



Uniting Church of Australia BOLWARRA

Newsletter

10 October 2024

Bolwarra's family Teddy Bear Service was held on Sunday 22 September which was led by Rev Rod and Rev 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!



Some pictures from the Family Teddy Bear Service held on 29 September at Bolwarra.

On Sunday 29 September, Bolwarra worshipped with East Maitland, Maitland City, Morpeth, and Rutherford congregations at Maitland City Church. The theme was "Weaving a New Life Together". It was an interactive service, led by Rev Neil and Rev Rod with each congregation contributing. The message was delivered by Rev John Dacey, Mission and Growth Minister, Sydney/Central Coast Presbytery. A beautiful heart was woven by Rod with prayers written on slips of coloured paper by each member of the congregations. A shared lunch was enjoyed together afterwards. Thank you to Maitland City for their hospitality.



The beautiful heart woven with prayers

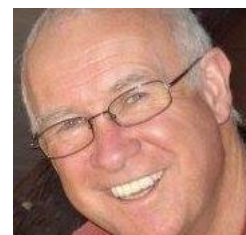
There are discussions around bringing all the five congregations in Maitland together at the one place. East Maitland and Maitland City are being investigated as options. Our Leaders have also put forward Bolwarra Church for consideration. After our church service on Sunday 6 October a meeting was held with the congregation to discuss any concerns about the potential changes. If anyone would like more information or would like to raise any issues please contact Leanne Bentham on 0498999779 or Rev Neil Smith on 0409440128 (please note Neil is on leave, returning at the end of October).

The manse in Lorn is undergoing extensive renovations which are scheduled to be completed by the end of November. The residential property will then be leased until a new Minister is appointed.

There will be a combined service at [Rutherford](#) on Sunday 24 November commencing at 10am to celebrate the life and history of the congregation and its work in the community. This will be the last service at Rutherford. Please note there will be no service at Bolwarra on this date.

On Sunday 29 December, Bolwarra will host the next combined Maitland Uniting Churches service. This service will also be a farewell to Rev Neil's Smith as he is finishing up at the end of December. Neil has been with us since 1 July 2023 and has provided many of us with a lot of support. The Leaders have appreciated Neil's input and guidance. He will be greatly missed.

Rev Gary Derkenne, from Newcastle, has been appointed as supply Minister from 1 February 2025 for 12 months. Gary is known to many of us as he worked as supply Minister with Maitland West congregations a few years ago. We welcome Gary back and look forward to supporting him in his role with us.



Rev Gary Derkenne

Reminder our Spring Fair will be held on **Saturday 9 November** from **8:30am**. We need helpers and would be very grateful if you could contact any of our Leaders to let them know you are able to assist. As well as the plant sale, we will have the very popular Devonshire teas in the hall, second hand book stall, crafts, delicious home made cakes, car boot sale, Teddy bear display and competition and children's art competition.

Our "Cuppa & Chat" morning tea, held on the second Tuesday of every month, is continuing to have a good roll up, with some regulars coming every month. For more information, please contact Wendy Eade PH: 49301073. Everyone welcome!

The latest [Maitland Uniting Churches Newsletter](#) can be found on our website (click on underscored text to take you direct to the newsletter).

A promotional poster for the Bolwarra Spring Fair. The background is a vibrant field of pink tulips and white daisies with yellow centers. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

Bolwarra Spring Fair

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/>

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

An activity of Bolwarra Uniting Church