

Georges River Presbytery News

The Christmas story is about hope, peace, joy and love. Knowing that God is with us gives us hope and joy. It gives us assurance that no matter what circumstances we face, we have a God who walks alongside us, to sing and rejoice with us, hold our hand and help us through our darkest times. We thank you for holding us in your prayers throughout the year. To those who joined us in the Office and shared with us God's word and joined us in prayer, we are very grateful. We pray that the season will help you to shine brightly. May gratitude overwhelm your spirit and in God's peace receive refreshment.

We wish everyone in the Georges River Presbytery a very happy Christmas, as you celebrate the Word of God that became flesh — Immanuel, God with us!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2023!
Sionoa, Barbara & Matagi

Our Mission and Leadership Presbytery Minister meets Foreign Affairs Minister Penny Wong

While visiting Niue last October for a family function, I had the pleasure of meeting Australia's Minister for Foreign Affairs Senator, the Hon. Penny Wong along with her delegation. She was part of Niue's 48th anniversary of Constitution celebrations and following the celebration she launched the new Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) satellite dish for Niue's broadcasting corporation (BCN).



Picture 1 (From left to right) Rev. Scanlan Mitiepo (BCN Board Chairperson), Australia Foreign Affairs Minister Senator the Penny Wong, Rev. Dr. Matagi Vilitama and BCN Acting General Manager Esther Pavihi in front of ABC satellite dish)

I was fortunate to be part of the launch. The BCN Chairperson Rev. Scanlan Mitiepo opened the programme with a few opening remarks before I was given the special blessing to officiate the satellite.



Picture 2 (BCN Staff with Australia Foreign Affairs Minister Wong and Rev Dr Matagi Vilitama)

Minister Wong in her remarks expressed how grateful she was to be part of the official ABC satellite launch on the island. She also acknowledged the two nation's strong people-to-people links and one of the ways the two countries can contribute to the understanding of each other is to make sure they share each other's stories that contribute to the shared understanding for closer ties.

Minister Penny Wong is a proud member of the UCA. She shared that she was very pleased to have me, a UCA Minister, as part of her party in the launching of the satellite. I had the pleasure of leading a brief devotion service to bless the project.

Christmas Messages

Georges River Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC) 2022

As we prepare for Christmas we communicate by email, phone calls, Christmas cards, annual letters and personal catch ups with friends and family. We have many ways of sharing news and making arrangements and planning.

In the past people communicated differently. They may have shouted the news in the street, or written letters if people could read and write. They used signs and symbols and word of mouth to tell of important events. We still use signs and symbols with our advent banners, advent candles and lights. When we look at the candles, the lights on houses and lights on Christmas trees we think of the Light of the World as announced by John the Baptist. He was a person who shouted out good news long ago, he told of preparing the way for Jesus who is the Light of the World.

As we prepare for our exciting Christmas with family and friends, please enjoy the beautiful Christmas lights and remember Jesus is the Light and we are called to tell others about him just like John did over 2000 years ago.

I would like to thank all those on the PRC who have worked diligently in their role through 2022, supported so well by the Secretary, Richard Hanna, and all those on the GRP Presbytery Team both employed and volunteers.



On behalf of the Georges River Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC) I wish all Ministers, Ministry Agents and Congregations a Joyous Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

May your Christmas services be inspiring and your celebrations be exhilarating.
Christmas Blessings,

Ruth Fyfe,
Chairperson, GRP Pastoral Relations Committee

Christmas greetings from the Presbytery Property Committee.

Thankyou, to the members of the Property Committee that help keep our Presbytery properties maintained.

Kevin Fyfe

Presbytery Property Committee Convenor.

GRP Good News Stories

Official Opening of the Accessibility Ramp at Engadine UC.



Lugarno-Peakhurst UC



<https://mainlymusic.org>

Mainly Music at has just concluded for the year with our Christmas celebration. We had approx. 25 Families in attendance with their Pre-School Children and we had Rev Dr Matagi Vilitama join us for our celebration. It was organised chaos but all enjoyed themselves, especially the food and family photos and gift bags with the Christmas Message to take home and share with their families.



We have 7 dedicated leaders including Rev IL- Woong Kim who connect with the families each week. I wish to share a story with you. One of our regular children can sometimes have anxiety issues and his Mum has difficulty getting him to go home as he wants to play with the toys. Mum had trouble even getting him to the car due to his meltdown. Our ladies jumped in and helped Mum who was quite upset. A subsequent phone call from a leader that afternoon and an invite from another Christian mum to meet at a local park for a play was just what she needed. This mum expressed her appreciation for the love that was shown by all the Leaders and will certainly be back next year. A lot of our families do not go to church but we do not know what seeds are being sewn each week through the Songs and Rhymes (some of a Christian content) but especially the love and listening ears that our team of ladies and men (all grandparents) bring to Mainly Music each week.



Blessings

Pamela Hanna OAM

Mainly Music Co-Ordinatorresbytery

georgesriver.uca.org.au

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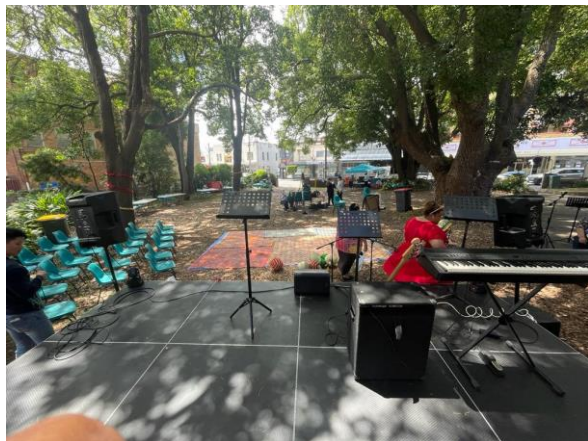
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A Presbytery in the
Synod of NSW and the ACT



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Christmas Event at Rockdale



First of all, thanks to Georges River Presbytery for having the idea of the Celebration.

Then, a special thanks to you Susannah, who I believe was the master planner, and to Elizabeth and all others involved in planning and organizing and doing all the work involved in bringing it all together.

It was a great day and all the different activities seemed to run smoothly. It was good to see people from so many different congregations involved, especially so many young people, who not only performed on stage but were very active in helping in many ways, right to the end. We were very impressed with the organization of everything. (It was so great to have the big rubbish bins, especially as we have no garbage collection from the church at present).

Special thanks to Rev. Cameron, who had the big job of erecting, looking after, and packing up the jumping castles, to go down with Covid the next day.

Rev. Matagi did a great job as Santa, the petting zoo was very popular, and thanks to Ruth and Kevin Fyfe with Devonshire Teas. There are many others to thank too, the stage and sound and lighting operators and of course all the items. It was so good again to see so many people, especially young people, singing and playing instruments and the carols and Christian messages were a good finish to the day.

It was wonderful for Rockdale to see the whole place full of life – a sign of hope for the future.

Please express our thanks to all involved in such a great Christmas Celebration.

Dorothy Mammatt

RUC Council Secretary





Carlton Ramsgate GLEEFUL MUSIC NIGHT

Saturday 19th November Carlton-Ramsgate Uniting Church Youth Group GLEE hosted a “GLEEFUL MUSIC NIGHT” with a jam packed program of young and “young at heart” performers from our local Congregations.

The support shown on the night was AMAZING, and we are so blessed to be journeying with our brothers and sisters in the GRP. We truly are grateful for your time to come together and fellowship and perform!





The GLEEFUL NIGHT was born from the inspiration and fun we had at the KALEO NIGHT held by Hurstville City Uniting Church. Music, Fun, Food and Fellowship ❤️

GLEE were able to raise some funds from selling Lucky Tickets, Food, Drinks and Cake on the night for our Church. We raised almost \$4,000, all whilst having fun!

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR GLEE DREAM TEAM for pulling this night together with the leadership of our GLEE Coordinator Alisi Siakimotu. Nothing would've been possible without the support of our Rev Dr Hawea Jackson who continues to support GLEE!

THANKS To Pastor Joe Matamua and Nepo Faalua from Sounds42 for the awesome lighting and sound system.

THANKS for the many financial donations, food & drink donations, Lucky ticket prize donations and time taken to support our night.



THANKS TO Rev Charissa Suli and Rev Dr Matagi Vilitama who shared some encouraging words and prayers for our young people.

STAY TUNED FOR GLEEFUL MUSIC NIGHT 2023!!!! Have a Safe & Merry Christmas from Carlton-Ramsgate GLEE Youth.

-Alisi Siakimotu



Events coming up

Bankstown Brass Band

Everyone is invited to join Bankstown Christmas Service.



 **BANKSTOWN DISTRICT
UNITING CHURCH**

Join Us To Celebrate Christmas
with the Bankstown City Brass Band

"The Special We"

Saturday, December 24, 2022 @ 6:00 pm

**Christmas Day
Service**

Sunday, December 25, 2022 @ 9:30 am

72 Kitchener PDE– Bankstown

 www.bankstownuca.com.au
For more info call us on 0411 178 343



GRP Meeting Dates

Presbytery Meeting/Events:

GRP Gathering – 7:30 pm 21st February 2023 at Bankstown District Uniting Church. During this will be the Commissioning of the Pastoral Relations Minister Rev Steve Aynsley.

Standing Committee:

Held on the second Tuesday each month at the Presbytery Office or by Zoom at 4:30 pm.

Pastoral Relations Committee:

Meets on the first Tuesday each month at 4:30 pm.

Property Committee:

Held on the last Tuesday each month at 4.30pm at the Presbytery Office or by Zoom.

Mission and Strategy Committee:

Held on the first Thursday each month at 6.30pm for 7pm Devotions.

