



The Hunter Presbytery

ENews

7 March 2025

ASK Wellbeing is currently seeking to fill School Chaplain/Student Wellbeing Officer positions in 2 schools in the Hunter region and seek interested applicants.

Each position is a 2 day-a-week paid position and focusses on delivering wellbeing programs and/or 1-1 mentoring to students in the school. For further details about the role, refer to the information included here.

[NSW WE ARE HIRING 2024 ASK.pdf](#)

Appeal for Gaza

The human catastrophe in Gaza continues. Even as the world's attention turns to the Israeli conflict against Hezbollah, Palestinians struggle to find water in Gaza.

In Gaza, water is life. The widespread destruction of infrastructure by the Israeli forces has resulted in 97% of Gaza's water supply either destroyed, cut off or undrinkable. Water is now scarce and families are relying on unpredictable deliveries of aid.

'Refugee Biryani and Bananas' (RBB) has been able to source a tanker truck to deliver of 46,000 litres of water to 3,000 families. The RBB volunteers in Gaza have seen the overwhelming need which outstrips what RBB can provide.

Each family has only received 15 litres of water – barely enough for basic drinking needs, let alone cooking and washing.

Water is purchased by RBB from one of the water desalination plants in Gaza and transported across the territory to the most vulnerable people and those overlooked by other NGOs.

Donate to purchase water

Operation Hope Australia is able to support the work of RBB in Gaza. The cost of water is 10 litres for \$1 AUD.

- \$50 = 500 litres
- \$100 = 1,000 litres
- \$500 = 5,000 litres

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



Distributing water in Gaza



Children run to fetch water from the tanker.
Image: RBB



SALTBUSH GATHERING SINGLETON - 17 May 2025



Saltbush Gatherings are a time of Christian community with worship, hospitality, a meal together, conversation and challenge as part of exploring life and faith together.

This is a day of encouragement for lay leaders and those within the life of our rural and coastal church. Come along and invite others to also join in this time of community together and meet the larger Saltbush team - Tim, Mark, and Natasha.

You can also join online via Zoom - but please still register through our webpage events: <https://saltbushcommunity.uca.org.au/community-events/>

When: Saturday, 17 May 2025
9:30am to 3pm

Where: 2 Church Street, Singleton

Cost: None - but please RSVP for catering and printing purposes

Contact Yvonne on 0419 594 633 if you have any queries.

USEFUL LINKS

Website:

<https://saltbushcommunity.uca.org.au/>

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/Saltbushcommunity>

A prize for theology students studying history

The **Geoff Barnes Memorial Fund**, originally the Congregational History Fund and later managed by the now defunct Historical Reference Committee of the Uniting Church Assembly, has since 2017 been managed by the Uniting Church National History Society (UCNHS).

- It offers an **annual monetary prize** for the **best essay/assignment in history** submitted, as part of normal course assessment requirements, by an **undergraduate student** in any Uniting Church theological college. The amount of the prize is currently \$250 subject to increase as the fund grows.
- While essays about the Uniting Church or its precedent bodies are welcomed, the prize is not limited to those themes and **essays on any historical period or aspect of historical study are eligible**. Nominated essays should already have been assessed by the college and received a grade of 75% or higher.
- Nominations for the prize are made by a member of academic staff, with the consent of the student whose work is being submitted, and need to be received by the UCNHS by the end of the calendar year so that the award can be made in February of the following year.
- The essays will be evaluated by a judging panel set up by the UCNHS and made up of members of the society holding doctoral qualifications in history.

About Rev. Dr Geoff Barnes

The fund is named for Rev. Dr Geoffrey Barnes (1926–2005), in recognition of his significant contribution to the study and teaching of church history. Geoff was born and educated in Melbourne and ordained a Congregational Minister in 1951. In 1967 he moved to Sydney, to serve as Principal of Camden Theological College, and from 1975-1993 was Lecturer in Church History at United Theological College. He was the Moderator of the NSW Synod from 1987-1988, and chaired the North Sydney Presbytery for three years until 1996. He served as President of the NSW Uniting Church Historical Society from 1977-2000, working to increase its value for the church. His book, *Doing Theology in Sydney: A History of the United Theological College 1974-1999*, was published in 2000. Geoff was an enthusiast for the church, an encourager of students and a historian aware of the value of insight into the past for engagement with the present.

How you can be involved

The UCNHS is committed to promoting the Geoff Barnes Memorial Fund and growing the fund in order to increase the value of the annual prize. You can be part of this commitment by supporting the development of the prize through a monetary donation.

- Contributions of any amount to the Geoff Barnes Memorial Fund can be deposited into the following account: UCA Assembly Limited BSB: 032-828 Account number: 301985
- Please indicate 'Geoff Barnes Memorial Fund' with your deposit (and your own name unless you wish your gift to be anonymous).

Clive Jackson
Membership Officer
UC National History Society

Sources:

Uniting Church History and Heritage, June 2023 UCNHS
Church Heritage, Vol. 11.4 NSW UCHS



CALL FOR PAPERS

We invite papers, of twenty (20) minutes in length, that address the conference theme. Papers may focus on the period covering the life of the Uniting Church (1977-2025) and/or may also refer to the history of the three denominations that formed the Uniting Church, or of other denominations. While some may deal primarily with the work and achievements of church agencies, services and programs, we are also encouraging all papers to engage with some of the following questions:

- How, through their public presence, have the church/churches acted prophetically, both domestically and/or internationally, i.e. in ways that challenge and critique the surrounding culture in the light of gospel values?
- What alternative approaches have they offered in relation to range of issues, e.g. welfare, justice, equality, social inclusion, racism, the common good vs individual rights etc.?
- What changes in political, theological, sociological stances have driven different approaches over time?
- What have been the pluses and minuses, gains and losses resulting from these changes?
- Has the church failed to act prophetically at some times and in some circumstances, and what has driven this failure and resulted from it?
- How is the church preparing to maintain/strengthen its prophetic witness in the future?

Please submit proposals for a paper, with an abstract of no more than 300 words in length, by the end of March 2025 to the email address above.

Rev Ivan Roberts
Convenor, Conference Planning Group
UC National History Society

December 2024



WITH LOVE TO THE WORLD

With Love to the World is a daily Bible-reading resource published by the Uniting Church in Australia. It is based on the *Revised Common Lectionary* that is used in churches around the world. For each day, there is a daily bible passage, with a short commentary, a suggested hymn, a brief prayer, and a question for further consideration.

With Love to the World is edited by the Rev. Dr John Squires, who now lives in active retirement in The Hunter Presbytery (phone 0408 024 642; email editorwlw@bigpond.com). Writers are drawn from right across Australia, from a wide variety of ministry contexts, and from a range of cultural backgrounds. Many issues contain contributions by First Nations writers.

Using this resource on a daily basis means that you come to Sunday worship ready, through your own preparation, to engage actively with the Word of God as it is proclaimed in worship. There are four issues published each year.

You can subscribe to *With Love to the World* on your phone or iPad via an App, for a subscription of \$28 per year; just search for ***With Love to the World*** on the App Store, or ***UCA—With Love to the World*** on Google Play. For the printed hard copy resource, also available at \$28 for a year's subscription, email Trevor at wlwuca@bigpond.com or phone +61 (2) 9747-1369.

With Love to the World

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



Email: office@hunter.uca.org.au

The Hunter Presbytery

Email: office@hunter.uca.org.au

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