, was passed by agreement.

FIP Board Chair Andrew McBryde spoke to Synod members on the "financial challenge".

He warned Synod members that the Church is still in a financial crisis.

"The financial challenge hasn't gone anywhere," he said.

Synod Financial and Property Services (FAPS) Department director Robert Packer said it was difficult to explain the complexities of the situation.

"In just two and a half years the Synod reserves have dropped from \$94 million to just \$20 million and will drop further."

He said that \$20 million was insufficient to meet Synod requirements.

Mr Packer said the Synod had cut as much as possible.

"This is not another 'we need to cut 20% across the board.' We need to stop doing something," said Mr Packer.

As a short-term measure the Synod was able to secure a line of credit from the ANZ bank.

"The Synod is currently able to operate not only on the good grace of God, but also the grace of the ANZ bank."

Mr McBryde assured the Synod members that the bank loan is

only a short-term solution.

Mr Packer reminded Synod members that the staff in the Synod office have not only suffered huge cutbacks through natural attrition and redundancies, but have had to pick up work done by people who had left as well as cope with abuse from people angry that work was slow in getting done.

Mr McBryde assured members there was no fraud in regard to the impaired loans which initially caused the financial crisis in the Synod.

"There were errors of judgement, perhaps a lack of skilled staff, and great reliance placed on the expertise of one or two people," he said.

He said the focus on profitability and growing funds

for the Mission and Service Fund and unnecessarily complex fund structures led to poor transparency and accountability.

He said a lot had been done to amend those practices.

After small groups met, Mr McBryde said there were some "very considered and heartfelt questions and responses" that the FIP Board will take into account.

He was encouraged by the positive nature of the table group responses.

To the comment that the Synod could sell off one large asset he responded saying that the problem is more complex than that.

"That won't fix the problem in the long run. It hasn't fixed the problem in the past.

"I wish it was that easy, but it is not."

Mr Packer reminded Synod members that saleable assets are the ones that are generating income for the Church.

He said that while Uniting Church agencies are under strict guidelines and "extreme pressure for their assets to perform", congregational assets can remain underutilised with little consequence.

Mr Packer said it was difficult to define what are underutilised congregational property.

"The issue for the FIP Board is that you can't just say things are underutilised.

"There is missional usage as well as economic usage," he said.

Mr McBryde reminded Synod members that the FIP Board can make recommendations but is powerless to act.

"The bottom line is that we can't seize assets that are beneficially used by other parts of the Synod."

The \$1000 for a 1000 campaign launched by the Moderator at the 27th Synod raised around \$120,000 for the Synod.

The Synod has also reduced its contribution to the Assembly.

Mr McBryde said the FIP Board was committed to work with UnitingCare and Wesley Mission Brisbane to develop specific ways the agencies can support the Mission and Service Fund in a more transparent way.

Mr Johnson acknowledged members of the FIP Board and their dedicated work to deal with the situation.

There were over 100 questions and comments asked regarding the report. Answers to those, as well as Mr Packer's PowerPoint presentation, will be available on the FAPS website in the coming days.



## Synod Leadership Team

- Moderator Rev Bruce Johnson
- Moderator-elect Rev Kaye Ronalds
- General Secretary Rev Douglas Jones
- UnitingCare Qld CEO Ms Anne Cross
- FAPS Director Mr Robert Packer
- Rev David Baker
- Rev Robert Harriman
- Rev Lu Senituli
- Ms Heather Watson
- Rev Bruce Cornish
- Mr Geoff Batkin
- Rev Gwen Fisher

The Queensland Synod Finance, Investment and Property (FIP) Board just prior to the 28th Synod. Bruce Peden and Allan Hanson were elected at the Synod meeting but are not in this photo.

## Council of Synod

- Rev Bruce Johnson
- Rev Dr David Pitman
- Rev Kaye Ronalds
- Rev Douglas Jones
- Ms Heather Watson
- Ms Anne Cross
- Mr Andrew McBryde
- Mr Robert Packer
- Rev David Baker
- Rev Robert Harriman
- Rev Lu Senituli
- Mr Geoff Batkin
- Rev Gwen Fisher
- Rev Shayne Blackman
- Rev Bruce Cornish
- Rev Andrew Gunton
- Rev Sue Pickering
- Mr John Agnew
- Mr Gavin Caird
- Mr Paula Hukehuke
- Mrs Sharon Kirk
- Mrs Sue Mulcahy
- Mr Bruce Peden
- Mr Kenneth Whyte

**FOOTLOOSE FRIDAY 20 August** [footloosefriday.com.au](http://footloosefriday.com.au)

What's your footprint?

Wesley Mission Brisbane supporting ♂ kids ♂ teens ♂ families ♂ elderly ♂ homeless ♂ disadvantaged ♂

# Go out and serve the world

THE NORMAN and Mary Millar Lecture at the 28th Synod was presented by Rev Dr Steve Taylor, a New Zealand Baptist minister who is now Director of Missiology at Uniting College for Leadership and Theology in the South Australian Synod of the Uniting Church. He spoke on the word of mission as read in Acts 2 and asked the questions: Where does the hope come from? Dr Taylor reflected on his time at a dwindling inner city congregation which grew into a vibrant church community

and said it was important for people to be able to hear the gospel in their own language. "When the spirit of God comes you get to hear it in your own language," he said. "Is it just different cultures or is it also the sub-cultural of society who get to hear the word of God in their own language?" Dr Taylor looked particularly at building healthy and effective leadership within a congregation. "Leadership is a verb, not a noun," he said. "Leadership is a process, not a person."



## Qld elects first female Moderator

CENTRAL QUEENSLAND Presbytery Chair Rev Kaye Ronalds has been elected as Moderator-elect for the Queensland Synod.

Ms Ronalds said she was "humbled that you have seen in me something that I can bring to the church at this time".

She said as the first female Moderator of the Queensland Synod she hoped to do justice to the legacy of the many fine Christian female leaders who have inspired and taught her in this church as well as the many men who have done the same.

She quoted the *Basis of Union* saying: "There is no gift without its corresponding service".

"The Uniting Church is a great church and I am proud to be one of its ministers."

She also thanked the other nominees as Synod members prayed the prayer, "I am no longer my own but yours".

Moderator Rev Bruce Johnson also thanked the other nominees Peter Lockhart and Rob Bos for being willing to offer themselves for the service of the Church.



# Synod worship celebrates diversity



ON FRIDAY 21 May 2010 the 28th Synod began at Alexandra Park Conference Centre, Alexandra Headland, with a service of celebration of the diversity of the Uniting Church in Queensland

As the didgeridoo called people to worship, those present were blessed with water dipped branches



and joyous calls in a Kabi Kabi (the local indigenous people) welcome to country accompanied by three part a cappella singing.

Rodney Minniecon said they had never had the privilege of doing such a ceremony at a Synod opening before.

Mr Minniecon asked elder

Aunty Val to officially welcome those gathered.

She spoke of the "coming of the light", when Christianity was brought to this land.

"We all belong to one father. We all belong to that man who died on the cross.

"I honour you and welcome you all to this very special



place – the land of the Kabi Kabi people."

Greetings, liturgy and songs were led in a variety of languages.

Members of the Fijian, Malayan, Tongan, Korean, Samoan, Papua New Guinean and Sudanese Uniting Churches proceeded into the

hall each singing different traditional worship songs in their own language.

Queensland Synod Moderator Rev Bruce Johnson welcomed people to the whole body of Christ and encouraged people to sing in a language other than their own throughout the evening.





# General Secretary receives minute of appreciation

IN A STANDING ovation members of the 28th Synod received a minute of appreciation for General Secretary Rev Douglas Jones as he attended his final Synod meeting before retirement.

After being voted in as General Secretary at a Special Synod in 2008 he stepped deep into a Synod in the midst of a significant financial crisis.

"This was unexpected but pleasantly embarrassing," he said of the minute of appreciation.

"I believe that God called me to this position.

"It has been a strange mix of emotions," he said.

Mr Jones said the role had



Moderator Rev Bruce Johnson with General Secretary Rev Douglas Jones and Vivienne Jones. Photo by Osker Lau

been exhilarating, distressing and everything in between.

Both the Moderator and General Secretary thanked Mr Jones' wife Vivienne for her constant support and patience.

Mr Jones referred to the position like being in a tumble dryer of emotions and said he would be praying for his successor whoever that may be.

# Bible studies explore living water

UNITING CHURCH President Rev Alistair Macrae presented three Bible studies at the Queensland Synod.

From looking at the renewal of baptism to the Beatitudes and the risks God's people have taken to follow their call Mr Macrae encouraged those present to listen and explore their calling in life.

He said in the Beatitudes Jesus describes where blessing can be found.

"With Christ we are more than enough for the mission in which he has called us.

"The financial crisis in this Synod could be the best thing that has happened to us."

He said he had found three definitions of the church that he had connected with recently:

- The mission of the church is to create analogies to the kingdom of God.

- The mission of the Church is to reveal to the world its horizon

- The Church is God's pilot project for the world.

"There are no easy answers," he said, "just the call to follow and trust."

Visit [www.journeyonline.com.au](http://www.journeyonline.com.au) to listen to Mr Macrae's Bible studies, the opening and closing worship and the Norman and Mary Millar lecture

# Next General Secretary announced



MEMBERS OF the 28th Synod overwhelmingly supported the nomination of Dr Shirley Coulson as the next General Secretary of the Queensland Synod.

She will be the first Lay person to hold the position.

Dr Coulson is a deeply committed member of the Uniting Church who has sought to live out her faith over many years through her involvement within her local congregation as well as in her employment within Catholic education with Sisters of Mercy.

She has a strong background in the Catholic education system, including time as Acting Principal and Deputy Principal at All Hallows' School in Brisbane.

As a committed member of Uniting Church congregations in two states Shirley has endeavoured to live a life of worship, witness and service in a range of challenging contexts.

In particular, these include trying to assist congregation

members of Mia Mia – Kyneton to build each other up in love where there was deep division and conflict about ministerial expectations and understandings of the Church's role in service to the wider community.

As rural and now metropolitan worshipping communities face declining numbers, Dr Coulson has worked as a church leader to sustain members in hope and address the realities of re-visioning their mission as a people of God embracing the *Basis of Union* imperative to continual renewal and constant reform under Christ's word.

Most recently this has involved taking a leadership role in the formation of the Kairos cluster of Uniting Church congregations (Clayfield/Hamilton, Wavell/Geebung and Toombul District).

Moderator Rev Bruce Johnson prayed for God to continue to provide grace and support for Dr Coulson while in this role, which she will begin in January 2011.



He said he wanted to honour people and allow them to worship in their mother tongue.

We want to celebrate what it means to us to be a multicultural church," he said.

Greetings were brought from eight different cultural groups Burma, Fiji, Malaysia, Tonga,

Samoa, PNG, Sudan) within the Church in Queensland, all in their own language.

Four members of the Korean congregation of the Uniting Church in Brisbane performed a beautiful song and dance.

Mr Johnson asked members of the 28th Synod to dig deep

in the exploration of faith.

"We are invited to munch on the body of Christ," he said. "We need to really struggle and engage with the Scriptures and look at the person Jesus from every angle, not just the perspective we think is right."



Peter Lockhart, Heather den Houting, Yvonne McRostie and Peter Armstrong with Phil McCredden and a signpost of hope. Photo by Phil Smith

# Signposting the future

By Phil Smith

DOES A Churches of Christ pastor from Melbourne's inner north have a future roadmap for the Uniting Church in Queensland? No.

Pastor Phil McCredden told the Signposts of Hope conference at Alexandra Park in May, "We have no roadmaps for the future, only signposts."

More than 100 delegates considered new possibilities for gathering as God's people.

The suburban church has been drifting away from a central position in Australian society since the 1950s.

As numbers at Sunday morning congregations shrink and buildings are sold, the church must go into the world to make disciples, finding new ways of telling good news within communities of faith.

Australia has gone from a party line telephone where one person speaks through another to reach a third, to the internet where unlimited participants join a discussion no one person can control.

Churches have not mirrored that reality.

"A high degree of participation rather than a hierarchical approach to communicating in church is certainly the way of the future," said Mr McCredden.

"We are probably out of step with the changes in community where that is the normal style of communication in people's work places, school lives and personal lives.

"There is a real demand for people to have an input into their own faith."

Signposts of Hope encouraged a fresh response to Jesus' call to connect with people's daily lives.

Mr McCredden told of

Melbourne congregations that thrived from the 1920s into the baby boomer era before declining.

Rather than consolidate into a single worship centre that might eventually close altogether, a nexus of worship circumstances evolved.

They range from Sunday morning in pews to Friday nights in a cafe and mid-week lunches with the wider community.

"There's an essential task the Church must do," he said.

"What does it mean to participate in the Kingdom of God, recognising that Jesus is already at work in the community whether we're joining with him or not!"

Delegates were confronted by the distinction between structures and faith.

"We sometimes have more respect for our structures and traditions than for the task at hand: following Jesus into the mission field."

A keen organic gardener, Mr McCredden warned against local churches trying to transplant the latest fad from the bookshelf or the internet or the USA.

The results can be poisonous.

Local congregations have a unique organic capacity of their own to produce fruit.

Gathering as God's people and growing our own new expressions of worship may not be as simple as 'doing church' in a pub or cafe.

What grew church membership in Chicago may not work in Innisfail any better than an outreach program from St George.

"Our task is not to reach for a plug-in solution," according to Mr McCredden.

"It is to discern what God is doing in our unique community and work out ways to join in."

## Cars teaching the gospel

By Matt Gees

ON DAY four of the 28th Synod meeting Burdekin Uniting Church (North Queensland) minister and children's author Rev Paul Clark

launched two new books that teach the gospel using toy cars.

Six years after starting his journey of finding a way to teach his son about Christ, Mr Clark has published two children's books

*The Prodigal Ute* and *The Strange Car*, both off-shoots of his animated DVD *Car Park Parables*.

The parable of the prodigal son and the story of Zachaeus take on new meanings when told by an old Model T to a church car park of different types of cars.

Illustrated by Brisbane based artist Graham Preston the books were launched at the 28th Synod on 24 May with North Queensland Presbytery minister Rev Bruce Cornish telling the crowd in the Vision Books shop how excited the Presbytery was about the books and the gospel message they contain.

*Car Park Parables*, and the subsequent books are proudly Australian with Australian cars and Australian language, something Mr Clark is enthusiastic about.

*The Prodigal Ute* and *The Strange Car* are published by Wombat Books.



Paul Clark launches two new books at the Vision Books shop at Synod. Photo by Osker Lau

## Service recognised

FOURTEEN AWARDS were given in recognition of extensive service in the Moderator's Community Service Medals.

The 15 recipients (one award went to a husband and wife team) were recognised for their service to the Church, Church agencies and the community in categories aligned with UnitingCare's Shared Values of compassion, respect, justice, working together and leading through learning.

Eight of the 15 recipients were able to attend a ceremony on 23 May as part of the 28th Synod.

Beth Baker, Vera Otto, Elizabeth Landers, Frank Robinson, and Wally Reid were unable to attend. Sadly, Heather

Newby of Gumdale passed away just days before the ceremony, but was awarded her medal in a special ceremony prior to the Synod meeting.

The value of compassion was recognised in the work of Laurie Ward of Allora and Ancy Pratt of Kingaroy.

Lew Huth of Park Ridge and Beth Baker of Blackwater received awards recognising their respect for others.

William Afeaki of Kingston and Vera Otto of Pine Rivers received awards for their work for justice.

Elizabeth Landers of Mount Isa, Frank Robinson of North Ipswich, and Dorothy Pickering of the Sunshine Coast were recognised



UnitingCare Queensland CEO Anne Cross (in red) with eight of the recipients of the Moderator's Community Service Medals. Photo by Osker Lau

for Working Together.

The Leading through Learning value was recognised in the work of Phyllis Johnson of Upper Mt

Gravatt, Wally Reid of Emerald, Andrew and Anne Jeays of Mt Mee, and Robyn Everest of Brisbane.

Read about their outstanding achievements at [www.journeyonline.com.au](http://www.journeyonline.com.au)



# Synod discusses preamble

AFTER THREE days of discussions and deliberations members of the 28th Synod could not pass the proposal regarding changes to the preamble to the Constitution of the Uniting Church in Australia by consensus or agreement and moved to formal procedures.

Consequently 220 people voted to support the changes to the preamble, 68 people did not support the changes and two people did not vote.

The changes were made after much discussion at the 12th Assembly meeting in July last year.

On day one of business at the 28th Synod meeting Congress Chair Rev Ken Sumner and Rev Dr Chris Budden spoke on the proposed changes.

Mr Sumner said the changes to the preamble spoke of the history of all people in Australia.

"This speaks of our history, both First peoples and Second peoples," he said.

"So as a people together the preamble is a way that we can move forward together.

"Aboriginal people want to be liberated from the past.

"Non aboriginal people also need to be liberated because of the generational blame that continues.

"We need to end blame so that first and Second peoples and their offspring can find freedom together."

Mr Sumner said the preamble is an "institutional call to the church to put right" errors of the past.

However he said it meant more than just agreeing to something on paper.

"We must write them on our hearts."

"It excites me that I am involved in this renaissance.

"It keeps me dreaming of what kind of church we want our children to grow up in."

Some Synod members were uncomfortable with the language of "First peoples" and "Second peoples."

To this Mr Sumner replied, "It's not my fault my people were here first."

"Let us focus as the Church on what unites us rather than what divides us."

To comments that Aboriginal people could not have known God before white settlers introduced them to Christianity Mr Sumner said Aboriginal people believed that God spoke their language too.

"It would be pretty tough trying to understand a God who knows every inch of me but speaks in a language foreign to me," he said.

Rev Dr Chris Budden said the preamble called us to repentance, not remorse.

He said the changes to the preamble represent the true history of this nation.

"A central mark of the Church

is that we are a community that encourages and sustains truth telling," he said.

Dr Budden said those First peoples who had become Christian have looked back on their history and said they

believed that God was at work in their life and history before they knew Christianity.

"There is only one God. God can only be known as God chooses to be revealed."

Michelle Cook said most

people could relate to that.

"Standing this side of Christ I can look back and see where God was working in my life.

"I can say that about my Celtic heritage. So Indigenous people can also say that."



Congress Chair Rev Ken Sumner addresses the Synod. Photo by Osker Lau

## Refreshing the eldership

By Phil Smith

THERE IS common scene played out in congregations every three years. Congregation members are given a couple of week's notice, as per the Uniting Church regulations, that there will be an election of elders. Rarely are there more candidates than positions.

The ministry of eldership has been fundamental to church life since the beginning.

In the letters to Timothy and Titus, Paul demands particular care be taken in appointing elders to their key role in the life of local churches.

It may well be that our church's future could be enriched by a better understanding of our long distant past.

The vital nature of that ministry has not diminished according to the Assembly of the Uniting Church: "The ministry of elder is one of spiritual oversight, and may also be exercised in pastoral visitation, teaching, encouraging members of the Congregation to share in mission, and assisting the Minister in leadership of worship and administration of the sacraments and other areas in the life of the congregation".

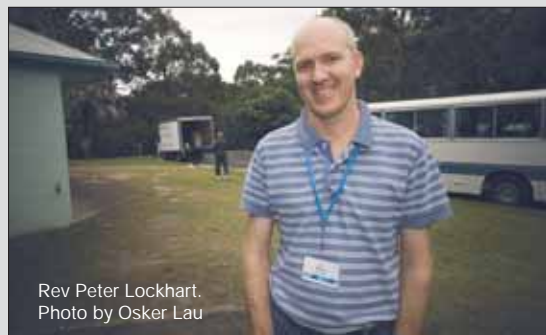
However, many elders hear

mixed messages and are uncertain about their task.

In congregations struggling to make financial ends meet, even the monthly council meetings can be a challenge for those in the role of elder.

On combined church and elders councils it's all too easy to allow the important administrative and property management work overshadow the pastoral work.

In a paper entitled *Expecting a future for eldership* the Moreton Rivers Presbytery asked churches to reconsider the valuable ministry of elders.



Rev Peter Lockhart.  
Photo by Osker Lau

Presbytery Chair Rev Peter Lockhart said it was crucial to recognise the role of elders.

"The Presbytery considers it strategically important to make efforts to develop lay people's capacity for carrying out Christ's

mission," he said.

The Moreton Rivers Standing Committee encouraged congregations to explore and recapture the vision of an empowered, educated, and inspired laity.



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Graham Clarke

June 20

Please set aside this Sunday to pray for the Together on the way, enriching community journey.



MODERATOR REV Bruce Johnson encourages congregations around Queensland to set aside 20 June to pray for the *Together on the way, enriching community journey* and the future of the Church in Queensland. More details and resources will be available on [www.ucaqld.com.au](http://www.ucaqld.com.au) closer to the date.

**June 1, 7.30pm. Ecumenical reconciliation service** at St John's Anglican Cathedral, Brisbane. A service of real partnership and reconciliation, bringing together Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Christians and other Christians from diverse churches. Hosted by Churches Together Indigenous People's Partnership (CTIPP) in QCT. Contact Georgia Corowa on 3369 6792 or [ctipp@qct.org.au](mailto:ctipp@qct.org.au).

**June 4. Introduction to Christology** - Who do you say that I am? Mary Burnett Presbytery hosts an introductory course on the life and ministry of Jesus Christ for people wishing to become a Lay Preacher, Lay Preachers wishing to undertake CEM, and anyone wanting to grow their faith and understanding of Jesus Christ. Contact Karyl Davison on 0437 600 869 or [ruralmin@bigpond.com](mailto:ruralmin@bigpond.com).

**June 5-6. Official opening of new Iona West hall**, Iona West Uniting Church, Brooks St West Mackay. Annual dinner and the dedication service guest speaker is Rev Bruce Johnson. Contact Euan McDonald on 4951 3869 or [eadymcd@bigpond.net.au](mailto:eadymcd@bigpond.net.au).

**June 15, 9.30am-12.30pm. UnitingWorld Synod Support Group** Qld meeting at Wesley House, 140 Ann Street, Brisbane. Contact Judith Finau on 3711 4622 or [ljfinau@dovenetq.net.au](mailto:ljfinau@dovenetq.net.au).

**June 19, 7am-12pm. Redcliffe Uniting Church June Fair** and Garage Sale, cnr Richens Street and Anzac Avenue, Redcliffe. Bric-a-brac, books, cakes, craft, floral art, furniture, plants, clothes and a BBQ. Contact Deirdre McNeil on 3283 1261 or [jdmcneil@ozemail.com.au](mailto:jdmcneil@ozemail.com.au).

**June 19, 8am-1pm. Canungra Uniting Church Fete**, 31 Appel St, Canungra. Crafts, pre-loved items, plants, and food stalls. Contact Lea Collins on [lco86107@bigpond.net.au](mailto:lco86107@bigpond.net.au).

**June 24, 10am-12pm. Annual Mission Thanksgiving Service** at St Andrews Uniting Church Ann St Brisbane city. Speaker Rosemary Young National Director Frontier Services Sydney. Bring lunch for fellowship after the service. Contact Jessie Logan on 32781868 or [adsli3sk@tpg.com.au](mailto:adsli3sk@tpg.com.au).

**June 26-27. Celebration of 125 years of ministry** by the Methodist Circuit and Uniting Church in Clermont and Capella with special guest Moderator Rev Bruce Johnson. Dinner on 26 June. Service on 27 June (10am) followed by time capsule opening and BBQ lunch. Contact David Ferguson on 4983 3445 or [david.ferguson@dovenetq.net.au](mailto:david.ferguson@dovenetq.net.au).

**July 3, 6.30-11.30pm. Cromwell College 60th Anniversary** of the Foundation Dinner celebration, Hillstone, St Lucia. Contact Anna East on 3377 1300 or [a.east@cromwell.uq.edu.au](mailto:a.east@cromwell.uq.edu.au).

**July 4, 10.30am-2.30pm. Cromwell College 60th Anniversary** Thanksgiving Service and lunch. Griffith Memorial Chapel and College Dining Hall, Cromwell College, Walcott Street, St Lucia. Contact Anna East on 3377 1300 or [a.east@cromwell.uq.edu.au](mailto:a.east@cromwell.uq.edu.au).

**July 10. Blue Care Dance for Fitness** at Municipal Hall Wynnum. Contact Sonia Kennett, clinical nurse, on 0416 082 158 or [skennett@bluecare.org.au](mailto:skennett@bluecare.org.au).

**July 18, 9am-12pm. Trinity Ipswich White Sunday Celebration** at 114 jacaranda rd, north Booval. Young people from the Sunday School will be conducting the worship. Contact Church office on 3812 3110 or [viliami\\_anamila@bigpond.com](mailto:viliami_anamila@bigpond.com).



Members of the Queensland UCAF at their national conference in 2009. Photo by Mardi Lumsden

## Continuing generational investment

By Phil Smith

THE UNITING Church Adult Fellowship is investing in the training of young people in ministry through a national bursary established last year.

The Joan Stott Bursaries will provide \$3000 to assist those committed to or who already are, studying in the field of leadership or theology, within the ethos of the Uniting Church.

The recipients of the two

bursaries must be under 35 years of age.

The allocations will be decided in June and announced in September with the bursaries to be used in 2011 to help with college fees.

Joan Stott is best known throughout the Uniting Church for her work in developing a program to train volunteers for a visiting program in which 500 people became visitors in 25 aged care facilities.

One of her passions has been the role of elderly people in their congregations and the way they contribute in unique ways to the life of their church.

A former UCAF National President, Ms Stott was secretary of the World Federation of Methodist women and participated in many World Federation and United Nations conferences held in various countries across the world.

## Interfaith seminar cancelled

DUE TO delays in processing his visa, Imam Zakaria was unable to reach Brisbane in time for the event planned for 27 May at Aspley Uniting Church entitled *Interfaith Understanding and Harmony - At Home and Abroad*.

The event was planned by the North Brisbane Interfaith Group, the Bald Hills Mosque, The Catholic Commission for Ecumenism and Inter-religious Relations and our Synod's Interfaith Relationships Committee.

Organisers hope the event will happen later in the year and apologise for any inconvenience caused.

Rev Don Whebell, Secretary, Queensland Synod Interfaith Relationships Committee

## Emmanuel music give away

ENOGERA EMMANUEL Uniting Church has a large quantity of print music which is available for free to any groups or individuals who would like to use it.

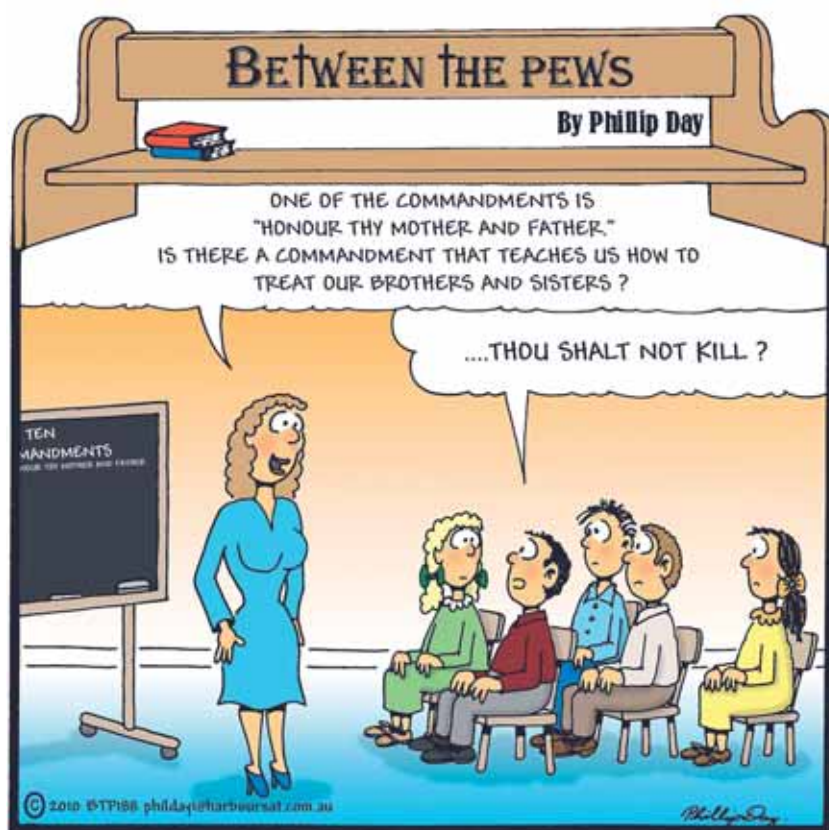
Some of this music has been previously donated to the congregation by other churches.

The fully catalogued and itemised collection consists of traditional church choir music.

In addition they have a range of secular and gospel music dating from the 1950s.

The catalogue can be found in the Worship section of [www.emmanueluca.org.au](http://www.emmanueluca.org.au).

For information contact Jim Kitchen on 3350 4658 or Claudia Hargreaves on 3355 9534.





# Breathe, See, Nourish, Energize: a Pathway to Healing

By Frances Murchison, Seabury Books, NY, 2008, RRP \$39.95

Reviewed by Rev Dr Marian Zaunbrecher, Associate General Secretary of the Queensland Synod

WHAT A little beauty this book is!

Francis Murchison is a "holistic health counsellor", and her book is a guide to living an holistic Christian lifestyle.

Using teachings from the scriptures she offers insights into how to live at the spiritual, emotional, mental and physical levels of existence.

In the first section "Breathe" she takes the reader on a pathway of meditation/prayer which not only utilises Christian insights, but also insights from eastern practices.

In the second section she encourages us to look at ourselves through the eyes of

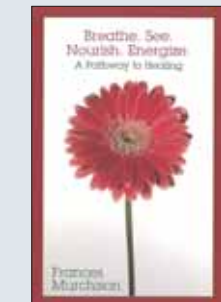
God's grace and abundance, and not in the expectations of our culture.

She then challenges the reader to eat well, nourishing themselves not only physically but mentally.

Our society can produce such anxiety in maintaining the perfect diet; potentially far more damaging than any foods we may eat.

As well-balanced individuals, energized through God's Spirit we can give back to others "Energize".

Ms Murchison claims the key to inner transformation lies in practising these principles as we breathe and embrace God's presence, seeing the truth that



we are loved, nourishing the body God has given us and experiencing life-giving energy; so we are led to our wholeness in Christ.

Each principle as outlined in the book is made practical by the exercises that are at the end of each chapter.

For anyone seeking to deepen their spiritual journey this is a book well worth reading.

## Prayers for an Inclusive Church

By Steven Shakespeare  
Church Publishing, 2009  
RRP \$29.95

Reviewed by Karyl Davison

FOLLOWING THE liturgical year, this collection of beautiful prayers consists of prayers for each Sunday and most major festivals in the church's year, plus some additional material each season.

The seasonal material includes three Eucharistic prayers. An index of scripture readings is also provided at the end of the book. This makes the collection very user-friendly.

Although the author comes out of the Church of England tradition, it is an excellent resource for the most part.

Some seasonal references will need adapting such as references to winter in Advent prayers but the majority of the prayers are appropriate

for the Australian context and ecumenical situations.

The prayers are very thought provoking and full of language that evokes fresh insights into our humanity and our relationship with God.

They are a delight to engage in.

*Prayers for an Inclusive Church* would be an excellent resource for anyone leading worship, or wishing to engage deeply and imaginatively in prayer.



## The Soulwork of Clay

By Marjory Zoet Bankson, Skylight Paths, Vermont, 2008, RRP \$34.95

Reviewed by Barbara Bailey, a retired Uniting Church minister

DESCRIBED AS a hands-on approach to Spirituality, this unique publication connects the reader with the earth, while getting in touch with creation.

The author, obviously a skilful and creative potter, unites her world of clay with the spiritual dimensions of life.

This is a teaching too, which shows the many facets of producing fine and unusual pottery, while leading the reader in an exciting journey in things of the Spirit.

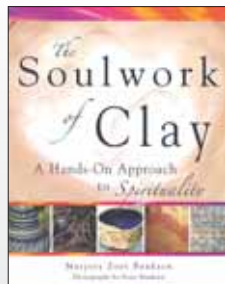
It leads you in sacred paths but does not use the expected language of God.

Ms Zoet Bankson began working with clay to quell the fear that her husband may not return from a tour of duty in Vietnam.

Many years later her new-found love led her to become a professional potter and a theological student, finding that it was not the pots that were being formed but herself.

The pages of this book speak of letting go, of the miracle of decay, of the power of listening, of the necessary reunion of body and spirit, and the communion she feels with all humanity and living things as she works with her hands and the earth.

This exceptionally insightful



book emphasizes the utter relevance of the biblical metaphor of the potter and the clay.

These pages could lead any open mind into vistas never before envisaged.

The relevance of questions raised make this a retreat leader's dream.

Highly recommended.

## The Katy Tree

By Dorothy Dart  
Zeus Publications, 2009  
RRP Unknown

Reviewed by Barbara Smith, a member of Buderim Uniting Church

LADY CATHERINE McGregor brings the seed of a tree growing in the grounds of her stately home in Scotland to Van Diemen's Land in the early 19th century.

Against all odds the tree does grow and blossom.

Katy, her brother Angus and his wife leave Scotland to make a new and better life in the colony where they are each granted land and begin to plan their lives as land owners among the gentry and convict population.

They have the advantage of wealth and title.

The family can claim to have a connection to Scots royalty.

These advantages prove their downfall in ways unforeseeable.

However just as the tree survived, grew and blossomed so does Katy after many frightening and chilling circumstances.

The plot is very plausible. The historical content is true to that which is known of early Van Diemen's Land.

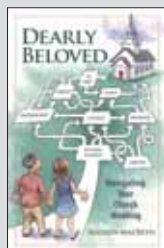
Ms Dart has produced a novel with a good story line, believable background and historical interest.

She is able to weave the elements of church social attitudes and physical struggle together to capture the readers' absorbed interest.

More reviews online at [www.journeyonline.com.au](http://www.journeyonline.com.au) including:

### Dearly Beloved: Navigating Your Church Wedding

By Andrew MacBeth, Church Publishing Inc, 2007, RRP \$15.95



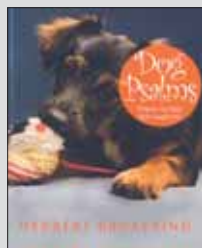
### The First Rainbow

Written by Lois Rock and illustrated by Sophie Allsopp, Lion Hudson, 2009, RRP \$19.95



### Dog Psalms: Prayers my dogs have taught me

By Herbert Brokering, Monarch Books, Oxford UK, 2004, RRP \$10.95



## Soul Purpose: Living the Life that God Lives

By J John, Authentic Media, 2008, RRP \$24.95

Reviewed by Jan Bryde, a member of Tully Uniting Church

I FOUND the comments on the back cover of the book very accurate. "This book will lead you from your prayer of commitment into the heart of the Christian life."

*Soul Purpose* covers many areas of Christian life such as prayer, going to church, and how the bible is relevant to the 21st century.

Mr John writes in a style that is easy to read. He uses little boxes on some of the pages with the main point repeated in the box so that it makes it

emphasised for the reader.

He uses real life examples to demonstrate how we can live the life of God.

I found the first few chapters of the book relate to the first few Alpha talks.

Every Christian could learn something from this book, although the back cover suggests it is for newly committed Christians.

*Soul Purpose* is a great read. All readers would find some challenges and gems within the pages.



## Books available from ...

Many of the titles reviewed in *Journey* are available from St Paul's Bookstore or Christian Supplies in Brisbane city. Books can usually be ordered from Vision Books at Broadwater Road Uniting Church, Mansfield, or may be available from [www.mosaicresources.com.au](http://www.mosaicresources.com.au)

# New role for rural pilgrim

REV KARYL Davison was inducted to a new role at Pilgrim Learning Community in May.

Ms Davison brings a rich experience of supporting and training lay people in the Uniting Church, both in New South Wales and in Queensland.

Her responsibility will include continuing involvement in the lay training weekends held across the Synod area in consultation with Presbyteries, developing resources to assist Presbyteries in the training

of Pastors, and producing a regular e-magazine called *Making the Connections*.

Ms Davison will continue to live in Biloela for the time being as an expression of Pilgrim's commitment to decentralised educational opportunities.

She will do this role half-time while continuing her role as rural ministry coordinator for the Central Queensland and Mary Burnett Presbyteries.

Right: Ms Davison at her induction. Photo by Osker Lau



## On Sunday 13 June please pray for Samford Valley Community Church

**SAMFORD VALLEY** Community Church has its roots in being an integral and active part of the community.

From the original, small wooden church to the present day building on Mt Glorious Road, the congregation has always sought to seek God's will in serving the wider community.

This has led to the formation of Girls' and Boys' Brigades, a thriving youth group, Sunday School (Kids for Christ), the annual garage sale, a craft group, Fellowship of the 3rd Age, numerous Bible study and prayer groups and three Sunday services.

The church has a genuine desire to share the good news of Christ through everyday relationships with people we meet in our community.

After farewelling our minister of 15 years, Rev Donald Mackay, our church welcomed

Rev Peter Armstrong.

We are excited to be led by God to discern our heart and vision for the future.

Please pray for:

- The leading of the Holy Spirit for those in leadership roles.

- Unity for the whole congregation in purpose and in discerning God's will.

- Another youth pastor to work alongside Mel Minichiello.

- Our local chaplains and the students, teachers and parents with whom they interact.

- A releasing of the Spirit in the lives of people to know and share the hope, healing and freedom we have in Christ with the wider community.

- Peter and Fiona Armstrong and family as they continue to settle in to life and ministry in Samford.

## On Sunday 20 June please pray for Clermont and Capella Uniting Church Congregations

THE CLERMONT and Capella congregations celebrate 125 years of Methodist and Uniting Church ministry on 26-27 June.

The weekend will include a dinner, a service celebrating God's faithfulness and a lunch.

The time capsule buried at the church centenary in 1985 will also be opened.

The congregations are eagerly anticipating the opportunity to meet with past members and ministers over the weekend.

Clermont (pop. 2000) and Capella (pop. 800) are mixed agricultural and mining towns located in the Bowen Basin.

They have a core population of long-term residents and a transient population of professionals and mining workers.

The congregations are active in ministry, working

both ecumenically and on their own.

In the past year a bi-monthly communion service has been started at the local nursing home, which has been well received.

We are also blessed to have great relationships with the local schools and have strong RE programs.

We look forward to sharing this weekend with the Fitzroy (North Rockhampton), Ipswich City and Emerald congregations who are partners with us in ministry, as the communities cannot support a stipended ministry agent and there has been a loss of Synod funding due to the financial crisis.

Please pray for this event, and for the continuation of ministry in congregations in similar situations around regional Queensland.

## On Sunday 27 June please pray for St Andrew's Yeppoon Uniting Church

SAINT ANDREW'S at Yeppoon is a wonderful church situated on the Capricorn Coast and, together with the Emu Park Uniting Church forms the Capricorn Coast Parish.

With predominantly an older congregation, over the past couple of years we have begun to see the "greening" of the congregation.

More children are coming and the youth group is growing.

The spiritual heart of the congregation is a weekly prayer meeting and a number of vital home groups. The twice-yearly fete provides a way to reach out to our community.

Our annual Church camp renews our faith and deepens our relationships.

Men's spiritual retreats (fishing trips with bible study, prayer and discussion) have proved popular.

A significant number of our members are involved in leadership of various community organisations.

Our minister Rev Ron Watson will be leaving in July. He will be missed.

Please pray for:

- The Holy Spirit's continued work among us.

- That we might find new ways to reach out to our community around us bringing the good news of Jesus.

- That the right minister hears God's call to the Capricorn coast and is open to that call.

- That more and more we enjoy God and that God would be glorified in our midst.

# Blue nurses deliver more than 70,000 visits

By Amy Pietsch

BLUE CARE nurses were hailed for their contribution to the Queensland community on International Nurses Day on 12 May with more than 70,000 home visits made in Queensland each month to those in need.

Blue Care Director of Community Services Linda Dawson said Blue Care nurses are at the forefront of community nursing and are recognised for their invaluable contribution not only as carers but also as clinical leaders, researchers and policy makers.

"There are more than 650 Blue Care community nurses across Queensland and northern New

South Wales and International Nurses Day is a great opportunity to reflect on the important work they do and say thank you," Ms Dawson said.

"Community nursing visits not only encourage maximum independence and enhance quality of life but they provide companionship which can have a profound positive impact on the lives of isolated clients.

"Our community nurses have come a long way since 1953 when the first house call was made to a patient by Sister Olive Crombie in an iconic blue uniform."

Blue Care is now one of Australia's largest providers of community health and residential aged care.



One of the first Wynnnum Blue Nurse Sister Wilma Kleindienst with the Morris car. Photo courtesy of Blue Care



# Perspective on asylum seekers

IN HIS letter *Lucky Country* (May *Journey*), Brian Kelly is concerned about the opinions of Church leaders regarding the plight of asylum seekers on Christmas Island.

How unfortunate that Mr Kelly's letter is an example of Archbishop Roger Herft's statement (April *Journey*) that "there was increased fear-mongering about boat people".

Comparing asylum seekers to moneylenders (sic) in the Temple and to intruders in homes demonises them.

His reference to border security at our airports

suggests that asylum seekers may well be terrorists, as airport security was increased to prevent, in particular, acts of terrorism.

I would be interesting to know how familiar Mr Kelly is with the plight of asylum seekers from, let's say, Kandahar or from parts of Sri Lanka.

Lastly, what is Mr Kelly's take on the thousands of visitors who overstay their visas each year?

John Broere  
Kuluin



## Put up your sword

HOW UTTERLY depressing to pick up a copy of *Journey* and once again see Anzac Day compared to Easter!

Jesus' last words to his followers before he was taken away to be crucified were, "Put up your sword. Those who live by the sword will die by the sword".

His followers took these words seriously for the first three hundred years at least, until an unholy alliance was formed with Emperor Constantine.

It seems that the way every chaplain writes (and I have read a number of articles by chaplains), soldiers only ever "give up their lives".

None of them ever seems to do any killing.

How silly of me not to understand what war is all about!

All these soldiers are out there throwing themselves in front of tanks, bullets and bombs.

I wonder who is firing at them?

Certainly not Christians!

That fact is like every good soldier, Christian soldiers are called upon to kill their enemies.

Getting killed by them is not the purpose of going to war - just a very real occupational hazard.

If we are to cease betraying the message of our Lord Jesus Christ, the main job for a Christian chaplain should be to explain to soldiers how to leave the military.

But, of course, they would not be paid by the military to do this.

They may even be arrested for it.

But I guess that is what happened to Jesus and all the apostles.

Funny that.

Eddie Gresha  
Kyborg



## Back page brings joy

I ENJOY picking up my copy of *Journey* each month.

It's always interesting to read the stories and opinions of others.

I really enjoy the back page, where a variety of people across the state are given a chance to share their thoughts.

Last month (May *Journey*) this page was particularly interesting.

Greg, Judith and Mobin were asked to comment on why they chose to volunteer.

Each story was genuine and a good reminder of how

individuals can make a difference. There was a line from Mobin's entry that struck a chord: "Volunteering gives me a new sense of worth and motivation".

The idea of having a purpose, of waking up each day with something to do, is very important.

Judith also made this point when she said that volunteering was a two-way process of giving and receiving.

All three stories touched on the necessity of hope as well as what can happen when you truly engage in someone else's life.

As Greg said: "Through this forming of relationships I am privileged to gain a sense of what people experience every day, the persistence of rejection, racism, marginalisation, being discounted".

These feelings of worthlessness must surely be the opposite of hope and motivation.

Thank you to these writers (and all back page contributors) for sharing their experiences.

Lesley Irvine  
Grange



## Supporting tough decisions

I WISH through you to congratulate Rev Iris Reedman and Jane Smith (letters April *Journey*).

Iris for compassion to a lady in very difficult circumstances and a very worrying time.

I think I met Iris at RBH last August when my 33-year-old daughter had a stroke and we

were impressed with her.

To Jane - congratulations on making a very difficult decision.

This would have required much soul searching and my heart goes out to you.

This decision would have been well informed and is in contrast to families who repeatedly have children with hereditary problems

(despite being advised not to) creating a burden for families and society.

My best wishes to you for a future perfect pregnancy and so glad Iris was of comfort to you.

Rosslyn  
McKendry  
Norman Gardens



## Sorry to all taken children

WITH RESPECT to your article on What does Sorry Day mean to you (May *Journey*), how often do we have to say sorry for so called wrongs of the past?

But if we as a church are going to get involved in the politics of this issue, let's embrace all children who were removed from their families at that time and not just those from the indigenous families.

If children were taken away from unmarried mothers today for the reasons that dictated this practice in former times, we would have a riot on our hands.

Those children who were taken from their mothers because they were unmarried would number thousands yet they don't even rate a thought by those in power for any hurt or anguish they have suffered from this practice.

I believe that churches should

become more focused on the great commission given by Christ, and leave the politics of these issues to those who have the care of secular issues. But if we feel we have the right to get involved, well, let's not have the obvious bias.

Merv Hurse  
Kallangur



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Letters may be edited due to space limitations.

Please keep letters to a maximum of 250 words.

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**30 Australian Hymn books** are available to any congregation that could use them. Please phone David Fryga on 3372 3398 at Forest Lake Uniting Church.

### Accommodation

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**London B & B.** Easy city access; lge double room, ensuite, self-catering. Reas rates. [rachel@brockleybandb.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:rachel@brockleybandb.fsnet.co.uk) Ph/Fax: 001144.2086946538.

Email your classified advertisements to [journey@ucaql.com.au](mailto:journey@ucaql.com.au)

## Farnsworth plays on

The Charles Farnsworth memorial touch football match, a Synod tradition, was enjoyed by spectators and players alike. The city vs country match started slow but game organiser Paul Clark crossed the line to make the final score: 3-1 to Country.



# What are your hopes for the Church in Queensland?

**Andrew Gillies**  
St Stephen's Uniting Church, Toowoomba

I hope that the Uniting Church in Queensland gets excited once more about the gospel and about sharing the good news that we have the gift of God's love in Jesus Christ.

**Trevor Gibson**  
Cleveland Uniting Church and Blue Care chaplain

That we will be an inclusive church uniting all in Jesus Christ and that we will continue our work in the area of multiculturalism and working towards reconciliation.

**Michelle Cook**  
St Luke's, Weipa, and Cape York Patrol

That we get on and do what God has called us to do.

**Rodney Minniecon**  
Zillmere Uniting Church

Listening to the concerns with the preamble and letting that pass, from an Aboriginal point of view I think it is the greatest church to be involved with at the moment.

I think there will be a wonderful future for the Uniting Church with us all walking together on the same level.

**Paul Clark**  
Burdekin Uniting Church

I hope the Church is willing to die so that it can rise again.



**V'aa Manu-Sione**  
Goodna Samoan Uniting Church

That it will continue and not die.



**Sue Mulcahy**  
Cooroy / Pomona Uniting Church

That it is relevant to all ages and all communities.



**Andrew Johnson**  
West End Uniting Church

That we live out our call to work for justice.



**Jenny Potter**  
Warwick - Killarney Uniting Church

Passion for Christ and the passion of Christ.



**Rod Fisher**  
Glebe Road Uniting Church

I hope the Uniting Church is a church where people are serious about their faith and really have the idea that we are the gathered community of God and that what we do can only be seen as part of what we do as the whole people of God.

**Nick Patselis**  
Sherwood Uniting Church

That we would really take seriously the call to advocate for youth, children and young adults. And that youth would be a vital and integral part of who we are.



**Anna Mulcahy**  
Cooroy / Pomona Uniting Church / Unity College

That we will stop sitting around and talking and start acting on the stuff that we are talking about. That it can be a place where people of all ages feel accepted and wanted.



**John Cribb**  
Yeppoon St Andrews Uniting Church

Mission and outreach. That is what the church did before the war and during all the centuries before that and that is what will keep it going.



**Gaile Hartridge**  
Forest Lake Uniting Church

I have huge hopes for the Uniting Church, as does God. He wants to encompass all of earth, all of God's people, and all the churches together in his one true name.



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