

04 October 2022

## Georges River Presbytery News

### From the Mission and Leadership Presbytery Minister

As we come to the final quarter of the year, we begin to feel the excitement of a new season. Spring and new growth are signs that God is at work. For over two years our congregations have experienced gloom and hardship living through the pandemic, mourning our damaged ecclesial orthodoxy and a reality of depleted membership and capacity. How can we help our congregations and committees adjust to new ways of being church amidst the shifting social patterns of the communities around us? How can we grow in this new season of postmodernity? I am reminded of our vision statement: “Georges River Presbytery exists to see healthy growing congregations within the Presbytery who will be known for passionately pursuing the mission of Jesus.” I am also reminded that, despite trying circumstances, God is at work and we are to join the Lord in God’s life-giving mission.

Winter is gone and we are in a new season. On August 27th representatives from congregations attended a GRP half-day mission retreat held at Kogarah Uniting Church. The program included a brief progress report on the GRP Mission and Vision Strategic Plan, a self-identification exercise on the 4 types of church categories and mapping our presbytery into geographical areas. The focus on the day was ‘collaboration’ – a strategic core value of the GRP plan.

The takeaways observed on the day were the number of participants who attended and engaged in the retreat, the excitement and passion in their regional group discussion and sharing, and the optimism and hope that grew out of the retreat. Participants broke into groups from the four regions (Sutherland Shire, Canterbury-Bankstown, Bayview, and Georges River) and shared the challenges and their missional aspirations with the rest of the participants. Many are still talking about the joys and hope conjured up on the day. Thank you, Kogarah Uniting Church, for hosting the event and for the generous hospitality.

This excitement has translated to those regional clusters ongoing engagement since. For instance, the Bayview group of churches had continued meeting and culminated in a gathering last Saturday, 1st October, at Bardwell Park Uniting Church where they shared their mission over a fellowship and a meal. The Bayview Mission group involves Bardwell Park Uniting Church, Carlton Ramsgate Uniting Church, Rockdale Uniting Church, Bexley Uniting Church, Kogarah Uniting Church and St. Andrew’s Brighton-Le-Sands Uniting Church. Hurstville City Uniting Church were also invited to share with the group. Other regional clusters are encouraged to continue the conversations and report back to the next Presbytery meeting in November.

What a fabulous night of worship and fellowship at Bankstown Uniting Church on Friday 30th September. The Presbytery event was organised by LSIC and led by Bankstown youth leader Benji Asomaning and his team. It was an amazing evening of praise and worship highlighted by the very



talented young people. Over 140 young people and some senior members attended the worship service. Presbytery would like to thank Bankstown Youth, New Beginnings, Bankstown Church on the Highway Youth, Campsie-Earlwood-Clemton Park Youth, Hurstville's Real Force, and Carlton Ramsgate's Glee for a wonderful praise and worship connecting us to God through songs and dances. Very grateful also to Menai-Illawong, St Andrews Brighton and other congregation members for joining the praise and worship evening. Following a successful night of worship and fellowship many young people are asking about the next event. A very special acknowledgment to Rev Gaby and Bankstown District UC for your open arms and hospitality.

Finally, please remember that you are not alone. We all belong to the Body of Christ, we are one (1 Corinthians 12:27). When one part of the body hurts the whole body experience the pain. Growing pains are part of life and we are to endure times of struggle. I pray that Spring will mark a season of new growth for us and that we will endure even when we face challenges of change in coming months. To God be the glory.

*I am of you We are of Christ*

I am of you, you are of me  
We are of Christ we're called to follow Jesus  
We are one  
We are a people of the way  
Of many colours on God's way  
Called to love  
Called to serve with God.

We are the weak, we are the broken  
But carriers of God's Word in these earthly vessels  
Imperfect shells  
We're carried by grace and love and peace  
Carried to share with our neighbour in need  
Called to love  
Called to serve with God.

*Come Holy Friend  
Let your will be done  
Make your home in us and help us serve  
Come sister come  
Dear brother come  
Let us love, let us serve with God  
Let us live, let us serve the world.*

(Matagi Jessop Vilitama)



# The Georges River Presbytery Pastoral Relations Presbytery Minister

Rev Steve Aynsley commencing February 2023

The GRP Joint Nominating Committee is pleased to announce to all congregation members that this fulltime Ministry position will be commencing in February 2023.

Our presbytery is thrilled to have Rev Steve Aynsley as part of the Team at 18 The Avenue Hurstville. His experience, skills and many personal attributes make him an ideal Minister for this Pastoral Relations role.

Two areas of competence in the Position Description are:

Maturity in personality and faith in Jesus Christ with a clear set of values consistent with the Uniting Church as expressed in the Basis of Union:

Steve has had been in ministry for 27 years. He has a deep faith in Jesus Christ. He has a clear and extensive knowledge of the Uniting Church having been Chairperson of the Sydney Central Coast Presbytery PRC for many years. In his own words he states, "I am broad in my theology, growing more progressive from an early conservative faith as an Anglican."

An explicit sense of hope for the future of the Uniting Church:

Steve has a steadfast hope that the UC will flourish but perhaps not in the same form as it is at the moment. He amalgamated Gordon & Pymble Uniting Churches into one church recently, he has experience with Governance and management responsibilities from his work on a School Board and others have described him as having a "capacity for a high level of strategic planning" which is a competency needed to assist with the implementation of GRP's Mission Vision & Strategic Plan.

Steve has been in Congregational roles for all his ministry (in Griffith, the Blue Mountains and Gordon-Pymble) and also brings a wealth of knowledge due to his Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC) experience.

Just a small quote from Steve's profile fills us with hope as he takes up his new Ministry with Georges River Presbytery in 2023.

"I love relating to the variety of people who connect with congregations, such as welcoming those new to exploring faith at Tuesday Conversations at GPUC, establishing a Café-based group for alternative types in the Blue Mountains, and including and incorporating Pacific Islanders at Griffith."

He is highly regarded by many people in the Uniting Church as "a great guy" and his warm approachable manner was experienced by the JNC.

Welcome Rev Steve Aynsley!



# Good News Stories

## New Faith Community

On behalf of GRP, we would like to welcome and celebrate our brand new Faith Community formally, a Tongan Worship Group worshipping at Beverly Hills Church. Following a long and extensive consultation process, the PRC and SC on behalf of Presbytery have endorsed their request to become a faith community and we look forward to journey together with them as they seek to become a full congregation of the Uniting Church.

## Commissioning of Paul Jabez



The commissioning of Pastor Paul Jabez, Uniting Chaplain, was on Sunday the 18th of September 2022 at Bankstown District Uniting Church by the Rev Gaby Kobrossi

## Bankstown's Fellowship

Bankstown District Uniting Church - Bus Trip to Central Coast (Monthly Outings)



A message from Bankstown: "Our monthly Trips to discover this beautiful Land with fellowship and spiritual time. We welcome everyone to join us. Even we are happy to organize for individual congregations."

Father's Day at Bankstown District Uniting Church was a wonderful day and service.



Menai-Illawong UC is excited to be gearing up for Christmas.



Congregants from Menai-Illawong collected items donated by Lego from Good 360 in Smithfield that will undoubtedly bring joy to local children in need on Christmas Day.

Thank you Lego and Good 360 for your generous contribution to the community.



Becky Douglas commissioned as pastor at Grace Christian Church



## Presbytery Events... Were you there?

GRP Half-Day Retreat – on Saturday, 27th August 2022, at Kogarah Uniting Church



[georgesriver.uca.org.au](http://georgesriver.uca.org.au)

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ABN 11 939 987 352

A Presbytery in the  
Synod of NSW and the ACT



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Kaleo Night – on Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> September 2022, at Hurstville Uniting Church



GRP LSIC Praise & Worship on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September at Bankstown Uniting Church



This night was dedicated to worship and fellowship at Bankstown Uniting Church. The Presbytery event was organised by LSIC and led by Bankstown youth leader Benji Asomaning and his team. Many talents were shared throughout the night and the Spirit filled the room with joy! Over 140 young people and some senior members attended the worship service.







## Events coming up

### Engadine Uniting Church

Congratulations to Engadine UC for recently making it into *Insights*. Read about Engadine congregation and some of what they've been up to, captured by Synod staff member Angela Cadena at a fundraising evening for Uniting World, [Engadine Uniting Thrives Beyond Worshipping](#).

You are warmly invited to join their upcoming events:

- ✓ the community Picnic for Nature on Sun 16th October;
- ✓ a community forum on affordable housing on Tue 1st Nov, and
- ✓ the annual Amnesty 'Write for Rights' event.
- ✓ their next book club meeting is on Wed 19th Oct, examining the Voice to Parliament.

You can find them all on their website [here](#), or read on for more details.

### Picnic for Nature

The Nature Conservation Council of NSW has asked people to "Picnic for Nature" on Oct 16th to celebrate nature in their local communities, coming together to enjoy the natural beauty and biodiversity of our local area. We are teaming up with the Parish of St John Bosco to host the Engadine picnic in Cooper St Park, and will have activities to entertain and engage adults and children alike. Bring your picnic lunch and something to sit on, or just drop by for a few minutes and say hello and connect with your local community. Find our picnic at the NCC site [here](#).

**When:** Sunday 16th October (see their facebook event for more details)

**Where:** Cooper St Reserve, Engadine

**What:** Picnic in the park.

**How to book:** Register [here](#) or just drop by.

### Affordable Housing forum

Join us on Tuesday evening 1st Nov at 7pm for a community forum on affordable housing in the Shire: what, why, and how much? Who needs it, how do you qualify and who decides? What role do Sutherland Council Local and State Government play, and what has been achieved since the elections last year? Speakers include senior policy staff from Shelter NSW and local leaders of Sydney Alliance, and we are inviting Sutherland Shire Councillors and candidates for the upcoming NSW State election to attend and outline their solutions. You can find the event on our website [here](#), and very soon it will be up on their FB page.

**When:** Tuesday 1st November, 7pm-8.30pm

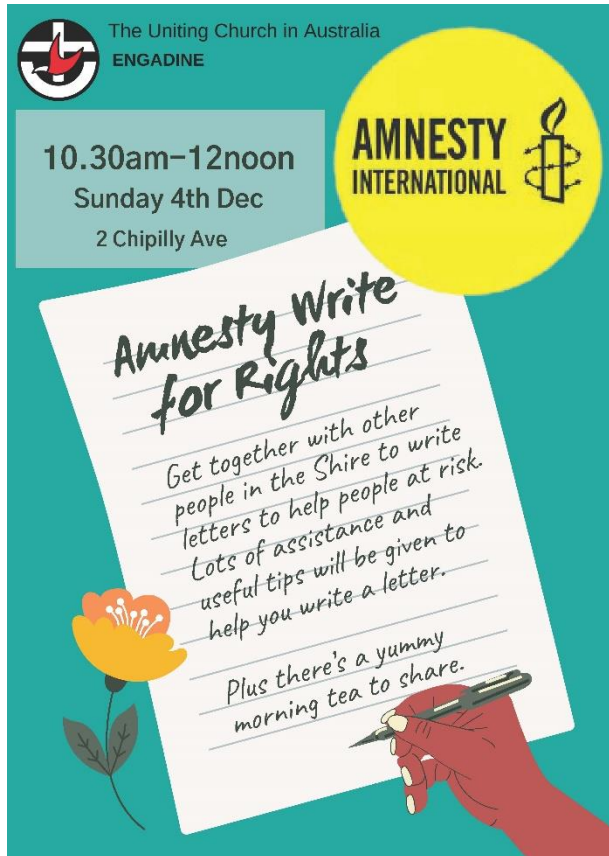
**Where:** Our premises, 2 Chipilly Ave, Engadine



**What:** Community forum with expert speakers, question time, representations to government for more and better action on this issue. Coffee and cake too!

**Cost:** none, but please register here for catering

### Amnesty "Write for Rights"



Join this annual joint event between the Sutherland Shire Amnesty branch and the congregation of Engadine Uniting. Easy notes, handy hints and short stories to help you write letters that express our support for people who are prisoners of conscience across the world. Help is provided whether you are doing it for the first time or have been along before.

Hot and cold drinks and yummys (including gluten free) will be available for the whole time so you can sip and scribe. We will have sample letters to illustrate what sort of things you might write, and you can ask for quiet coaching and assistance as needed.

**When:** Sunday 4th Dec, 10.30am to midday

**Where:** Engadine Uniting Church, 2 Chipilly Ave, Engadine

**What:** Letter writing for Amnesty International

**Cost:** none

**How to book:** If you're on facebook, RSVP there, but otherwise just show up

### Book Club

Our book club has read and discussed Dark Emu by Bruce Pascoe, Truth Telling by Henry Reynolds, and is now reviewing the Uluru Statement from the Heart together with various webinars from the authors and other indigenous collaborators of the Statement to hear their perspectives of the Voice to Parliament. You can find links to many of these resources on our website [here](#).

**Next meeting:** Wednesday 19th Oct, at both 10.00-11.30am or 7.30-9.00pm

**Where:** Our church premises, 2 Chipilly Ave, Engadine

**What:** Classic book club format, led by Loraine, Michael, Paul or Ian

**Cost:** None

**How to book:** Contact Loraine on 0412 182 839 or email [admin@engadine.unitingchurch.org.au](mailto:admin@engadine.unitingchurch.org.au).





# GOLDEN GIRL FASHIONS Fashion Parade

*(sizes 10-22..all ages)*

to be held in Bankstown  
Uniting Church Hall

On SATURDAY, 15<sup>th</sup>  
October at 1.30pm  
72 Kitchener Pde,  
Bankstown 2200

**Cost: \$10 per person** – includes afternoon tea

*All welcome - bring your friends*

**Contact us:**

Jeanette:0416272301 or Irene:0413011197

*(Please advise by 10/10/22 of numbers coming for Catering)*



*Ackermann's Repository  
1815 Evening Dress*

*Courtesy of EK.Duncan.blogspot.com 2011*



## GRP Meeting Dates

### Presbytery Meeting/Events:

Meeting – 7:30pm 15 November at Grace Christian Church Panania

Carols and Family Christmas Event – 5 pm (TBC) at Rockdale Uniting Church

### Standing Committee:

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

11 October 2022

08 November 2022

13 December 2022

### Pastoral Relations Committee:

Meets on the 1st Tuesday each month at 4:30 pm.

Hybrid meeting Zoom and on-site at the GRP Office

1 November

6 December

### Property Committee:

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

27 October 2022

24 November 2022

### Mission and Strategy Committee:

Held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday each month at 6.30pm for 7pm Devotions.

6 October 2022

3 November 2022



## Job Prospect

### Exciting Opportunity to be part of the movement that Grows our Presbytery Young!

THIS IS A NEWLY CREATED ROLE IN THE GEORGES RIVER PRESBYTERY, TO SUPPORT OUR MISSION TO GROW YOUNG. HERE IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR AN ENTHUSIASTIC, ENERGETIC & CREATIVE PERSON TO JOIN OUR TEAM.

WE ARE SEEKING A PASSIONATE CHRISTIAN EMERGING GENERATION WORKER TO PARTNER WITH OUR CONGREGATIONS AS WELL AS THE GRP AND NSW/ACT SYNOD TO SUPPORT THE EXISTING PROGRAM AND ITS VOLUNTEERS; AND TO BE PART OF A TEAM WHICH DEVELOPS AND PROMOTES NEW WAYS FOR DEVELOPING OUR YOUNG PEOPLE AS LEADERS IN THE CHURCH AND COMMUNITY AND TO STRENGTHEN THEIR UNDERSTANDING AND FAITH IN GOD.



*If you have 6-14 hours per week, could you be an Emerging Gen worker? Or do you have the skills and experience to be the full-time Team Leader?*

*Do you know someone who does?*

*Please contact the office at [admin.grp@nswact.uca.org.au](mailto:admin.grp@nswact.uca.org.au) for an information pack or Rev Dr Matagi Vilitama on 0420 643 658 for more details.*

