



The Hunter Presbytery

ENews

17 April 2024



*BEROWRA UNITING CHURCH
INVITES YOU TO*

HYMNFEST 2024

*AN AFTERNOON OF
SINGING CLASSIC HYMNS*

25 SATURDAY
MAY
2-4 PM

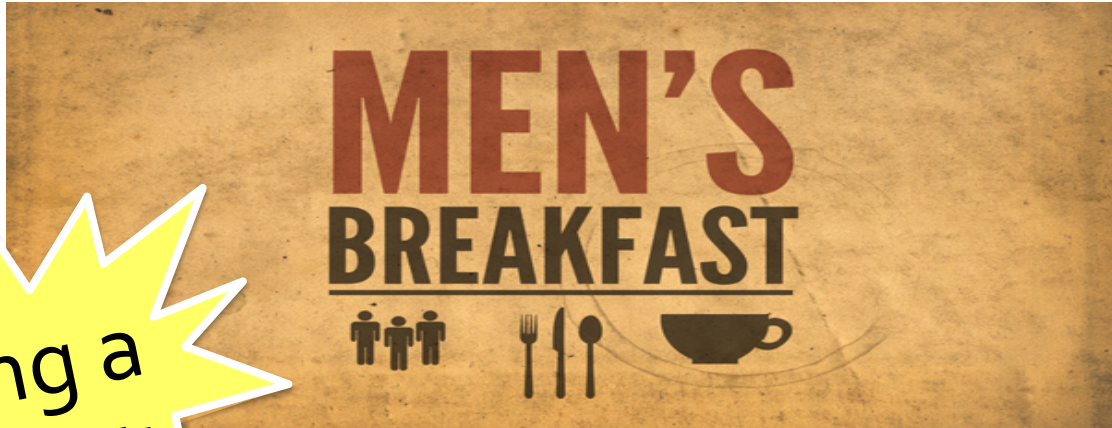
Berowra Uniting
Church
4-6 Alan Rd,
Berowra Heights

\$5 entry at the door

Light refreshments will
be served

For more information visit
berowra.unitingchurch.org.au





Bring a
Friend!

With Guest Speaker

Stuart Bell

Kairos Team Leader

I've Spent Time in Prison

Charlestown Uniting Church - 24 Milson Street

8am Saturday 20th April

Cost \$12 RSVP to Robert White

4943 2096 whiterigg@westnet.com.au by 17th April 2024

Kairos Prison Ministry started in Australia in the early 1990's. It is an interdenominational Christian ministry to and for prison inmates and their families. The mission of Kairos in Australia, is to bring Christ's love and forgiveness to all incarcerated individuals, their families, and those who work with them, and to assist in their transition to becoming productive citizens.

Our speaker Stuart, active in Kairos since 2004 working in the Hunter to provide courses to inmates in Cessnock and St Heliers Prisons. Stuart will give an understanding of what this ministry is aiming to achieve for the inmates and their families.

ANZAC DAY

Song Lyrics

We Pay Respect

Tune Eventide (Abide with me) AHB 502 Tis 586

With open hearts we come this Anzac Day
To pay respect, to ponder and to pray;
We would reflect upon the pers'nal cost
Paid by those grieving and by all 'the Lost'.

With open hearts we come this Anzac Day
To pay respect to those we can't repay;
As we recall, with sadness and with pride,
We voice our tribute tears can never hide.

With open hearts we come this Anzac Day
To pay respect, for some have lost their way;
Whose mangled souls and minds we can't restore;
Caused by the gross brutality of war.

With open hearts we come this Anzac Day
To pay respect to those whose days are grey;
Who still encounter such an empty space
And love that's lost – no other can replace.

As we depart, as ceremonies cease,
Let us resolve to live our lives in peace;
We can embrace this as God's only way;
Let love be born again this Anzac Day.

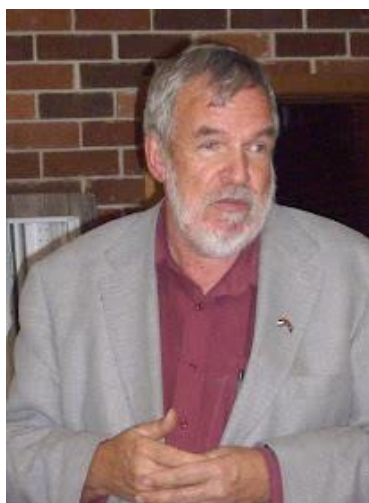
Being A Welcoming Church

Welcome

We're glad you're here!



Resources for hospitality and welcome



Is your church ready to welcome newcomers? Here is a workshop opportunity to develop principles and strategies that give welcome and hospitality to visitors to your church who may, in the future, become members. Led by experienced pastor Rev Neil Smith, this workshop will give you clear strategies that can be developed in your congregation that give real impact as a welcoming community of faith. Participants will be asked to attend a church of another tradition as part of their preparation and research, and to have the experience of being a newcomer themselves. This workshop will provide an excellent resource for church leaders and elders and help you turn your Sunday worship into a form of community engagement.

Saturday 27th April 2024

9.30am - 1pm \$20/15 conc.

East Maitland Uniting Church - 35 William St

Bookings and Further details here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/865180186227?aff=oddttdtcreator>

The Hunter Presbytery Uniting Church in Australia

In 2022 it was Black & White ... In 2023 it was Bold & Bright

This year you are invited to a:



'Tropical' Trivia Night

When:

**Saturday, 4th
May 2024**

Where:

**St Lukes Community Centre
Narla Rd, Belmont North**



Doors Open:
6:30pm

Trivia Begins!
7:00pm

Tickets:
\$15pp

Book a table of 8 at:
<https://www.trybooking.com/CQFCO>
Deadline for bookings: 27/4

! Bring !

Snacks & Drinks
For your table

**Lots of prizes to
be won!**

Gold Coins
For activities

Amazing Auction!

**Fresh & Fruity
Bake Sale!**

Enjoy on the night or take home

Optional:
**Come dressed tropical
style and/or colours!**

Eftpos Available





11th May

Uniting Climate Conference: Faith in a Better Future

Hosted by **Uniting Climate**

Date and time

Sat 11th May 2024, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm AEST

Location

Online/Centre For Ministry - The Uniting Church in Australia
16 Masons Dr, North Parramatta NSW 2151, Australia

Click on the below link for tickets and further information:

[Uniting Climate Conference: Faith in a Better Future | Humanitix](#)

Small is Beautiful



Thriving as a small Church



Presbytery Minister Graham Perry and Saltbush Scattered Community Minister Yvonne Ghalalas invite you to a time of deep listening and sharing together the challenges and opportunities of being a small church. Yvonne has worked extensively across intergenerational, multicultural, and depleted resource contexts as a social worker, high school teacher, and minister. She is passionate about creating authentic places of belonging through prayer, play, and ancient spiritual practices. Come and find inspiration together in this real and down-to-earth gathering which will include worship, Holy Communion, and sources of support for thriving small communities

Saturday 11th May 2024
10am - 1pm \$20/15 conc.
East Maitland Uniting Church - 35 William St

Bookings here:
<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/865935605707?aff=oddtcreator>

The Hunter Presbytery Uniting Church in Australia

Newcastle Herald Article

SITTING in the great hall of the University of Newcastle among the 800-strong crowd of enthusiastic supporters of the Hunter Community Alliance (HCA) at their founding assembly, I felt an almost 'church revivalist meeting' atmosphere.

There was a strong local church presence, particularly from the Catholic and Uniting churches. Indeed, there were some prayers, testimonies, and inspirational music: "We have the chance to turn the pages over." A charismatic pastor from the Uniting Church added a Billy Graham touch to proceedings.

More than 30 Hunter groups attended the two-hour meeting: four unions, eight churches, 14 community support, and four climate action. Each group leader was given a minute to explain why they were joining HCA. Some powerful statements were made. A Uniting Church pastor said: "We are standing for the marginalised in our community."

All these organisations have agreed to join and support the HCA formerly and backed this with subscriptions. This is to advance the interests of the much-neglected Hunter by advocating for government policies that will enable the region and our people to thrive, such as the long-promised, but still moribund, Hunter Transition Authority.

The HCA has done widespread research, which primarily involved 'listening' to the grassroots and identifying issues troubling the people of the Hunter. What stood out were concerns about housing and homelessness, the environment, and the greater need for industrial training. Policy questions were then sent to ministers well in advance. They were invited to speak and be accountable at the meeting because the chair said: "Decision-making is behind closed doors, and it needs to be out in the open".

Two ministers took part. Rose Jackson, NSW Minister for Housing and Homelessness, and Chris Bowen, the federal Climate Change and Energy Minister.

After they spoke, the chair put the speakers on the spot by restating the HCA's "policy asks" that fell into their remit, and then tallied the ministers on a simple list of "yes",

"no", or "considering it".

Jackson was most impressive, and certainly won on the 'clap-o-metre', even though she had the most difficult task, with 2000 homeless people in the Hunter. She was honest and admitted that the solutions to the housing crisis were long-term, but assured the meeting that it was at the top of the NSW government's agenda.

Jackson led with her strong suit by appealing to the sentiment of social justice in the room. The minister recounted that her first action was to end the previous cruel, long-standing government practice of aiding the homeless for a limited time and then making the most disadvantaged in the community apply to the bureaucrats for help all over again. She used this example to point out

the limits of a cabinet minister's power. That matter was her decision alone; however, in relation to the housing crisis, she did not have sole authority. The Minister for Planning, the Treasurer, and the Premier also have a big say, as does the entire cabinet and caucus.

These key decision-makers must consider the broader picture. Requiring developers to allocate too high a percentage of new unit development to affordable and social housing may have unintended economic consequences. We have probably seen the effects of such a connection in Newcastle.

For the last two stages of the Honeysuckle development, the housing component has already been handed, retrospectively by the Minns government, a 30 per cent affordable and social housing requirement. The whole

remaining Honeysuckle site has gone quiet - nothing is happening. If government regulation makes it even more difficult in a stressed market, the investors will walk away, exacerbating the housing crisis.

The Greens party now has a focus on housing. Abigail Boyd, MLC, spoke at the HCA meeting in the great hall, saying, "Yes, yes, yes" to everything that was asked of the government in the housing space. But as a minor party, the Greens will never have a chance to implement government policy. This is just as well, because, if adopted, their housing policies are more likely to scare off investors, making the current housing crisis worse.

Newcastle East's Dr John Tierney AM is a former Hunter-based Liberal federal senator



Remarkable Response from members of The Hunter Presbytery UCA to attend the Hunter Community Alliance Founding Assembly!



Moderator Rev Faaimata (Mata) Havea Hiliau and Presbytery Chairperson Rev Greg McConnell address the Uniting Church Members at Founding Assembly

183 members of the Uniting Church from across The Hunter Presbytery registered to attend the Founding Assembly of the Hunter Community Alliance the Newcastle University Great Hall. Those numbers created a huge impact on a full crowd of some 850 people seeking support for Hunter people impacted by the housing crisis, and the particular challenges faced in the ongoing transition to renewable energy industries.



Federal Minister for Climate Change MP Chris Bowen and State Minister for Housing MP Rose Jackson address the crowd.

The Alliance attracted the presence of the two key politicians on housing and the renewables transition, NSW Minister for Housing MP Rose Jackson, and Federal Minister for Climate Change MP Chris Bowen. The Alliance had negotiated particular assurances, particularly about social housing, and setting up a Hunter Transition Authority and funding for the Newcastle TAFE (for retraining).



850 strong crowd representing members of 38 organisations

Those attending and politicians alike marvelled at the unique experience of public democracy with such a positive spirit. Each organisation was individually welcomed with resounding applause invoking a sense of solidarity for the common good. Individuals shared their personal stories of struggle bringing home to politicians the urgency of the task to **bring** about changes that have real significance to the daily life of many **in our region**.



Some of the Uniting Church contingent!

To see more photos go to:

<https://mandrillapp.com/track/click/30039548/grapefruitcreative.pixieset.com?p=eyJzljoiWW0yWDNiUEN5SkctU1BvOG1FTGZiMWFVVG9vliwidil6MSwicl6IntclnVcljozMDAzOTU0OCxclnZcljoxLFwidXlsXCI6XCJodHRwczcpcXFwvXFxcL2dyYXBIZnJ1aXRjcmVhdGl2ZS5waXhpZXNldC5jb21cXFwvaHVudGVyY29tbXVuaXR5YWxsaWFuY2UxMHRoYXByaWwyMDl0XFxl1wiLFwiaWRcljpcjYxMmRhODgzNTBkYzQwNmI5ZGY2MDc4NDM0NjgwMjg1cXc1cmxfaWRzXCI6W1wiNGYxMWM1YWEzNjk0YzYwMTc2OGRiNGZIMWI1ZWl0ZWl2ZTc0MThmZFwiXX0ifQ>

<https://grapefruitcreative.pixieset.com/huntercommunityalliance10thapril2024postevent/>

Appeal for Gaza

The human catastrophe in Gaza is unrelenting. Even when the bombs stop falling, Gaza is broken. Homes and buildings are shattered and the suffering never ends.

How can we give tangible support to Palestine?

Truckloads of aid are slowly making their way into Gaza from Egypt. Up to 6 inspections of every load, with authorisation from the Egyptian Red Crescent, government and Israeli authorities are needed.

Operation Hope has identified a UK-registered charity which has been able to deliver their first truck-load of supplies into Gaza. The charity 'Refugee Biryani and Bananas' (RBB) has been able to purchase a truck load of supplies for Gaza. The truck departed Cairo on 9 February, and arrived in Gaza 3 weeks later after all the required checks and inspections.

The delivery was supervised by the Egyptian Red Crescent and the Palestinian Red Crescent. Trusted and reference-checked relatives and friends known personally to the charity organisers conducted the aid distribution in Gaza.

Donate to purchase supplies

Operation Hope Australia has launched an appeal to fund the next truckload of supplies. The will cost up to £35,000 (\$60,000). Limited supplies are sometimes available in Gaza, so these will also be purchased if possible.

Your donation will be handled securely and donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

Click on the QR code to donate.



OPERATION HOPE
Australia Ltd

ACN: 627532790

47 Coal Point Rd, Coal Point.

ENQUIRIES:

Erica Henley Ph:0409 505 945 Email: erica@operationhopeaustralia.com



The destruction in Gaza. Image AFP



Food distribution in Gaza by the UK charity, Refugee Biryani and Bananas. Image: RBB



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We are seeking a dedicated and passionate **Middle/Senior School** Teacher (English, Maths, PDHPE, HSIE) and a **Junior School** Teacher. Leadership position available for the right candidate.



Contact (02) 6543 1114 Visit [pacificbrook.nsw.edu.au/about/employment](https://www.pacificbrook.nsw.edu.au/about/employment)

Connecting on Facebook

Newcastle Hunter Uniting Churches



A space to post events, share news, and connect members of your congregation with training events and gatherings around the Hunter, as well as accessing resources provided by the wider Church.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/newcastlehunterunitingchurches>

Seeing a bigger picture for the Uniting Church in The Hunter



The Hunter Presbytery

Email: office@hunter.uca.org.au

Web: www.hunter.uca.org.au