

# Maitland Uniting Churches Newsletter October 2024

## Maitland Uniting Churches Regional Mission Council Report

Work on the extensive renovation and refurbishment of the manse at 61 Belmore Road has begun, to ensure that it is ready for occupation when we call a Minister. The builder hopes that the work will be completed by Christmas. The approximate cost is \$145,000. Rick Brownell (Treasurer) reported that 18 months ago, the Fire Safety provisions changed, which means that all centres are now non-compliant (except Bolwarra UC due to its recent building renovations). Therefore, quotes have been obtained to complete necessary upgrades etc. so that our buildings comply with the current regulations. Unfortunately, the exercise is a very expensive one, but a legal necessity. Thanks to our Administrative Support Officer, Christine Russell for her work organising the assessment process. Lease negotiations with Maitland Evangelical Church for non-exclusive use of the Maitland City Uniting Church property are ongoing. A building report about Maitland City UC has been made, which identifies issues which need to be addressed. There is a need to obtain expert technical advice about East Maitland Church and manse etc., on which to then base decisions. There is therefore a need to have a dedicated task group to work on property matters. Church members who have an interest in this area, (for example experience in grant applications, accessing funds, dealing with architects /structural engineers, technical people) are invited to be part of this group. Please make yourself known to your RMC representative! A combined service will be on 29 December at Bolwarra UC at 10am with a focus on singing together/music. It will also be an opportunity to thank and farewell Rev Neil Smith. RMC members will be meeting together at Louise's place in November to explore the role of the church council, the dynamics of group decision making and to build relationships within the council. Rev Maz Smith has volunteered to lead the day. Work on developing a Mission plan for Maitland Uniting Churches is being undertaken. A pastoral care group has been formed. Reverend Garry Derkenne is to be asked to be our Maitland Uniting Churches Supply Minister (working half time) next year. Sally Carratt Hon Secretary MUC RMC

## Reading & Praying



## Build confidence in leading

Finding confidence to read, pray and lead worship in your congregation. A workshop to support your first steps in reading the Bible, leading prayers or other aspects of worship. Learn some simple steps to prepare, find resources, and expand your experience of leading worship. Led by Rev Rod Pattenden.

**Sunday 11.30am to 12.45pm**

**10th November 2024**

**Maitland City Church**

Register with Rod - Mobile 0418 861267 or  
email: [pattenden@bigpond.com](mailto:pattenden@bigpond.com)



## Bolwarra Teddy Bear Service

Bolwarra held a family Teddy Bear Service on Sunday 22 September which was led by Rod and Neil. Around 50 Teddy Bears turned up, bringing their favourite humans along. Rod talked about his Teddy Bear, which was lacking a bit of hair, maybe due to having Vicks rubbed on him when Rod was sick as a child. Beth gave a short talk about her hobby of making Teddy Bears which was a highlight. Scarlett Baldwin read the bible reading and Anne Robinson helped the little ones make paper hats for their Teddy Bears while a delicious Bolwarra morning tea was enjoyed. It was a great morning!

## Bolwarra Spring Fair

Plants, Car boot sale  
Devonshire teas, Teddy  
Bear display and  
competition, Cakes,  
Books & more!

**Saturday 9 November 2024**

8.30am start

Church Carpark, 4 Canna Street, Bolwarra

Contact us for more information  
<https://bolwarra.uca.org.au/contact-us/>



## Culture of Safety Awareness Workshops



**Saturday 12th October  
2024**



### Morpeth Uniting Church

98 High Street

Morpeth NSW 2321 (Cnr of High  
and Northumberland Sts)



### Arrive from:

9:00am—9:15am

for

9:30am start



### Workshop:

9:30am— 1:30pm

Registration is required

Please Register at:



**Safe Church Program**

An initiative of the National Council of Churches in Australia  
[www.ncccouncilofchurches.org.au](http://www.ncccouncilofchurches.org.au)

### Who needs to attend?

Church Council and Elders, Pastoral leaders,  
Ministers, Ministry program leaders and helpers,  
including with children/youth and SRE/Scripture in  
schools,

### Workshop Topics:

Safe Church Foundations, Duty of Care, Child  
Protection, Protecting Vulnerable People,  
Understanding and Responding to Abuse, Safe  
Leadership, Recruitment & Supervision, Safety in  
Programs and Environments, Uniting Church Policy  
and Procedures.

Please arrange/bring your own lunch and pen

**\*Please note that there is NO charge to  
individuals to attend this workshop\***

**Max 50 REGISTRATIONS Close  
date: Friday**

**5th October 2024**



Equipping our church communities  
to be

safer places through growing awareness and

This Safe Church Awareness Workshop run by the Uniting Church is  
endorsed by the National Council of Churches, Australia Safe Church Program.

## Report from Maitland City Uniting Church

Three members of MCUC- Lyn, Jan and Sally- are undertaking a workshop about *Leading Worship in the Uniting Church in Australia*, which is part of the *Living Our Faith* series, developed by Uniting Mission and Education. The workshop is through weekly online sessions. Completion of the workshop will enhance participants' understanding of how the UCA Order of Service works. Participants learn how to develop a worship service and are equipped with resources and information, so that they can lead the community in worship- a great privilege and responsibility. We recently farewelled member Stewart Bell, who is returning to live in England. We have welcomed several new people who have been attending our Sunday services. We give thanks for our MCUC members who faithfully serve each Sunday: to Robyn who sets up and packs up the church and who welcomes us all, making sure that we're all comfy and supplied with water; to David who shares his wonderful strong singing voice by leading us in the hymns; and to Stephen and Lyn who play our magnificent organ so well each week. We also give thanks for all those who lead our worship each week. Sally Carratt MCUC, Honorary Secretary

Morpeth FOCASS meets 1st & 3rd Tuesdays  
each Month

Friendship, Outings, Community, Activities, Sharing  
& Support

**The next Group meeting is:**

**15<sup>th</sup> October, 1:30pm – 3:30pm**

A wonderful afternoon of entertainment with Bob  
Jackson in the Church Hall with afternoon tea. For  
information contact: Janet Hubbard 0437 773

**Cuppa & Chat** at Bolwarra where people can meet informally for a friendly  
chat over a cuppa. Come alone or bring a friend. Includes morning tea - \$5.  
Meets on the second Tuesday of each month 10am-12pm at Bolwarra  
Uniting Church Hall. Everyone Welcome! For more information contact:  
Wendy Eade 49301073

**Maitland Uniting Churches Monthly Combined Lunch**

First Sunday of each Month at 12 noon. Please contact Wendy Allomes  
0494153739