



Uniting Church of Australia BOLWARRA

Newsletter

18 December 2025



Bolwarra was well represented at the combined service celebrating the life and history of the congregation of Rutherford Uniting Church on Sunday 24 November. The service was led by Rev Graham Perry, Presbytery Minister and Beatti Esterbrook spoke about the many achievements of Rutherford Congregation. Rutherford has now sadly closed. A wonderful celebratory morning tea was enjoyed after the service. We welcome anyone from Rutherford congregation to join us at Bolwarra.

The funeral of June Godwin was held at Bolwarra Uniting Church on Monday 25 November and catered by our wonderful ladies, under the competent leadership of Evol Innes. The family expressed their gratitude for the wonderful lunch provided.

We are having a Christmas celebratory morning tea this Sunday 22 December after church. Please dress Christmassy and bring a plate of Christmas fair along to share.

Bring your family and friends along to the Bolwarra Christmas Carols at 7pm on Christmas Eve. A band has been organised for the event and the service will be led by Rev Neil Smith. The Christmas morning service will be at 7am led by Rev Neil Smith.

Our Christmas star has been put up again this year at the church and twinkles brightly each night. Thanks to Lindsay Moxey and David Branscomb for making this happen. Also, thanks to Louise Trist who erected and decorated our Christmas Tree before the first Sunday in Advent and to Robyne and Barry Pont who put up the Christmas messages on the signboard.

We have moved into modern times with the purchase of contemporary white crockery, replacing the blue items which have served our congregation well for many many years. A huge thank you to Louise Trist who made this happen. This was funded by the Ladies fellowship, and we are very grateful.

On Sunday 29 December at 10am [Bolwarra Uniting Church](#) will host the next combined Maitland Uniting Churches service celebrating the end of 2024. This service will also be a farewell to Rev Neil's Smith who is finishing up at the end of December. There will be a celebratory morning tea after the service, and we ask everyone to bring a plate. 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. Our Chairperson, David Branscomb is accepting donations towards a gift for Neil. Rev Gary Derkenne will be joining us from 1 February 2025 as supply Minister for 12 months. We welcome Gary back and look forward to supporting him in his role with us.

Our rosters are being prepared again for 2025. If you are able to assist in any way, please contact Leanne Bentham on 0498999779. We rely heavily on the generous donations of time from our volunteers each year which is a very important part of why Bolwarra Uniting Church has such special qualities.

There will be a combined service at Morpeth Uniting Church on [Australia Day](#) at 10am. This service will be led by Rev Graham Perry and a morning tea will follow.

We hope you have a wonderful Christmas and can celebrate Jesus's birth with family and friends. Please remember to keep in your prayers those who find Christmas a difficult time of the year.

