



Uniting Church of Australia BOLWARRA

Newsletter

12 January 2025

Our Christmas Carol Service on Christmas Eve was a great success with over 80 people attending. The band was fabulous and are keen to come back and do more events with us. Huge thank you to Rev Neil Smith for leading the service and the amazing candle display hanging from the ceiling. A special thank you goes to Louise Trist who organised the whole event.

On Sunday 29 December Bolwarra hosted a combined Maitland Uniting Churches service celebrating the end of 2024 and to farewell Rev Neil Smith who is retiring. Prayers were said by Leanne Bentham and Presbytery Minister, Rev Graham Perry. A few words thanking Neil for his service were said by Sally Carratt (Maitland City), Beati Esterbrook (Rutherford), Geoff Hicks (East Maitland and Morpeth) and Louise Trist (Bolwarra) with each congregation presenting him with a gift. There was a fabulous celebratory morning tea after the service arranged by Evol Innes and her band of helpers. Neil has been a great support to all churches, and we have been honoured to have him over the past 18 months. He will be greatly missed. We welcome Rev Gary Derkenne who will be joining us from 1 February 2025 as supply Minister for 12 months.



A good crowd attended the service to farewell Rev Neil Smith



Rev Neil Smith delivers the Reflection

Our rosters have been prepared for the first three months in line with the Preaching Plan. They have a different format this year with everything on the one page. This helps to prevent any double ups on the day and makes it clear who is doing what each week. Everyone on the list has received a copy. There is also a copy on the noticeboard. If you can lend a hand in any way for the rest of the year we would appreciate your assistance. It is nice to be able to share the workload and every little bit helps. If you can assist in any way, or have any queries, please contact Leanne Bentham on 0498999779.

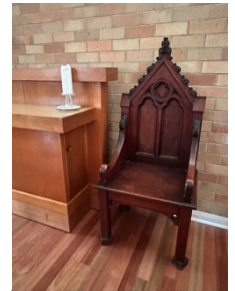
With the change in the way the rosters are being done, the monthly "What's On" which was mostly the preaching plan, is now superseded and will no longer continue. Information about "What's on" will still be available on the website.

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. There will be no service at Bolwarra on this date.

We have recently received a donation from Rutherford Uniting Church of a beautiful carved chair and a carpet square for the children's area. They look great in their new home at Bolwarra. A huge thank you to Rutherford Church for this kind donation.

If you are unable to attend church at any time, you may be able to join East Maitland Uniting Church zoom service. It is on every Sunday 10am. A flyer is at the end of this Newsletter with information on how to join.

We hope you had a wonderful Christmas and 2025 is a good year for you and your family.







Chair donated by Rutherford

Looking for a place to find hope, encouragement, and community? Our online weekly church service offers a welcoming space to reflect, worship, and grow in faith. Join us from the comfort of your home every **Sunday at 10am**, and be part of a supportive community.

Everyone is welcome—come as you are!

Here's how to join...

<p>Phone (audio only)</p> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Call 02 8015 6011 2. You will be prompted to enter the Meeting ID: 962 3717 1423 then press # 3. You will be prompted to enter a participant ID- ignore this and press #
<p>Smart phone/tablet (audio or video)</p> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Join using the instructions for Phone OR 2. Join the online ZOOM video connection by scanning the QR code: 3. Click on "Join Meeting" 
<p>Computer (video)</p> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Type into your browser: https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/96237171423 2. On this page click on the button "Launch Meeting"

Provided by East Maitland Uniting Church