

UPDATE

Equipping the Church in the Mission of Jesus



uniting
church
in Australia
Georges
River

Issue 5/2020

Dec 2020

The Presbytery Standing Committee (PSC) met on the 3rd Tuesdays of October / November & 2nd Tuesday in December 2020.

The following information has been prepared for the use of members of Presbytery and distribution to Congregations within the Georges River Presbytery.

PRESBYTERY MEETINGS 10 & 17 NOVEMBER 2020

The Presbytery made the following decisions at its meetings in November - 20/24p RESOLVED to:

1. Receive the report "Stage 1 Road Map for Mission in Georges River Presbytery utilising Property under its Stewardship";
2. Note that the Mission Vision and Strategic Plan (12 November 2019) was approved in November 2019, which stated in the INTRODUCTION that: 'This Mission, Vision and Strategic Plan outlines the development and implementation of a vital, growing and healthy Georges River Presbytery. The focus is upon equipping the local congregations and the Presbytery to fulfil the mission of Jesus. The vision is to see healthy growing congregations within the Georges River Presbytery. By 2025 the Georges River Presbytery will be known for passionately pursuing the mission of Jesus. The Presbytery will have at least four regional or hub congregations, plus 20 healthy growing suburban congregations and five new fresh expression or church plants. The Georges River Presbytery will also have completed the structural re-organisation to provide streamlined processes to allow effective decision making and fulfilment of the requirements of presbyteries.'
3. Fund the Mission Vision Strategic Plan 2020 - 2025 at \$500,000 p.a. ("Stage 1 Road Map for Mission in Georges River Presbytery utilising Property under its Stewardship"); and
4. give authority to the Standing Committee to:
 - a. sell 41-43 Coleridge Street Riverwood, 96 Penshurst Street Penshurst and 20/598-602 Forest Road Penshurst;
 - b. establish an expert task group to develop a strategy for sale of property and for investing the sale proceeds; and
 - c. recommend to Presbytery the way the proceeds of the sale will be invested to provide an income which will fund the execution of the Mission Vision and Strategic Plan 2020 - 2025 (approved by Georges River Presbytery on 12 November 2019) as outlined in the document titled "Stage 1 Road Map for Mission in Georges River Presbytery utilising Property under its Stewardship" dated 20 October 2020."

The Presbytery also noted that the Standing Committee had resolved at its meeting on 17 November 2020 (SC 20/176.5) the following: "Resolved to formally established a Mission and Strategy Committee of four persons elected by the Standing Committee, whose main role is to support the Mission & Leadership Minister, Chairperson of Presbytery, Presbytery Pastoral Relations Minister, Business Manager and Synod representative in working with the Mission Vision & Strategic Plan, planning and bringing information, recommendations, action plans for Presbytery / Standing Committee for approval. Its function also involves assisting local congregations in their mission planning and projects and has the power to co-opt members.

**MISSION & STRATEGY COMMITTEE:**

The Presbytery Standing Committee at its meeting on 8 December 2020 resolved to elect Caleb Ravesteyn, Suzanna Havea, Ruth Fyfe and Rev Alex Thomas to the Mission & Strategy Committee and add as an Ex-Officio Member to the team the Chairperson of Property Committee. Short CVs of the elected members are shown below.

Caleb Ravesteyn	New Beginnings	<p>Caleb has a desire to see God and His kingdom in the world. Caleb is especially passionate about empowering people into their potential with God and seeing them grow in depth of faith. Mission for Caleb is tied in, around, and through every aspect of life.</p> <p>Caleb is currently studying his Masters of Leadership, works at New Beginnings Uniting Church and is a national coach for the "Building a Discipling Culture" initiative.</p>
Suzanna Havea	Hurstville City	<p>Born and raised Australian of Tongan descent and lived in Hurstville community all her life. Suzanna is an Elder of the Hurstville City Uniting Church and has a mission to young people being a Youth Leader 2005-2011, Sunday School 2006, and member of Hurstville City Uniting Church since 2010. She has skills of communication, strategic thinking/planning and risk management.</p> <p>Suzanna works full time in Human Resources as a Learning and Development Specialist.</p>
Rev Alex Thomas	Oatley	<p>Alex is the Minister of the Word in placement at Oatley and his understanding of Mission is primarily of 'being a sent one' who is involved in the Missio Dei or the Mission of God. This God is a Covenant making and Covenant keeping God. He calls specific ones to specific tasks and aspects of His mission. Alex's mission experience is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As a university student in India he led a campus wide ministry and raised leaders on Team, • ministry of Madras Youth for Christ, • in Theological Seminary in India his practicum was in Village ministry, • serving with the Methodist Church in Malaysia for ten years in pastoral and youth ministry, • serving with the Indigenous Church in North Borneo with the Borneo Evangelical Church as pastor of its only English-speaking congregation, • ministry with the Uniting Church in Australia at Wesley Mission in Sydney as Associate Minister of the International Congregation, and • in his fifth placement in the Uniting Church.
Ruth Fyfe	Jannali	<p>Overall belief in the Kingdom of God and the Basis of Union - commitment to the Mission Vision & Strategic Plan for Georges River Presbytery and grow the church young. Ruth brings many gifts to the Mission & Strategy Committee:</p> <p>1. Strategic planning and review in Congregation at Jannali, member of a number of Boards in Church and Community, and Manager at St George & Sutherland Community College (pre-retirement)</p>

		<p>2. Revenue & Expense planning in Congregation at Jannali, manager level for English College and Board level for Advance Diversity Services (ADS)</p> <p>3. Risk Management and Compliance in Congregation at Jannali, Board level at Mayflower Preschool eg National Quality Standards, at Board level at ADS eg Aged Care Standards, St G & S Community College-WHS and Accredited Training</p> <p>4. Organisational Governance and Clinical Governance: JUC Church Council, Board of Joshua's Kitchen, Board of Mayflower Pre School, Board of ADS eg Aged and Disability Services.</p> <p>5. Teaching and Organisation – Presentation Skills: over 40 years+ in all roles in Church, Career and Volunteer roles eg Convenor Joshua's Kitchen, Teacher Dept Educ, Manager Adult Education Adult Migrant English program</p> <p>6. Listening and negotiation skills developed over a wide variety of situations including Shared Governance Implementation Committee with Uniting Early Learning and other Uniting Church members across different presbyteries ACT&NSW, Government tenders and contract meetings.</p>
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It is expected the Mission & Strategy Committee will meet towards the end of January 2021.

EXPERT TASK GROUP

The Standing Committee resolved that the Expert Task Group would comprise:

Ex-Officio Members:

Chairperson of Presbytery, Chairperson of Property Committee, Treasurer and Business Manager.

Elected Members:

Luke Lee	UC Synod Property	Director, Strategic Property – UCA Synod NSW & ACT. With over 20 years experience in the financial services & real estate industry, having previously worked at the ANZ Banking Group, National Australia Bank, Challenger Group, Visionary Investments Group and Cedar Pacific Investments. Held a range of roles from Associate Director to Head of Funds Management. Prior to returning to the UCA Synod in 2020, worked for Uniting Financial Services, the Treasury and Investment service of the UCA Synod of NSW & ACT, as the Senior Portfolio & Credit Risk Manager between 2011 – 2017.
Sue McKinnon	Engadine	Sue McKinnon (BEC, DipEd, GIA (Cert)) has a background in forensic accounting, lecturing in economics, not-for-profit sector governance, and educating people about the complexities of poverty and the important role of grassroots community organising in making the voices of the oppressed heard through local and international advocacy. From 1995-2005 Sue was a part-owner of GMO Australia, a boutique wholesale investment adviser with over \$10bn under management. She has been treasurer for a number of organisations and is the director of the McKinnon Family Foundation and other entities with a total of over \$40m under management. The Foundation has been at the forefront of ethical and impact investing

		in Australia for the last 10 years which resulted in Sue, along with husband John McKinnon, being a joint winner of a 2020 Australian Impact Investment Award for their expertise, commitment and outstanding activity in the Australian impact investing ecosystem.
Chris Powell	-	Chris is a former member of Lugarno Peakhurst Uniting Church, former Treasurer of Georges River Presbytery, former CFO of Zurich Insurance and currently CEO of Integrity Life Insurance. Chris is also Chairperson of Fresh Hope Care, the aged care organisation of Churches of Christ. Chris has experience in finance, risk management, strategic planning, governance and banking.

Associate Members:

Llew Leeming	-	A good resource to seek opinion from and get advice at pertinent times. He had extensive expertise and experience in investments. He was a key member of the committee for the Illawarra Presbytery in making their investment, which is working extremely well.
Isaac Kuruvilla	-	Isaac is an actuary by profession and currently Head of Investments for Sydney Anglican Diocese and responsible for managing two investment portfolios of the Anglican Diocese (~\$200M), managing \$100M Treasury Book, managing lending portfolio for Churches and also \$125M of retail/wholesale deposits. Isaac is a Starlight Volunteer at Westmead Hospital and a Parish Councillor at St Thomas Anglican Church, Enfield. While Isaac is not available to be involved on the Panel, he is available as an advisor to the group and is also willing to review any submissions we may receive for prospective investments.

Co-Opted Members:

The Expert Task Group will be able to co-opt other members to the Task Group if required.

The first meeting of the Expert Task Group was held on 17 December 2020.


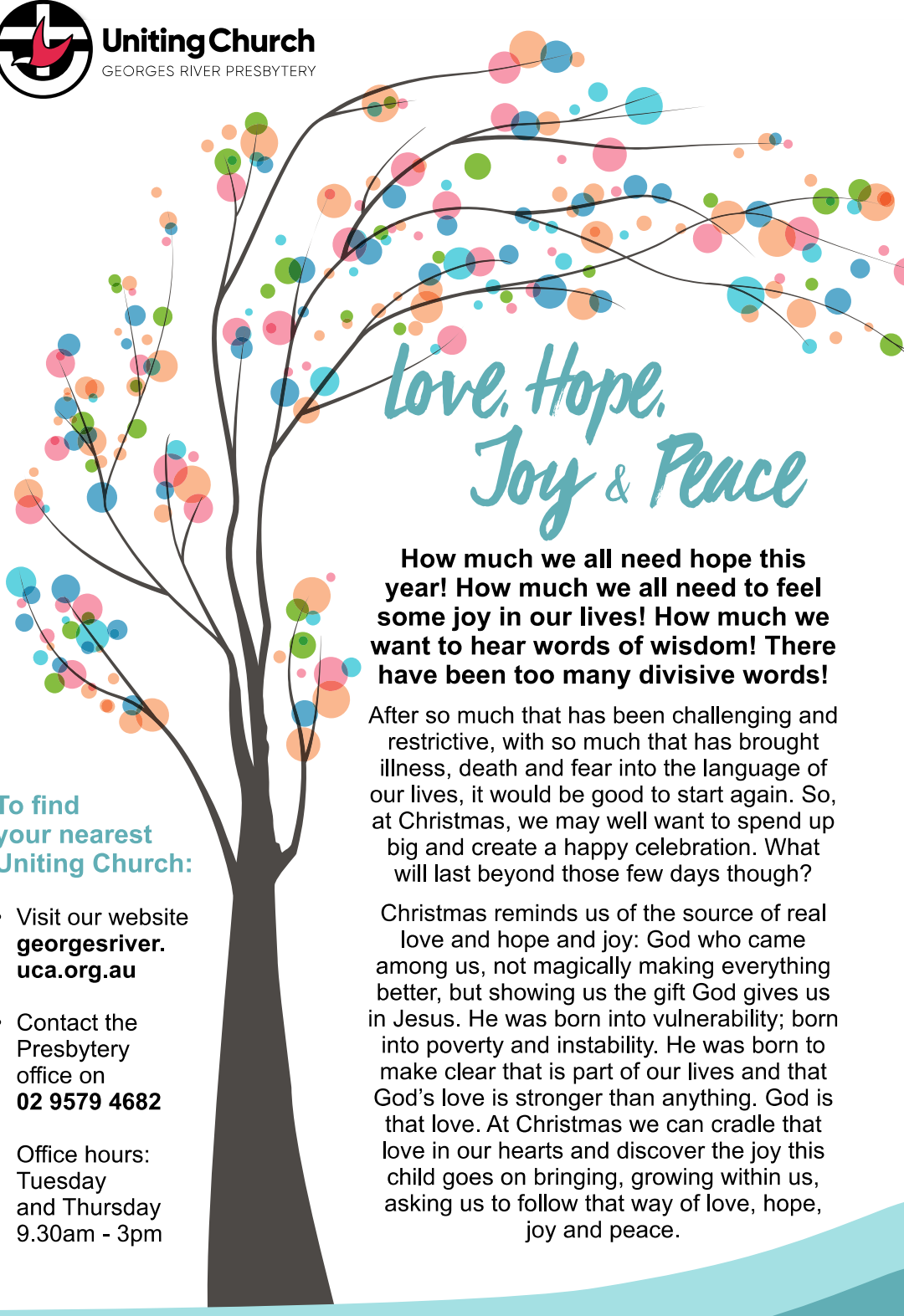
Georges River Presbytery REPRESENTATIVES TO NSW SYNOD 2021

The Standing Committee only received 14 nominations for representatives from Georges River Presbytery to NSW Synod 2021. Those elected were:

- Under 25 years old: Shane Slade, Marica Naceva Mataka, Shaynareigh Vaha
- 25 to 51 years old: Charissa Suli, Cameron Eccleston, Malcolm Tangi, Elizabeth Hawea, Caleb Ravesteyn, Alisi Siakimotu, Arthur Siakimotu.
- over 51 years old: Matagi Vilitama, Ruth Fyfe, Barbara Moore, Kevin Fyfe, Alex Thomas, Simon Lee.

PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Standing Committee elected Ms Alisi Siakimotu and Rev Alex Thomas to fill the two vacancies on the Pastoral Relations Committee until 30 June 2021.

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Uniting Church
GEORGES RIVER PRESBYTERY

*Love, Hope,
Joy & Peace*

How much we all need hope this year! How much we all need to feel some joy in our lives! How much we want to hear words of wisdom! There have been too many divisive words!

After so much that has been challenging and restrictive, with so much that has brought illness, death and fear into the language of our lives, it would be good to start again. So, at Christmas, we may well want to spend up big and create a happy celebration. What will last beyond those few days though?

Christmas reminds us of the source of real love and hope and joy: God who came among us, not magically making everything better, but showing us the gift God gives us in Jesus. He was born into vulnerability; born into poverty and instability. He was born to make clear that is part of our lives and that God's love is stronger than anything. God is that love. At Christmas we can cradle that love in our hearts and discover the joy this child goes on bringing, growing within us, asking us to follow that way of love, hope, joy and peace.

To find your nearest Uniting Church:

- Visit our website **georgesriver.uca.org.au**
- Contact the Presbytery office on **02 9579 4682**

Office hours:
Tuesday
and Thursday
9.30am - 3pm

ADELAIDE PAYS TRIBUTE TO FORMER SAILORS

Published on 02 October 2020 LEUT Geoff Long (author), ABIS Sittichai Sakonpoonpol (photographer)

Location(s): Elizabeth Reef, Coral Sea

Topic(s): [HMAS Adelaide \(L01\)](#), [Committal of Ashes Ceremony](#)



Chaplain Simote Finau and crew members of HMAS Adelaide conduct a scattering of ashes memorial service for six former Royal Australian Navy personnel onboard HMAS Adelaide.

The ship's company of [HMAS Adelaide](#) has paid tribute to the lives of six fellow Royal Australian Navy and Royal Australian Navy Reserve seafarers as their ashes were committed to the sea.

The ceremony, formally known as a Committal of Ashes, was conducted by Chaplain Simote Finau as the ship transited from Elizabeth Reef, just off Lord Howe Island.

Those remembered in the ashes scattering service were Warrant Officer Garry Kopp, Chief Petty Officer Frederick Churn and his wife Amelia Churn, Leading Seaman Stoker Ernest Brown, Leading Seaman Airman Photographer John Watt, Able Seaman Barrie Bourke, and Musician First Class Gordon Crompton.

Chaplain Finau said in his introduction it was especially important to support the families while acknowledging each member's service to Navy.

"We recognise their services to their country and in the committal of their ashes to the sea, sharing in this special time as we pay our respect and farewell," he said.

Commanding Officer HMAS *Adelaide*, Captain Jonathan Ley said, in his address, that it was fitting to scatter the ashes of sailors in the sea that has played a large part in their lives and their family's lives.

"Many before us have paid the ultimate sacrifice in serving their nation and it is with pride that we can stand here today and share a common purpose that, despite the generations that separate us, unite us as one," Captain Ley said.

Tributes and statement of services were read out for each of the six seafarers, followed by prayers and a final blessing from the Chaplain.



Chaplain Simote Finau reads a prayer during a scattering of ashes memorial service for six former Royal Australian Navy personnel onboard HMAS Adelaide.

Rev Simote Finau is a Chaplain in the Navy and part of the Georges River Presbytery.