



# Connexion Newsletter

*Uniting Church Adult Fellowship*

*NSW/ACT Synod*

*July 2017*

From the Chairperson.

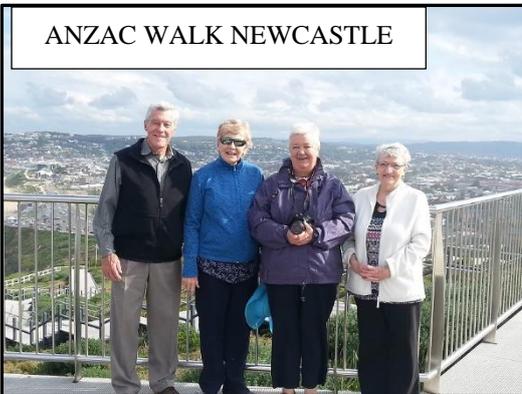
From the 21st May to the 27th May, members of the Synod Committee hosted the visit of the Victoria National Adult Fellowship Committee Chairperson Margaret Pedler. We planned Margaret's visit to be relaxed and at the same time informative regarding the work being done by the various Adult Fellowship groups.

On arrival at Williamstown Airport Margaret was met by Allan and Denise Secomb and Laraine Jones.

On Monday morning Belmont Uniting Church Fellowship hosted morning tea at which Margaret brought a greeting from the National Committee. This morning tea followed the 40th Anniversary of the Fellowship

celebrated several weeks earlier. In the afternoon, Margaret was taken into Newcastle where the group walked the Anzac Walk, a recently completed Memorial to those who lost their lives in the Great Wars. This walk gives uninterrupted views of the ocean and foreshores on one side and views of the Newcastle city on the other. A tour of Christ Church Cathedral completed the day.

ANZAC WALK NEWCASTLE



On Tuesday morning, we travelled to Singleton for the Singleton Adult Fellowship's "Big Morning Tea" to raise funds for the Cancer Council. What a wonderful morning we experienced, enjoying freshly

cooked scones with jam and cream, being warmly welcomed and given a tour of the Church and other properties. In the afternoon, the group visited East Maitland Uniting Church Women's Shed. This mere male was amazed at items made for Days for Girls, Leprosy Bandages, Knee

SINGLETON



Rugs and other Items for those in

need—I understand the need is so great they cannot keep up with demand. What a wonderful mission and outreach and I was somewhat in awe of how many people are involved both within the Church and the community.

On Wednesday, we attended the Hunter Presbytery Rally at Charlestown Uniting Church where Margaret was the speaker in the morning session. After a delightful lunch, we departed for Shellharbour for their Rally on Thursday. We were disappointed we could not stay for the afternoon session, however time did not permit us to stay longer.



EAST MAITLAND WOMEN'S SHED

On Thursday, we attended the Illawarra Presbytery Rally at Shellharbour Uniting Church. Margaret again spoke at the Rally in the morning session. After lunch in the afternoon session, the speaker spoke on Domestic Violence. The Rally was a wonderful day of Fellowship and the day was enjoyed by all present.

On Friday, the Adult Fellowship at Kiama Uniting Church hosted morning tea for the group. What a warm welcome we received and although the time spent at Kiama was all too short, (due to the need to be in Sydney at a specific time) we experienced great fellowship at Kiama.

After experiencing a "Mystery Night" on Friday night, Margaret returned to Melbourne on Saturday Afternoon.

My sincere thanks to the all the Fellowship groups who willingly hosted the group, and to the Presbytery Adult Fellowship members who hosted the Rallies at Charlestown and Shellharbour. This support was very much appreciated by the Committee and ensured Margaret's visit was enjoyable and informative.

**MID-NORTH COAST NORTHERN ZONE FELLOWSHIP RALLY  
NAMBUCCA HEADS UNITING CHURCH – 3<sup>rd</sup> MAY 2017**

The Mid-North Coast Northern Zone Fellowship Rally was hosted by Nambucca Heads Uniting Church on Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> May from 10.00 am to 3.00 pm.

We were delighted and honoured to welcome to the Rally the Chair of the NSW/ACT UCAF, Allan Secomb and his wife, Denise who had come by train from Newcastle. Sadly, Laraine Jones, the Secretary of this body, was unable to attend due to illness. This was the first time since 2012 that she has missed one of our zone rallies.

We commenced the day with morning tea, and after a greeting from Allan Secomb on behalf of the UCAF and a brief presentation by him on the work of Outback Links we entered a time of worship, the service being based on Rev Will Pearson's Frontier Services Order of Service. During the course of this service an offering was taken to support the work of the UCAF in providing bottled water for volunteers in the Outback Links program. An amount of \$300 was raised from this offering.

The title of the Rally was "We took the road west" and our guest speakers were the Rev Will and Betty Pearson who had spent five years ministering at Broken Hill. They shared with us the joys and challenges of ministering in a remote location. The sharing of personal insights helped us develop a better understanding of how important the presence of the Church is for people in isolated circumstances. Their talk was supported by many interesting and beautiful pictures of this amazing part of our wonderful Country.

Following this we gathered together for a hearty lunch in the hall and good fellowship was enjoyed by all. After lunch, a number of those attending took the opportunity to inspect the Nambucca Heads Growing Together Community Garden, a joint venture by the Nambucca Congregation and Uniting Community Care. The afternoon session provided a contrast with Will sharing with us information and stories relating to his role as Police Chaplain and also as Chaplain in the Disaster Management Network, his latest involvement having been in the recent Lismore flood event.

Representatives from Woolgoolga, Urunga, Bellingen, Dorrigo, Macksville, Kempsey and Nambucca Heads attended the day and there was a great feeling of warmth and fellowship.

We wish to thank the NSW/ACT UCAF for their guidance and support in hosting this event.

**Daphne Jones Nambucca Heads Uniting Church**

**ILLAWARRA PRESBYTERY FELLOWSHIP DAY 2017**

It was a clear autumn day on 25<sup>th</sup> May when almost 80 people shared in a great day of fellowship at Shellharbour Uniting Church. After a scrumptious morning tea, we gathered in the church to enjoy worship and renew friendships.

Our morning speaker was Mrs Margaret Pedler, the Chairperson of the National Committee of the Uniting Church Adult Fellowship. She was visiting from Victoria and had been sharing her experiences of being involved in the various activities of U.C.A.F. both in Australia and overseas.

Our NSW/ACT Synod Committee Chairperson of U.C.A.F., Allan Secomb, also told us of the work of volunteers with Frontier Services. Two short videos taken around Lightning Ridge highlighted this and we were encouraged to support the Living Water project. Good drinking water is often scarce in drought times in the inland.

Holy Communion was conducted by Rev Rob Nance and all were pleased to share this sacrament together.

Our afternoon speaker, Lorkie Klevjer told of her community work through the Warilla Baptist Church. Family relationship breakdowns and domestic violence calls for the need for intervention. As Christ's people, we are called to be part of His ministry to help and heal. The offering on the day was over \$600 and was split between the Living Water project and the work of Baptist Community Services.

With representatives from Austinmer to Nowra and the Southern Highlands, it was indeed a great day of fellowship.

The Tapa cloth was handed on to Bowral Fellowship who will host the 2018 Illawarra Rally.

## WORLD FEDERATION of METHODIST & UNITING CHURCH WOMEN

### SOUTH PACIFIC SEMINAR – FIJI

2 – 6 JULY 2018



Seminar will be held at Shangri La Fijian Resort Hotel, Yanuca Is. Sigatoka, with approximately 500 participants, including 200 from Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Is., Samoa and Tonga, as well as local Fijians.

The local theme is “.....with hearts on Fire”.

Seminar fee: Aus\$320 (approx..) plus accommodation from Aus\$425 (3-room sharing).

Registrations close 31 July 2017, with final payment due 31 January 2018.

Further details from UCAF Corresponding Member, Lyn Drabsch

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### 80<sup>TH</sup> HUNTER PRESBYTERY FELLOWSHIP RALLY CHARLESTOWN UNITING CHURCH 24 MAY 2017

The 80<sup>th</sup> Presbytery Rally was hosted by members of Charlestown (Newcastle) Uniting Church Fellowship and attended by approximately 80 people. Guest speakers were; Margaret Pedler, UCAF National Chairperson, who spoke on the theme of the National Committee ‘Living Water, Come Drink’, as well as her journey as National Chairperson, and Lorraine Pepper who spoke about “Own the Murray with Uniting”. Margaret shared many of her experiences from visiting fellowships around Australia. Some members of the local male voice choir entertained those present.

The September Rally will be held at Toronto Uniting Church on Monday 11 September.

### 40<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY OF UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA



Congregations across the Assembly of the Uniting Church in Australia have been celebrating the 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the Uniting Church in Australia, with a wide variety of activities.

Perhaps you would like to share your particular events with members of Adult Fellowships? Contact one of the editors listed at the end on this edition of Connexion.

East Maitland Uniting Church held of Service of celebration, led by Resource Person for the Hunter Presbytery, Rev. Dr Jerry Duncan, who reminded those in attendance of the planning and decisions that led to the formation of the Uniting Church, relating them to his own personal experience as a Minister coming from the USA.

Counterpoint Chamber Choir performed at an Afternoon Tea to continue the celebrations over the following weekend.



### GOSFORD GOSSIP



Gosford Uniting Church celebrated the 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday at a special service in their church, which was decorated



with balloons, followed by the cutting of a celebratory cake.

A display of knitted items blessed by Rev. Lorna Martin. Most of these items were made by our craft group. They will go to Mission Without Borders, Wrap With Love, Operation Christmas Child - shoe boxes, Coast Shelter, local Nursing Homes & Stewart House.

### HUNTER PRESBYTERY RETIRED MINISTRY PERSON'S LUNCH

Approximately 45 retired ministry persons, spouses and widows attended a lunch hosted by East Maitland Uniting Church. Those present enjoyed fellowship, catching up with the latest news with friends and they then shared in an enjoyable 'baked dinner' lunch.

#### BE KIND!

One stormy night many years ago, an elderly man and his wife entered the lobby of a small hotel in Philadelphia. Trying to get out of the rain, the couple approached the front desk hoping to get some shelter for the night. "Could you possibly give us a room here?" the husband asked. The clerk, a friendly man with a winning smile, looked at the couple and explained that there were three conventions in town. "All of our rooms are taken," the clerk said. "But I can't send a nice coupe like you into the rain at one o'clock in the morning....would you perhaps be willing to sleep in my room? It's not exactly a suite, but it will be good enough to make you comfortable for the night!" When the couple declined, the young man pressed on. "Don't worry about me; I'll make out just fine" the clerk told them. So, the couple agreed. As he paid his bill the next morning, the elderly man said to the clerk, "You are the kind of manager who should be the boss of the best hotel in the United States. Maybe someday I'll build one for you." The clerk looked at them and smiled. The three of them had a good laugh. As they drove away, the couple agreed that the helpful clerk was indeed exceptional, as finding people who are both friendly and helpful isn't easy.

Two years passed. The clerk had almost forgotten the incident when he received a letter from the old man. It recalled the stormy night and enclosed a round-trip to New York, asking the young man to pay them a visit. The old man met him in New York and led him to the corner of Fifth Avenue and 34<sup>th</sup> Street. He then pointed to a great new building there, a palace of reddish stone, with turrets and watchtowers thrusting up to the sky. "That," said the older man, is the hotel I have just built for you to manage!". "You MUST be joking" the young man said. "I can assure you I am not!" said the older man, a sly smile playing around his mouth. The older man's name was William Waldorf Astor, the magnificent structure was the original Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. The young clerk who became its manager was George C. Boldt. This young clerk never foresaw the turn of events that would lead him to become the manager of one of the world's most glamorous hotels.

***The Bible says we are not to turn our backs on those who are in need, for we might be entertaining angels. And the lesson is this.....treat everyone with love, grace and respect, and you cannot fail!***

#### Rally Dates for your Diary

Parramatta-Nepean  
Mid-North Coast  
(Southern Zone)  
The Hunter  
Macquarie-Darling  
Far North Coast

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> July  
Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> August  
  
Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September  
Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> September  
Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> September

St Andrew's Glenbrook  
Gloucester  
  
Toronto  
Gilgandra  
Casino

This edition (and previous editions) of Connexion is available on the NSW/ACT Synod website <http://ume.nswact.uca.org.au/>, then follow the link under 'Resources & Applications'.

Produced for the UCAF NSW/ACT SYNOD COMMITTEE

Readers are invited to submit articles and reports for publication, in this your Newsletter.

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**Next issue deadline 9<sup>th</sup> August 2017.**