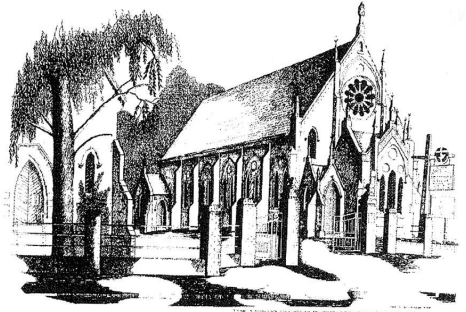




Uniter



Armidale Uniting Church Annual Congregation Meeting 2017 Report

August 2017

Chair of Congregation

I commend to your reading these compiled annual reports which give us an important insight into the breadth and depth of activities which are going on in our midst, day and night for 365 days of the year. There is no doubting the commitment of individuals to activities which span worship, pastoral care, community service, outreach, stewardship and administration. There is a challenge for us to maintain the vitality of all these areas of service along with strong links to the whole body of the congregation – primarily through our shared time together Sunday by Sunday. In this way we can celebrate our God-given unity and diversity - the rich life God is calling us to and gifting us with. Because we believe that the church is the body of Christ, each member with their own function vital to the whole; that the Holy Spirit is active among us, for example through awakening talents and guiding our direction.

Through the rich talents among lay preachers and worship leaders, and retired ministers (to whom we are greatly indebted), we enjoy a range of worship styles enabling individuals the opportunity to connect in a range of ways. I hope that these will allow individuals to find familiar points of connection, and also to sometimes be stretched or challenged in new ways. Of course it may also be that at times worship is not to an individual taste – welcoming diversity is not always going to be comfortable, but hopefully we can accommodate the needs of others alongside our own.

The inclusion of children in our worship is one important aspect of welcoming diversity – celebrating children and their families. Having children in our worship space throughout the service is a key ele-

Chair of Congregation

ment of communicating their importance to us – indeed to the kingdom of God. My hope is that we will not simply think of the children's space as the "back corner" but actually as being at the heart of the congregation, included not just in a segment of the service but in all that we do. The little gestures and attitudes that flow from all our welcoming hearts are important in making this into reality.

At this time, we are looking forward keenly to the arrival of Rev. Joanne Smalbil and her husband Lou. This process has taken time, but thoroughness is critical. Let us all make sure that we are looking to assist their transition and offer a warm welcome. One small way is to wear your name tag – the office is taking orders at a small cost if you need one.

In Christ, we have much to be thankful for and much to look forward to. Let us continue to meet and share together, building up each other and the whole, and on the solid foundations of our faith, move onwards in the hope to which we are called.

Lindsay Brash, Chair of the Congregation.

From the Council Chair

As we finish the year we are pleased that the process of calling a Minister has reached the point where Rev Jo-anne Smalbil has accepted the call from the Armidale Congregational, Meeting on 16 July, and hopes to move to the position on November 1. The position still needs to be approved by PRC when it meets in August.

During the two years that we have been without a minister, we have been very blessed to have a Worship Committee which has provided us with morning services of great diversity and quality. Other aspects of Church life and involvement have been similarly maintained by relevant active committees and a diligent Office Manager.

Our advertisements for a Child and Family Worker did not result in a suitable applicant for the position. This issue may be raised again after Rev Jo takes up her placement.

The paper on our Ageing Congregation which our Treasurer produced in December, highlights issues facing this and many congregations throughout Australia. The Working Group on our Ageing Congregation hopes to look at future directions for Armidale Uniting Church and coordinate with other groups in the church to share the focus on ways to address the issues which arise from this situation.

An associated issue is the declining level of giving. Recent analysis by our Treasurer shows that our current financial position means that paying a Minister will require significant drawing on reserves each year. The recent receipt of the proceeds of Roger Brown's estate has made this issue less urgent in the short term. However, it is clear that to maintain a ministerial position into the longer term, we need a higher level of giving.

From the Council Chair

During the year we have been blessed to have had special services for the Christmas season, the Easter season, and for the 40th anniversary of the Uniting Church. We have maintained contact with our Presbyterian neighbours, shared in Social Justice Studies over a weekend, and participated in an ecumenical Carol Service with music arranged by David Gee.

The UNE Mission has faced difficulties this year as the trimester system and the time required for students to be off campus makes regular contact difficult, and reduces the time that our current leaders can be available at the Uniting Church centre on campus. This issue, in conjunction with the limited Church participation by residents of St Andrews House, requires prayerful thought and action by members of our congregation as we seek to engage more actively with students at UNE.

Many thanks go to the Standing Committee who have looked at many aspects of our Church life and brought new ideas to Council to explore. Thanks to Anna Vlasoff for all her secretarial work, to Susan McMichael for taking over when Anna was unavailable, to Russel Glover for detailed financial reports and papers on related issues.

In addition, my thanks go to Henry Raymond who is a very supportive deputy chairperson, and Lindsay Brash as Chair of Elders and Congregational Chairperson. I thank all of them together with the five other members of Council for their contribution of time and ideas that are helping build a positive future for our Church.

Margaret Waters – Chair of Church Council

About Armidale Uniting Church

As at August 2 on the Armidale Church Roll, there are 276 households and 343 individuals.

Of the people who have specified their membership on the Roll, there are 153 who have not acknowledged membership; Confirmed members 114 ; 47 are Baptised; 14 are Adherents ; 10 are Members in Association and 2 are Ordained Ministers.

Since the last Annual General Meeting in June 2016 (14 months)

Funerals

Betty Joan Killen	13 July 2016
Melvin Arthur Yeomans	1 August 2016
Margaret Helen Fleming	10 August 2016
Stanley Ernest Wolfenden	16 August 2016
Thelma Jean Nay	22 August 2016
Ian Scott Reid	12 August 2016
Vaimarasi (Rossi) Fesaitu Leayr	19 September 2016
Lorna Julia Brennan	20 September 2016
Ronald Bruce MacGregor	4 November 2016
Barbara Louise Hong	20 January 2017
Ivan James Edmunds	20 January 2017
Peter Christian Frederick Kemper	16 February 2017
Alison Fay Gosling	31 May 2017

Baptisms

<i>Fonua Tafea Talakai</i>	<i>23 April 2017</i>
<i>Seini Fatai Talakai</i>	<i>23 April 2017</i>
<i>Eva Athena Talakai</i>	<i>23 April 2017</i>

Elders' Report

In 2017, we have 10 Elders elected from the congregation, a slight reduction over recent years. While some Uniting Churches no longer have Elders, or do not have a separate Elders meeting, our experience is that these roles and functions are still valuable.

The role of Elders is detailed in the regulations but is chiefly about spiritual oversight and support of the congregation, and ensuring that spiritual considerations are not neglected in the councils of the church.

The Elders meet in most months of the year on the third Tuesday – this is useful for feeding into the Church Council meeting on the fourth Tuesday. The meetings are a time for worship and prayer, as well as mutual support and encouragement. This environment is also mutually supportive of the Minister when we have one. Pastoral concerns can be shared confidentially, and pastoral needs addressed, such as communion for shut-ins and worship in aged care facilities. Our Pastoral Care Co-ordinators, Kim Bastock and Lyn Jobson are a valued part of this.

At a time when our ageing congregation means that there can be many members who are in need, ill or grieving, the pastoral task is always challenging.

We also try to keep a finger on the pulse of the outreach happening in the congregation, and activities happening beyond our church, such as Emmaus and Kairos, so that we can facilitate practical and moral support, and encourage active involvement by members.

Lindsay Brash, Chair of Elders

Children in Church

Over the last twelve months, the following congregation members have been involved with either providing activities for children during church time or for providing support for children to be involved in worship: Elisabeth Dell, Kirsty Walker, Elizabeth Ellis, Isabella Ellis, Celia Smith, Anita Brown and Anna Vlasoff.

We have continued to support a small number of children: between two and six children, aged between 2 and ten, come each week. Of course a larger number of kids would be wonderful but the children we have coming, are getting something important out of what we do. They enjoy coming each Sunday and whether we are at the back of the church or up in the lounge, they are involved in the church experience.

Kirsty Walker and Elisabeth Dell provide a craft activity and chat for the kids each week (if able), sharing the load between them, taking each week as it comes. Elizabeth and Isabella are strong supporters and Elizabeth is great with the music, having two or three songs/choruses for the kids, which they try to sing for a number of weeks so the kids can learn the words and feel confident before moving on to new songs. They all love having the instruments that Elizabeth brings with her and make a really joyful noise.

Those who support ministry to children within the church think it is important that our worship includes people of all ages; further, that children's activities and involvement be integral in worship. Worship leaders are encouraged to make the second hymn accessible for children so that the children feel part of worship.

Children's Talks have continued to be an important part of worship during term time and are appreciated by the children and adults alike. It is a time which brings the children into focus and allows people of all ages to be introduced to the theme for that week.

Children in Church

The children's ministry team, for various reasons, has not met to plan together for a number of months, however, we remain committed to providing a place for children in church to worship, learn and be loved.

It should be noted that some of us, and others within the congregation, retain a desire to appoint a children and family worker. We understand that following advertisement of this position there were no suitable applicants.

Perhaps this appointment could be revisited once our new minister is in place.

Anita Brown
(on behalf of the
Children in Church team)



Jobson's Bible Study

A dedicated group of between 6– 10 people meet each Thursday evening at 7.30pm to study our Bible using material from KYB— ably lead by Warren McElroy. This group enjoys the structured but relaxed manner in which the study is run, and each participant is encouraged to share their interpretation of the material studied.

The evening concludes with prayer followed by a cup of tea or coffee. We look forward to many years of these meetings—want to join us? You are most welcome!

Lyn & John Jobson

Adult Fellowship

In 2016 we decided to combine both Afternoon and Evening fellowships into one group. This has proved very successful and in 2017 we have around 12 in attendance each meeting, held on the second Thursday of the month at 1.30pm in the Lounge.

At our February Meeting we a quiz activity which everyone seemed to enjoy.

In March we had our AGM. Elections of Officers took place and the results were as follows:

President: Pat McGrath,

Vice President: Beryl Hamel

Secretary: Cheryl Green

Treasurer: Lyn Jobson

Interchurch Reps Lyn Jobson, Beryl Hamel

At our March meeting the activity was home remedies and some interesting ideas were tabled. In April Meeting, we had a visit to NERAM and enjoyed a lovely afternoon tea together. We did intend to go to Uralla, but the coffee shop was closed. In May we enjoyed Brenda Faulkner showing us some of her excellent paintings. Brenda is a very talented lady. This was enjoyed by all. In June, Barbara Wilson came along once again to demonstrate Tai Chi. This is always an enjoyable afternoon with relaxing exercise.

July saw our regular Christmas in July and we had an amazing and fabulous 38 people turn up to lunch. Sue McMichael thanked Kim & Pat for organising the event and thanked all members who cooked for the occasion.

Adult Fellowship

In August we are looking forward to having Mary Roach come and talk about her lace making.

Our Crazy Whist is still continuing with Pat and Warren McGrath organising this on the third Saturday of alternate months. This month we had 12 in attendance and all had an enjoyable afternoon. This continues to raise funds for our group.

Pat McGrath, President



Know Your Bible

Our group of 10 ladies from several different churches in Armidale meet weekly in term time, and enjoy the hospitality of Marlene Burrows' home.

We meet to study the Bible, and support each other in prayer and friendship. Our studies are ably prepared by biblical scholars for CWCI a world-wide organisation .

Generally we cover four different parts of bible teaching each year. Coming from different backgrounds, we share a wide range of views but all agree that our weekly studies help us grow in our Christian journeys.

Our group is one of four that presently meet in Armidale .

Audrey Peters



Kairos Outside for Women

Kairos Outside For Women New England (KOWNE)

Our Armidale UC supports the ministry of Kairos Outside for Women (KOW) which was developed as a related ministry of Kairos Prison Ministry Australia for those *in* prisons. Kairos **Outside** for Women was especially set up to provide loving and unconditional support for any female relative or friend of a current or former inmate who is *in* prison. The logo above was designed to symbolise women on the outside of prison looking in. It is often the case that close female relatives and friends of those in correctional centres feel that they also are 'doing time' along with the inmates. It is thus important for them to know that they are not alone and that there is a community of Christian people who understand their situation and care about them.

KOW is now operating in 13 regions of Australia and Kairos Outside for Women New England (KOWNE) is one of these regional operations which organises its special Weekend away in October each year. KOWNE first began in our region in 2012 and some members of our congregation were involved on the team then and are still part of the team. It's a large team of 32 from various New England towns, and includes four chaplains (Jean Bell is one). Each member has special roles to play. Kay Harman is leading the KOWNE team for 2017, its sixth year.

The theme for this year's Weekend, once again held at Lake Keepit, is **Compassion**, as illustrated so beautifully by the part of our chosen verse from **Isaiah 40: 11**, which says, ***He will carry the lambs in his arms, holding them close to his heart.*** The dates for the Weekend are 20 – 22 October and, in preparation for the Weekend, there will be two team training weekends held in Tamworth before this date.



Kairos Outside for Women

In accord with the intent of *Kairos*, a Greek word meaning 'special time', Kairos Outside for Women begins with a no-cost-to-guests weekend designed to create for them a special time and place where there is a safe, caring and supportive environment and where they can meet with other women who have been or who are going through 'life on the outside'. It is a place where unconditional love, acceptance and support are given in large measure and spiritual growth is fostered. It is also designed to promote ongoing participation in support groups and regular get togethers. It differs from other Christian-based times away in that it is designed for both Christian *and* non-Christian guests. It is particularly aimed to provide ample opportunities for the guests to be open about themselves and see what life can be like in a loving, caring Christian community. Importantly, anything that occurs on this special weekend stays there as matters of confidentiality are fiercely protected.

As a registered not-for-profit charity, Kairos Prison Ministry Australia is not government funded and thus depends greatly on the generosity of volunteers, friends and other charitable organisations. If anyone is seeking any more information about this ministry or knows someone who might benefit from being involved, please contact the Armidale Uniting Church office on weekday mornings between 10.00-12.00 (Ph: 02 67 72 3233) or email the office (admin@armidaleunitingchurch.org.au). For more information on Kairos Outside for Women Australia see their website: <http://kairos.org.au/what-we-do/kairos-outside/>

Your prayers for this ministry, especially our KOWNE activities for this year, will be warmly received!

Kay Harman Leader, KOWNE # 6

2016– 17 Finance Report

For the financial year ending 30 June, 2017 the Church budgeted for a surplus of approx. \$44,000. The size of the surplus reflected savings from the absence of a minister, offset in part by higher budgeted property expenses - painting of the church and vestry to remediate some severely damaged surfaces, and the (potential) upgrade of the kitchen of St Andrews House. The actual estimated surplus is approx. \$90,000. The improved result was in large part due to uncompleted property tasks (\$30,000) and receipt of an unbudgeted \$10,500 grant for the Winter Warmth project to be implemented in collaboration with the Armidale Neighbourhood Centre. This initiative was championed by Graham MacKay.

During this year the Church has continued to tithe 10% of its budgeted offerings to the Uniting Church NSW Synod - an amount of \$9,800. These funds are not tied to any particular Living is Giving project. In addition, the Church has contributed to a number of appeals such as Christmas Bowl, and collections responding to specific crises.

The Christmas Day Lunch was supported by approx. \$4,000 in donations including \$3,000 from One of a Kind (previously Lifeline).

Youth and scripture activities have been supported with \$1,000 donation to Armidale Youth Futures and \$500 to Schools Religious Education in Armidale.

Ongoing maintenance of the significant property assets of the Church has continued. Fortunately, these expenses are offset by income received from renting of the Church premises, the Yallambee Ave manse and St Andrews House. Keeping abreast of the maintenance requirements of a large and aging group of assets remains a challenge.

2016– 17 Finance Report

The Church has been blessed by the receipt of a substantial bequest from the estate of Roger Brown. Over \$423,000 was received in June 2017. This gift provides a valuable opportunity for the Church. An initial period of three months has been set aside to consider how best to utilise these funds. In the meantime, the funds have been invested in a term account.

The Church's financial reserves have continued to grow this year as a result of the surplus generated this year, and from the Roger Brown bequest. Over \$800,000 is now invested in term accounts.

However, the appointment of a Minister of the Word comes with significant financial challenges. The all up cost of a minister is approx. \$108,000 p.a. Unfortunately, these costs are likely to cause our future budgets to run at a significant deficit, leading to a run-down of reserves unless some significant change occurs. The Church is already feeling the effect of declining giving and, at best, static congregation numbers.

2017-18 will bring many blessings to our Church including the opportunity to consider prayerfully ways forward, that enrich members of the congregation, grow the Church and respond to issues associated largely with an aging congregation. Our financial situation provides a wonderful opportunity to address these concerns in a positive manner.

Russel Glover

Further, expanded Budget figures for the 2016-17 budget are a separate document.

Carevan

Uniting Church Team at Armidale Carevan

A group of willing Uniting Church volunteers are part of the community Armidale Carevan, which was initiated by the Christian Outreach Centre in 2017 to support people in need. The Carevan operates twice a week, at COC on Tuesdays and at our Youth Centre each Friday evening. A wholesome hot meal is prepared by Work For the Dole workers and served from 6.00 -7.45pm.

All members of our team have completed the necessary training including Food Handling, and Working with Children protocols.

Our team has found it is a time not only to provide food to those in need but also to support and befriend those who regularly attend. In the summer we meet out in the garden, and in colder/wetter months, in the Youth Centre.

Extra salads and sandwiches provided by the UNE Cafe are also much appreciated and supplement takeaway food.

Additional volunteers are most welcome. Please contact our team coordinator Jenny Sholl.

Jenny Sholl.

Tuesday Group

This is an inter-denominational group which has been running for more than twenty years which has been organised, for more than fifteen, by Margaret Barger (phone 6772 7825). The group has about a maximum of twelve women, which we have. We meet for approximately an hour. We discuss books on religion, doing a chapter a week. Diverse opinions are expressed. There is acceptance, confidentiality, humour and academic challenge which we all appreciate, as we each journey our spiritual path.

Margaret Barger

Sunday Explorer

Sunday Explorer is an outreach to the Community, which has been going for nearly ten years. Each Market Sunday, we have tea and coffee, sausages and bread. Brenda makes marvellous scones with cream and jam each month.

We provide community, fellowship and outreach, before the Market Sunday Concerts. All are welcome: we're always happy to welcome people to the Market Sunday Concerts. We enjoy seeing new people coming, and greeting regulars, and everyone enjoying our sausage sandwich and scones.

Between five and eight people assist with the preparation, organising and cooking each time. It is a very enjoyable and worthwhile fellowship to many 'regulars' and visitors from around and beyond Armidale. Numbers have varied quite a lot this year, but around \$720 has been raised for the food cupboard.

In addition, more than \$850 has come from donations to the concerts themselves after paying the performers, and this now goes into general funds.

Graham MacKay



The Sunday Explorers and some of the delicious fare they create





UNITING @ UNE

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sion staff

ith this report is a short Newsletter on our work at UNE that revolves around our congregation and mis-

Our History – over the past few years we have moved from a Chaplaincy model to one based on student Mission workers during 2015 and 2016. This was a very positive move and led to successful activities. Some include;

- running the 12 weeks ALPHA course - 12.30pm, Sundays at the Youth Lounge. It is a Back to Basics Christianity course on what Christianity is all about. This also involved running some sessions at various people's homes.

- Some ALPHA sessions also occurred at the great weekend out at Yar-randoo Centre in the New England National Park in 2016 where 18 attended, enjoying the food, walks and painting and in sharing with others.

- There was an upgrade in the basketball facilities in the Youth Centre which made playing basketball and Indoor Football so enjoyable

- We were able to assist students settling in Armidale that was also helped in developing a Facebook page.

- There were opportunities for students to take part in Sunday Ser-



UNITING @ UNE

vices while our Mission worker was able to attend a meeting in Sydney of workers and chaplains to help chart new ideas for the future.

- It was encouraging to see overseas students discover the Christian faith for the first time and taking a new faith to explore further when they got home with a Bible they could follow in their own language.

We invite you to become a **PA** for our ministry at UNE. Yes a

PRAYER ...ACTION volunteer

Firstly, **TELL it HOW it Is;**

The current situation in 2017 has been very disappointing;

In making contact with students, way back in Orientation week

Trying to provide programs and support in the second half of the year with the Trimester system

In trying to commence a viable ALPHA discussion outreach group

In having continuity with nurses, teachers etc who are off campus for long periods which makes it difficult to find more potential leaders

In not able to find enough students to attend that great weekend at Yarrandoo

How do we get back to Basics Christianity? Ideas?

PRAYER – the above list provides issues to bring to prayer

ACTION – from the ideas in the Newsletter – **We are seeking input from the Congregation for the rest of 2017 and would like you to contact the University Group—Graham, MacKay, Nolene, Jeanne, Mar-**



UNITING @ UNE

guerite, if you can do any of these things

I'd be willing to organise a meal at my abode
for some students?

I'd be willing to "cook a storm" – at a cook-
ing group to

prepare Aussie food

I'd be willing to help with sports supervision in the evening in the
Youth Centre

What else would you like to do?.....



Our Mission Workers:

I am **Lilly Avas Neyaupa** a 2nd year Master of Nursing student and
will be completing my course at the end of 2018. I thank and praise
God for the call to work as a mission worker by your congregation.

I am from Goroka, PNG, have a husband and three children, ages
21yrs, 18yrs and 11yrs old. I have been a member of the Sipiga Sev-
enth Day Adventist Church in Goroka. I have had many leadership
roles and now a Mission worker at UNE. I would like to run the AL-
PHA course again.

***Don't forget - we are at the Uniting Church Centre (6773 3739)
attached to the English Language Centre.....***

I am **Amanda Waninga** and I finished my Masters last year in IT and
currently working part-time at the UNE Computer Centre. I'm cur-
rently deciding on my plans for the future.

We loved it in 2016 when we were able to visit homes and



UNITING @ UNE

enjoy friendship and different types of food. If you would like to offer some hospitality and fellowship it would be marvellous and a great opportunity to bring interested friends and build relationships.

Can you offer to organise a meal at your home for some students?

There are over 200 TOWNIES in rented accommodation in town who are studying out at UNE. There has been interest in providing some special opportunities for them with the Youth Centre facilities. This could involve two nights for competitions in Basketball and Indoor Soccer – well organised!.

Would you like to help? Well Des Bowlay (0427 102 867) is working with UNE on various opportunities.

We welcomed the new residents of St Andrews House earlier in the year. It was a wonderful afternoon – the food was great as was the energy for Basketball and Soccer.



The request is that we run some cooking classes introducing Aussie cuisine. Yes, some of our international students have requested some cooking classes that will help them prepare and share some Australian dishes! **We would like to organise a once-a-month cooking class in response to this request.** We would hope to use the Youth Centre's kitchen where possible, with students helping.

Please consider offering to prepare your favourite family dish and provide the recipe; the students and all of us would be greatly strengthened by your participation, generosity and variety!! **We can provide you with ingredients. Just email us if interested.**



Please pray for this university ministry

Graham MacKay

Sound Desk & Data Projector

I would like to thank all people on the sound desk and data projector rosters. Every service has had data and sound that has required it. I would particularly like to thank Colin Sholl for helping out when the rostered people have not been present.

An issue has been that people have not found someone to replace them when they have not been able to fulfil their roster commitments. Still, members of the congregation have stepped in and assisted. We would particularly like to thank Pat McGrath. New members are needed, especially for the sound desk roster.

We would like to welcome Damian Larcombe to the data projector roster. Sue McMichael is to be thanked for her preparation of the PowerPoint presentations.

Anna Vlasoff

Emmaus

Emmaus during 2016 –17 has progressed well. IN 2016 Northern Inland had the combined men's and women's walk at PLC in Armidale. A large contingent from Armidale Uniting Church were involved both on the walk and behind the scenes

If there is anyone who would like to go on the Emmaus walk, please see either Brenda Faulkner (0402 147 896) or Chris Mitchell (0407 100 048) , and they will be happy to help.

Brenda Faulkner

Community Garden

It is now 5 years since we established the Garden and it has produced well over that time even though garden pests and frosts can slow things down.

We still only have a few people regularly involved, it would be great to have some more from the general community and the church.

The water tank that we installed some years ago is a real success as it supplies nearly all of our needs and we have a watering roster which seems to work quite well. If anybody would like to be on this roster let Brenda, Graham, Michael or Henry know.

We have a reasonable quantity of garden tools and hoses but we could do with a few more, so if anyone has anybody has any of these items they don't use it would be great to add them to those now in the Garden shed.

The Garden area is a very pleasant place to be, just to sit, wander around or have a swing, in fact some groups, children and individuals from the general community do just that.

Produce from the Garden goes to those who come to the Church for food, members of the Church Congregation and the Gardeners. The garden has made a small amount of money from donations which goes back into the garden and we are able to buy plants and other things

Winter is still very much with us, so things are growing fairly slowly but plants include broccoli, peas. broad beans, lettuce and rhubarb. Spring isn't that far away and there will be more opportunity for planting then.

Henry Raymond—Convenor

St Andrews House Student Residence

St Andrew's House is an intentional Christian student residence in the Rusden Street manse. Established in January 2010, St Andrew's provides accommodation for up to six post-secondary students who wish to live in a supported community with Christian oversight.

Currently the House has five residents – Lili, a Nursing student from China (joined SAH in Jul 15); Blessing, an Agriculture student from Nigeria (Jan 17); William, an Agriculture student from Tanzania (Jan 17); Patty a Nursing student from Taiwan (Feb 17); and, Marcia, an Agriculture student from Timor Leste (April 17).

Now in its eighth year, St Andrew's House has been home to 31 students. The average stay is currently about 62 weeks, with the shortest around 18 weeks and the longest 136 weeks. The students greatly appreciate the support provided by the Church.

At present the current students have limited engagement with the Church. This disconnect has been exacerbated by Bev Saunders and George Henderson unavailability to continue their work with the Alpha program. New ways of bringing the residents into closer contact with the Church need to be tried.

The House Committee would be happy to have the involvement of anyone who has a little time and an interest in this important Church mission. Please talk to any of the Committee members (Marguerite Jones, Airlie Bell, Noelene Raymond, Lindsay Brash). Your prayerful support is also welcome.

Russel Glover, St Andrew's House Committee

Alwyn Jones Community Service Award

Once again the Alwyn Jones' Community Service Award was held in conjunction with New England Volunteer Week Awards. The presentation of these awards was held in the Council Chambers on the morning of Tuesday 9 May.

There were five nominees for the award and the winner was Ken Peter for over 50 years' participation in all aspects of Armidale City band, Hydrotherapy Pool, and his more recent major contribution to Armidale Care for Seniors in setting up, and running the Splinters Woodwork Group in a safe workspace.



Ken's participation was recognized in the 9.30 am Church Service and his representative was presented with a tree, and a poem, celebrating community service, written by Michael Cherry. Ken attended the following week's service.

Margaret Waters – Committee Chairperson

Property Committee

The

2016-17 Committee is unchanged from last year and consists of: Kim Bastock—Beverley Pitt—Robin Jessop—John & Lynn Jobson—Martin Hazell; We try to meet every 2nd. Month.

Yallambie Ave. is rented very successfully, without much for us to be worried about.

Hillgrove Church has had new doors fitted—only needs some painting above front entrance to complete our obligations.

Armidale Church: Repairs and painting to the **interior** are waiting until the weather warms up some.

Screen protectors for front 'lead-light' windows are under construction and will be fitted asap.

Repairs to **front glass doors** have just been completed.

Wesley Hall floor is under control. Nick Sewell to do as soon as he has suitable time.

All remaining '**fluro**' lights to be fitted with LED lights ASAP.

All **gas heaters** have been serviced and work well, most of the problems with them has been operator error.

All other 'work' is being undertaken as and when necessary.

Yours faithfully
Martin Hazell (convenor)

Family Groups' Report

Family Groups are an important part of our Church and play a vital role in developing friendships and pastoral care among our congregation.

A large number of people now belong to a Family Group and enjoy regular activities together as well as providing caring support for each other. The groups meet on different days and all do different activities. Some of the activities this year have included card games, bush walking, celebrating birthdays, afternoon teas and combining with groups to do an activity.

WE have enjoyed going to the monthly birthday lunches and catching up with each other.

We meet all together before Christmas and on Australia Day, and also enjoy regular get togethers with our Presbyterian friends in the church community garden.

Special thanks go to the group leaders: Beverly Pitt, Ken Waters, Jenny & Colin Sholl and Lyn and John Jobson

Lyn Jobson & Patsy Fulloon , Family Groups Coordinators

Family Groups' Report



Hospitality Group

This group meets on the fourth Saturday of each month at 2.00 PM, mostly in the Youth Centre Lounge. Sometimes we meet in some one's home if they so desire.

Our aims are still the same, we meet for friendship and fellowship—with an ongoing focus on our Christmas Day luncheon.

The 2016 Christmas lunch was again a success with over 350 people participating . This year, we had a significantly higher number of donations from individuals which was very helpful .

Martin Hazell—Convenor

Meals on Wheels

A willing group of people from our congregation give of their time on the third Friday of each month to deliver meals to people who are in need of this service.

The cheerful faces of our group may be the only person they see on that day and provides an opportunity for the clients to have a friendly chat.

Many thanks to all the people who deliver these meals—you are doing a wonderful job . Our church group has been doing the Friday run for a number of years now.

A big thankyou also to the people who have joined our group as relief drivers—you are a very important part of this wonderful outreach.

Lyn Jobson

KYB Too - Bible Study

This stands for Know Your Bible and the Too indicates that it is for men as well as women. We meet on **Wednesday at 5.00pm** for approximately an hour. We try to be flexible when and how often we meet as so many of us go travelling, especially during the Armidale winter.

There is space in the group if anyone would like to join us, please phone Joan Tasker on 6772 9643

Joan Tasker



John Langmore visited in October 2016
(see report page 35



Chatting after morning tea....



Christmas
Day lunch on
the Church
lawns



Uniting Singers

It has been an eventful year for our Uniting Singers group, with three changes of director during the year. The three directors (Patsy Fulloon, Bev Pitt and myself) have each brought different talents and aims to the group, and this diversity of input has offered both a stimulating adventure and an opportunity for growth. The three of us have built on the solid foundation that Isabella (Ellis) laid during her time as conductor, and all deserve appreciation for taking on the task and keeping the Singers singing. My particular thanks go to Pam Douglas for her regular piano accompaniment; having such a skilled accompanist is an absolute boon to a choir director.

The choir sang with gusto at Hymnfest last September, and also for various special services throughout the church year, including Christmas, Easter, Pentecost, a triple baptism and the UCA's 40th Anniversary. It was particularly thrilling to sing a newly-written song for the Anniversary celebrations, and to see that song enjoyed so much by the congregation that it has since been used as a congregational hymn.

The opportunities which the Anniversary provided for reflecting on our church's faith journey, along with the excitement of agreeing to call a new minister to Armidale, have influenced the direction the choir is now taking. Our aim is to add to our repertoire songs which reflect the UCA's unique position as a young, innovative and inclusive denomination. To that end, we are seeking out songs with a welcoming and adventurous spirit/theme, and exploring alternative ways of incorporating them into worship. We are also beginning to join with instrumentalists in the congregation to allow for a broader variety of accompaniment than just piano or organ.

New directions are always challenging, but the Singers are a skilled and enthusiastic group and I have no doubt they will rise to the challenge.

Clare Pascoe

Uniting Singers



Outreach and Social Concerns



Outreach and Social Concerns Committee runs a number of projects during the year: some are ongoing, some come up from world events.

Family Support Christmas Presents: This activity collects presents for children in need. In July 2016 we asked everyone for presents and then when we received exact numbers of children from Family Support in November, asked others who hadn't contributed, for the rest; Family Support know their numbers in November.



We sent about 80 presents and \$318 dollars for the workers to buy more presents.

Once again we asked the workers from Family Support to come and meet the Congregation. It is always good to catch up with Anne Chaffey, and to have a chance to chat over morning tea. It's also a good way to learn about the presents, what happens with them and the need for them. It a worthwhile activity for Armidale Uniting Church and Armidale Family Support Service with a number of benefits. We have had a morning tea this July to start the 2017 activity and so far have raised \$480.

Christmas Bowl occurs each December. The Christmas bowl is passed around after church and envelopes are sent out in Snapshots for those who don't have money on them at Church, during December. In 2016, AUC raised \$ 350.



The money is sent to Act for Peace who distribute it to particular projects.



The TEAR Fund is almost single-handedly run by Bev Pitt, whose entrepreneurial activities are well known and hugely valued. With the sale of gift cards, puddings, cakes, jams and pickles Bev raises a prodigious amount of money for TEAR, another cause close to our hearts.

Outreach and Social Concerns

In 2016 the cards and donations raised an outstanding amount of **\$1850.00** . This is in no small way thanks to Beverley Pitt, who like Beryl Hamel with her shortbread, donates her time, most of the ingredients and her labour to this service. If this year the OSCC has made an effort anywhere, it is in this area.

Food Cupboard: Each month Church members are asked to bring tinned food for the food cupboard, particularly on Communion Sunday. We have regular donations from other groups in the community as well, both churches and individuals. This is certainly a real outreach to people in need within the community. It gives us a chance to chat to people, to hear their stories and to find out what is going on in people's lives, as well as to help. There is a regular need in the community for this, and we have been fortunate to have Carevan (see report page 16) start up to assist with this need.

Simply Sharing is one of the activities that we usually participate in. This year we had John Langmore speak at one of the services in October. He was visiting in conjunction with UNE, and Graham Maddox arranged his visit. We had a lunch after his Church visit and raised \$120 which we sent off to TEAR. We are considering the Simply Sharing meal for 2017.

We have had a suggestion about retiring offerings. The OSCC will look at the Calendar and organise one, possibly for Syria. This would be in conjunction with the UCA President's appeal to donate money

Any other suggestions are welcome.

Thank you to everyone who contributes in any way to working with us, regularly or occasionally. You are all valued very much.

Susan McMichael
on behalf of the
Outreach and Social Concerns Committee



Celebrating 40 years of UCA



Rev. Robert Luxton cuts the cake



Above :
Rev Will
Pearson
speaks at
the Pres-
bytery Cel-
ebration in
Tamworth





Church events



Morning tea



Brenda's fabulous scones, and tea
at Sunday Explorer



In the community garden see report
page 24



Wednesday Discussion Group

The Wednesday Midday Discussion Group has been meeting weekly over the last year or two. Our weekly attendance is between 12 and 21 attendees. Initially the group studied, then discussed readings from Dorothy Regenvanu a pastor and missionary teacher, currently from Vanuatu.

This was followed by a series of DVDs Living the Questions - The Wisdom of Progressive Christianity by David M. Felton and Jeff Procter-Murphy

Currently we have moved to Marcus Borg and John Crossan, First Light: Jesus and the Kingdom of God. Interestingly... and revealingly, the Preface to Living the Questions says (in part): (the book is...) 'an invitation for those who seek to go beyond the stagnant clichés of faith and pursue the questions that deepen your understanding as you make your way through a lifelong spiritual journey'. This sums up the weekly DVD presentations that lead us into our weekly 'spirit (ed)' discussion.

Jeanne Madison

Prayer Chain

An ongoing commitment by the very loyal and dedicated people who have a heart for praying for others and a strong belief that God does answer prayers.

People's details are now in the Church Directory .



Martin Hazell

Minutes of Armidale Uniting Church Congregation Meetings

Annual General Meeting on Sunday 5 June 2016 in Wesley Church

Present: Lindsay Brash (chair), Warwick Olphert, Will Pearson, Betty Pearson, Ruth Keddie, Chris Mitchell, Doreen Fay, Joan Tasker, Kay Harman, Russel Glover, Robert Luxton, Bev Luxton, Marian Stone, Ann Pryosusilo, Chris Wilson, Jan Bowlay, Des Bowlay, Bev Lilley, Pat McGrath, Warren McGrath, Henry Raymond, Elizabeth Lawson, Sandy Lawson, Ken Waters, Catherine Welbia, Isabella Ellis, Celia Smith, Susan McMichael, Lex Waters, Margaret Waters, Sue Farmer, John Farmer, Beverley Pitt, Anna Vlasoff, Elizabeth Ellis.

Apologies: Ken Waters, Noeline Raymond, Colin Sholl, Jenny Sholl.

Meeting Opened in prayer at 11.10am.

Minutes: Annual General Meeting 9 August 2015
Congregation Meeting 22 November 2015.

Adopted by consensus.

Reports Tabled:

Armidale Congregation

Church Council

Statistics

Elders

Uniting Adult Fellowship

Alwyn Jones Community Service Award

Know Your Bible

Tuesday Group

English Classes

Sunday Explorer

UNE Chaplaincy

Sunday School

Community Garden

Minutes of the Armidale Uniting Church Congregation Meetings

All reports **Received by consensus.**

Budget. Presented by Russel. **Passed by consensus.** Thanks given to Russel and the Finance Committee.

The Covenant when introduced had been proposed for a six-month trial which period has now elapsed. **Agreed by consensus** that a further period of 12 months from now should be allowed before review.

The profile would be presented to the congregation at a later date after review by the newly appointed Joint Nominating Committee (Rev Tony Winter and Rev Jean Bell (presbytery), Des Bowlay, Lindsay Brash, Anita Brown, Kay Harman, Lyn Jobson, Graham MacKay, Ken Waters and Margaret Waters.)

Thank you to all the report-writers and to Sue McMichael for compiling.

Meeting Closed with the Grace at 11.37am.

Minutes of the Congregation of the Armidale Uniting Church Meeting on Sunday 7 August 2016 in Wesley Church

Present: Lindsay Brash (chair), Warwick Olphert, Sharon Davidge, Marian Stone, Phil Sharpe, Kay Harman, Ken Waters, Deidre Waters, Catherine Welbia, Henry Raymond, Noeline Raymond, Dorothy McRae, Christina Wilson, Will Pearson, Chris Mitchell, Ruth Keddie, Margaret Wooster, Arthur Wooster, John Hamel, Joan Tasker, Beverley Pitt, Brenda Faulkner, Doreen Fay, Pat McGrath, Celia Smith, Margaret Waters, Lex Waters, Clare Pascoe, Susan McMichael, Rev Tony Winter (presbytery).

Apologies: John Jobson, Lyn Jobson, Kim Bastock, Betty Pearson, Beryl Hamel, Warren McGrath, Anna Vlasoff,

Meeting Opened in prayer at 10.50am.

The Congregation's Profile was introduced by Lindsay Brash and presented by Kay Harman.

Minutes of the Armidale Uniting Church Congregation Meetings

Financial Implications – Presbytery is offering support but we should aim to reduce this over time.

The Profile was Affirmed by consensus.

Meeting Closed with the Grace at 11.22am.

Minutes of the Congregation of the Armidale Uniting Church

Meeting on Sunday 27 November 2016 in Wesley Church

Present: Lindsay Brash (chair), Warwick Olphert, Jeanne Madison, Brian Seppelt, Robert Luxton, Russel Glover, Clare Pascoe, Henry Raymond, Noeline Raymond, Chris Mitchell, Brenda Faulkner, Carol Maddox, Graham Maddox, Beryl Hamel, John Hamel, Anna Vlasoff, Des Bowlay, Jan Bowlay, Lex Waters, Margaret Waters, Elizabeth Ellis, Patsy Fulloon, Eddie Fulloon, Ken Waters, Elizabeth Lawson, Sandy Lawson, Phil Sharpe.

Apologies: Marlene Burrows, Bev Luxton, Kim Glover, Pat McGrath, Warren McGrath, Susan McMichael

Meeting Opened in prayer at 11.05am.

Election of Elders and Office-bearers for 2017:

Written nominations had been duly received for:

Elders: Kim Bastock (2 years), Carol Maddox (5 years), Susan McMichael (3 years), Beverley Pitt (1 year).

Church Council Representatives: Russel Glover (2 years), John Hamel (1 year), Henry Raymond (1 year), Margaret Waters (1 year).

Presbytery Representatives: Des Bowlay, Jan Bowlay.

Congregation Chair: Lindsay Brash.

Nominations from the floor:

Presbytery Alternates: Anna Vlasoff (Jenny Sholl/Des Bowlay)
Brenda Faulkner (Anna Vlasoff/Jeanne Madison).

Minutes of the Armidale Uniting Church Congregation Meetings

Colin and Jenny Sholl were appointed Returning Officers **by consensus.**

After the counting of votes, all nominees were declared elected.

There was recognition given to those not continuing in elected roles at this stage – Graham MacKay (Chair of Church Council) and Catherine Welbia, Bev Saunders and Brenda Faulkner (Elders).

As a new UC Theological College appears a possibility, there was the suggestion that Armidale should be promoted as the ideal location. Church Council Secretary to write to the Moderator and Presbytery support would also be sought.

Meeting Closed with the Grace at 11.26am.

Minutes of the Congregation of the Armidale Uniting Church

Meeting on Sunday 16 July 2017 in Wesley Church

Present: Lindsay Brash (chair), Kim Bastock, Pat McGrath, Warren McGrath, Anna Vlasoff, Oliver Brooks, Mary Roach, Beryl Hamel, John Hamel, David Gee, Helen Gee, Carol Maddox, Graham Maddox, Muriel Noble, Colin Sholl, Heather Jessop, Robin Jessop, Lorraine Coad, Ron Coad, Jan Bowlay, Des Bowlay, Margaret Hutchings, Stanley Hutchings, Eric North, Margaret North, Chris Gossip, Doreen Fay, Ann Pryosusilo, Arthur Wooster, Margaret Wooster, Rene Dasey, Bev Luxton, Jenny Sholl, Jeanne Madison, Brian Sepelt, Margaret Barger, Will Pearson, Betty Pearson, Robert Bell, Airlie Bell, Ken Waters, Deidre Waters, Margaret Waters, Anita Brown, Kay Harman, Lex Waters, Warwick Olphert, Dorothy McRae, Henry Raymond, Robert Luxton, Debra Wilkinson, Bev Saunders, Russel Glover, Bev Lilley, Beverley Pitt, Susan McMichael, Sue Farmer, John Farmer, Edwin Chang'a, Norm Williams, Azizah Williams, Celia Smith, Isabella Ellis, Patsy Fulloon, Clare Pascoe, Elizabeth Lawson, Sandy Lawson, Marian Stone, Elizabeth Ellis, Rev Tony Winter (Presbytery), Annette Winter.

Minutes of the Armidale Uniting Church Congregation Meetings

Apologies: John Jobson, Lyn Jobson, Noeline Raymond, Liz Ryan.

Meeting Opened in prayer at 10.20am.

On the issue of deciding whether to issue a call to the Rev Jo-anne Smalbil, Margaret Waters summarised the views of the JNC.

Colin Sholl spoke on the state of our finances and the implications of paying a minister. We have substantial reserves but on current form our income does not cover the cost of a minister, leaving a large deficit. This situation is not disastrous but cannot continue indefinitely.

Individuals asked questions or made comments, mostly favourable.

A formal vote by show of hands resulted in 70 in favour and 1 against issuing a Call.

Jenny Sholl moved thanks to the JNC.

Meeting closed with the Grace at 10.44am.

Congregation of the Armidale Uniting Church Agenda - Annual General Meeting, Sunday 6 August 2017 in Wesley Church

Present / Apologies:

Opening:

Minutes: Annual General Meeting 5 June 2016
Congregation Meeting 7 August 2016
Congregation Meeting 27 November 2016
Congregation Meeting 16 July 2017.

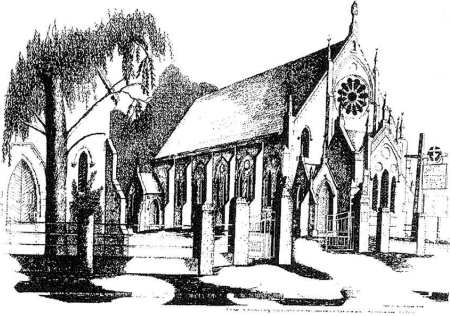
Reports: Will be circulated prior.

Budget:

General Business:

Close.

Armidale Uniting Church



Office Hours 2017

10 am—12 noon

Monday to Friday

p 02 6772 3233

e: admin@armidaleunitingchurch.org.au

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Armidale Uniting Church Church Services



Sunday

8.00am Holy Communion in Youth Centre

9.30am Family Service

Second Sunday of the Month 9.30 Service —
Holy Communion Service



Last Sunday of the Month from 11.30 — Explorer Sunday. Sausage sizzle, and scones and cream followed at 12.30 by Market Day Concert.