



The Journal of Killara Uniting Church Parish

"Fiveways" - Corner Arnold Street and Karranga Avenue

<https://killara.uca.org.au>

Issue 100 September 2023

It's the special 100th Issue of Connection

CONNECTION

See the wonderful Connections the Congregation have been making.



Visiting Northwood House on August 22nd



Jump In to our latest issue



Fun & Games

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**From the Editor**

Greetings to all: this is our 100th issue!

If it takes a village to raise a child, how many people does it take to build up a church and nourish it? Silly question, of course, as worshipping communities can be small or large. However, one thing is certain – *all* the members are needed, and *all* contribute to the whole.

In preparing for this, the 100th issue of Killara Connection, I have been looking at back issues over twenty years or so. It is remarkable how many people have contributed to the life of our church over those years. Many are no longer with us, but all contributed to the vibrancy of our church in their time. We can believe that each particular occasion of care shown and joy experienced remains indelibly important in the life of our own church as it is for every church.

A lovely coincidence occurred when I picked up issue 16, autumn 2002 of Killara Connection. The new editor, Graeme Lumsden, was bringing out his first edition. Graeme died recently, and it was good to remember a man who was a friend to us all, and a man who took seriously tasks asked of him.*

We have our own challenges to nurture Killara Uniting Church in our own era. Certainly, one challenge is financial, as our Treasurer makes known. There are also contributions to make in other ways; let us all be part of the building up of our church.

Julie Sekhon

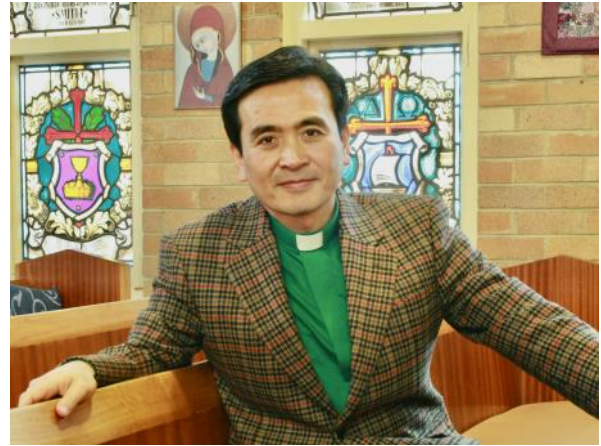
*An obituary of Graeme will appear in a later edition of this magazine.



From the Minister's Desk.

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, ..

[Acts 11:1-4]



There can be a depressing difference between the church as it is portrayed in the Bible and church as we experience it in our own lives. Such a gap between them was surely a disheartening reality to the first century Christians. After Easter the church was expanding like wildfire into the world. Some influential people in the church raised concerns about St Peter's fellowship with Gentiles, and then called him to explain about his missionary work. Peter reported to the church council: the church has overcome the greatest wall between Jews and Gentiles. He shared his vision with them: a church without prejudices, without barriers, without walls. It's a church with the door wide open to all!

We note that our contemporary church has almost come to be 'gender blind' but it has ways to go to be 'colour blind' in the life of the church. There is a huge gap between our 'real' church and the 'ideal' church. The Book of Acts encourages us not to lose our hope to be changed. It leads us to see the people, who listened to Peter, changed their hearts, and praised God: "When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life." [Acts 11:18]



Church members are often poignantly faced with a gap between the church as God has called it to be and church as it actually is. Yet by keeping our eyes fixed on the church as the body of Christ, we can be led by the Holy Spirit to *be* the body of Christ. Church can be, *by the grace of God*, as it is meant to be.

Yangrae Son
[Minister of the Word]

KUC Connection Sep-23 appeal

I am writing to you as Joint Treasurer and Chairman of the Property Committee as I am concerned about the state of the church accounts. Income from offerings and property rentals, is not covering our expenses.

This 2023FY we are showing a deficit of around \$30,000. If we continue in this way even though we have savings, we will be running out of money in three to five years.

We also have an urgent need to upgrade our outdated audio-visual system that is essential to record the service for Zoom broadcasts before it fails. I would like to highlight details of just **some** of the large expenses we incur on an annual basis. I have separated them into major and minor.

<i>Major</i>		<i>Minor but necessary.</i>	
Insurance	\$12,600	Fire & safety	\$2,225
Painting [half]	*1 \$7,500	Computer & other supplies	\$2,036
Cleaning	\$8,320	Gas supply	\$1,924
Organist	\$6,150	Electricity supply	\$1,873
Carpet stretching & clean	*2 \$5,950	Organ maintenance	\$1,618
Accounting fees	\$3,149	Communication	\$1,662
Flowers & gifts	\$2,563	Manse plumbing	\$1,512
Presbytery & Seeds of Growth	\$2,543	Tree trim, Window clean	\$1,360

A complete break-up of our revenue and expenses will be available in the Treasurer's Annual Report to be presented for the AGM on 24-Sep-23.

Just like a home or business we have experienced large increases in our cost base and many of these costs are set to increase further next year. So, as you can see with three buildings to look after, we have numerous and varied running expenses and maintenance costs just to keep these buildings up to scratch.

We do receive rent from a few tenants including Atkinson Dance Company which does help tremendously. Each year we do increase these charges and are looking at ways to make the property in our care earn additional income including looking for additional tenants.

Our Property Committee do a myriad of jobs that help keep our maintenance expenses down to a minimum, but they can only do so much. Peter Bidencepe, who retired to the Northern Beaches did for many years take care of the properties and we do miss his knowledge and expertise. But fortunately, the loss of Ron Leckie from the gardening side, who retired at 100, has been taken up very actively by Terry Lee. None the less the Property Committee is well aware of the situation and plans to curtail expenses for all but essential activities.

Many thanks to those who have already increased their contribution. However, we encourage all congregants, and Zoom participants, to see if they can further support our church. We have a few members contributing a considerable amount each year. but do realise that many members cannot contribute large amounts. Even 10-20% extra will help. However, we urgently need support from all the congregation. We are in dire straits. We, have a very special church here, a strong congregation with a great and informative Minister as well as lots of lovely members and it would be very sad if we have to close.

We therefore appeal to you all; if you can help us in any way by giving bequests, or regular contributions; even donations for specific projects such as our audio-visual system upgrade, it would be vital as well as very much appreciated.

Thank you,
Ian Neilson

Visit to Art Gallery

On 13th July, Sue Mitchell led a large group of interested walkers to see paintings submitted for the Archibald, Wynne and Sulman prizes – including the winners! Some paintings surprised us, but that is the way with art, and we defer to the experts. Sue’s excellent commentary even attracted some not of our group to listen in! Afterwards we enjoyed a chat over lunch in the Gallery’s cafeteria: altogether an enjoyable day!



Pastoral Care Team

Killara Church's Pastoral Care team comprises 14 members. They work closely with the Minister, Yangrae Son, to establish an effective pastoral care network in the Killara congregation by offering support, encouragement, and care for all members of the church's congregation. The Minister is always available to visit church members when asked or needed.



Through contact with the Pastoral Care network, we hope that each member of the congregation feels welcomed, accepted and a valuable part of our Christian community. This includes not only current existing members, but also visitors and new members.

A Pastoral Carer is someone who is there to provide support as a friend, both emotionally and spiritually, especially in time of need. Our role is not to offer physical support or replace the role of family or medical advisor.

Each member of our church community is offered a Pastoral Carer. This relationship works best when church members and their Pastoral Carer are in regular contact with each other.



The Pastoral Care team meets once a month and is very conscious of the need for confidentiality and discretion.

Pastoral Care team members are responsible for many of the social activities of the church. These include monthly lunches, walking group, knitting group and coffee mornings. In addition, prayers in "*What's On*" and flowers for those who are ill, in need or bereaved are also the responsibility of the Pastoral Carers.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of the Pastoral Care ministry, the Minister is always available, or you can contact Jan Smith who is the Pastoral Care Co-ordinator.

Eye Opening Vanuatu

Linda Brown

I'm blessed to remain close to 5 friends from high school (as well as being married to one). The 'Gels' try and catch up on birthdays and special occasions when we can and they all have been a great support to me. One of those friends Jo moved with her husband to Vanuatu nearly a decade ago and lives a very different lifestyle to me. Jo works and supports a school called Ekipe which is nearly 70 km north of Port Vila. Jo has translated over 40 books into Bislama and is a teacher at the school.

We organised a driver to take 5 of us to Jo's place together with bags of school stationery supplies, printer inks, skipping ropes and much needed first aid. Jo and her husband Tim did what they could post the 2 cyclones within 72 hours in March, 2023.



They had to empty their precious water tanks due to contamination.

We also visited the school which was basic but clean and welcoming. Jo came back to Port Vila with us for a few days and luxuriated with the hot showers and cooked breakfasts. Over the evenings she told me some very sad tales with a young baby dying in her arms and the challenges the locals face. There is a medical clinic available but the transport to get to the medical clinic is equivalent to a day's wages so people don't attend when they should. Vanuatu has very little medical support or even statistics on what is occurring across the islands. Jo does an amazing job with what she has and hopes to stay another 3-5 years before she will need to return to Australia. I am listing below some of the items and approximate cost which would make a huge difference to the school and Jo. There is no electrical electricity for lighting at the school and there are eight impaired students. If anyone would like to make a donation I can ensure the money goes directly to where it is needed and also hope to do another trip in 2024. Another option is to consider having a holiday in Vanuatu and hopefully some of your money will go to the local people.

Our trip was timed with a Pacific wide Melanesian Festival so saw some incredible dancing and heard amazing music. Went snorkelling and saw turtles, clown fish, octopus and giant blue clams. The Blue Lagoon is a must and the people are really, really friendly.

Please contact me if you want to give some tips (for the school kids) or get some tips on a great holiday there.

Wish List:

	Vatu	AUD
Fuel for generator power for one month for school	16,200	\$200
Cordless drill for John, school handyman	8,100	\$100
Visit to medical clinic to see nurse	300	\$4
Bus Transport for 20 minute drive to clinic	2,500	\$32
Solar Lanterns	9,720	\$120
Children's learning games (without batteries)		
Egg counters, shake and make dice, egg timers	810	\$10

Big 'Pipe Dream' projects:

Solar lighting including conduits and multifix cabling

Water tank and clean collection roof and piping



Fun and Games event on July 23rd



The Israelites of old saw the Sabbath as a time to ‘Joy before the Lord’, and on Sunday 23rd July, following a service of praise and worship we continued the joy with a time of fellowship for young and old.

There was a quiz, devised by Liz and John Giles, which really needed school kids and grey heads to consult together – well done Liz and John! Chris Hare was MC and also set us playing “Beetle” – a captivating game that involved everybody.

Some of us were slow learners (e.g. Editor) but it was fast moving and fun. Thank you, Chris.

Mary Lou Thomson had a big part in getting the party atmosphere going – the balloons, the lucky seat prizes and the organisation. High spirits and goodwill were plentiful in the Thomson family: we thank sister-in-law Donna for her excellent photos and young people Isabelle and Lachie Thomson, who, together with Heather and Kaylee Zhou, helped serve the meal.

The meal of soup, sandwiches, spring rolls and slice was enjoyed by all. Thanks go to the ever-reliable Church family and friends who provided food and staffed the kitchen.

The idea was too good to waste – Fun and Games will return on November 5th!

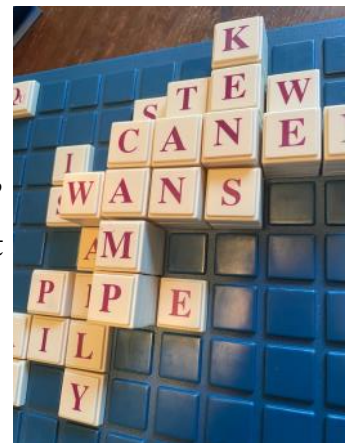




5 November

After the very successful games day in July, Another will be held in November after the morning service, there will be activities for all ages, quiz, party games followed by a light lunch.

11:00am—1:30pm



Father's Day photos



Tommy with Miles



Zhou family

Chris and Oliver



Richard Son with Julian and Sophia



In the service on Father's Day Jan Stanwell will talk about her grandfather – a bit of a twist on stories of fathers which otherwise have featured young families.

Jan is still organising her photo. Julie and Linda are hoping that the photo and story will be in a future issue



Andrew, Angus and Sophie

Father's Day photos



Family Wait



Family Winslow

Nalani & Callum



Federal Member for Bradfield acknowledges our Connection

“I am delighted to extend my congratulations to the congregation of Killara Uniting Church, and particularly all involved in producing the Parish Journal, “Killara Connection”.

To have produced one hundred successive issues is a remarkable collective achievement.

It is a powerful demonstration of the fellowship, commitment and faith which brings together the members of the congregation.

Well done – and thank you for the many ways in which you share God’s love with each other and with our broader community.”

Regards

Paul Fletcher MP

Federal Member for Bradfield

Shadow Minister for Government Services and the Digital Economy

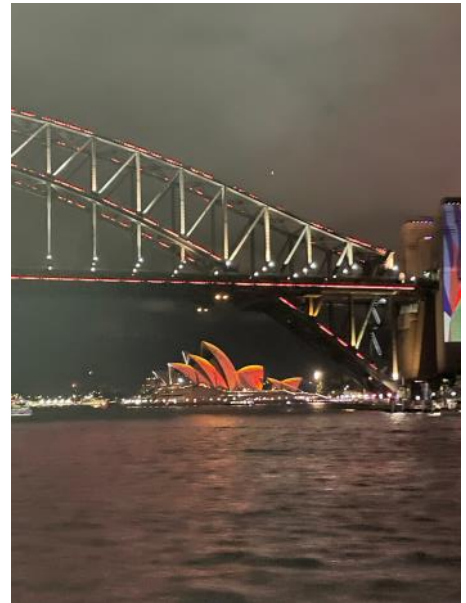
Shadow Minister for Science and the Arts

Manager of Opposition Business in the House

Level 2, 280 Pacific Highway

Lindfield NSW 2070

T: 02 9465 3950 www.paulfletcher.com.au



Friday Coffee Catchups

Date: Final Friday of each month from 10am

Venue: Café Sado in Chatswood Chase Level 1

Friday 29th September at 10am will be the next catch up

A chance to sit and chat over a cup of coffee with other members of the congregation in a relaxed informal setting



At our August **Coffee Catchup** we saw some lovely photos of special new great grandchildren and Nalani Gibbs attended with Peter and Linda





Advocate for Cancer Council

Sue Mitchell has been nominated as the Advocate for the Cancer Council for the Willoughby area.

Here Sue is photographed at the electorate office of the Willoughby MP Tim James.



Visit from Koh

Koh Saito, the Special Religious Education Co-ordinator for Protestant Scripture at Killara High School and the Lindfield Learning Village, spoke of his work at the morning service on 9th July.

Koh, an engaging young man, has a strong desire to teach about the Christian faith: he is a former student of Killara High, and it was during his high school years that he came to faith in Christ.

He is funded as a part-time teacher/co-ordinator by the Killara District Christian Education Association (both Lindfield and Killara Uniting Churches are corporate members).

It is only through Scripture classes that many of our Australian school children learn about Christ and see before them the example of a young person who is joyful and convinced of the reality of living in a relationship with God. Koh is our ambassador in the local high schools.



Coffee Catch-ups, which have been a popular event in January each year, are now a monthly gathering. Called ‘Final Friday Coffee Morning’, these take place in a local café, where people can come and stay for a while, perhaps in between a bit of shopping. These ‘Final Friday’ events are an initiative of the Pastoral Contacts, and are a worthwhile new fellowship opportunity.

July Coffee Catchup

Reflection on earlier Connection news



Dec 2006 Opening of the ‘Link’ “Our Church now has a great asset to enhance our fellowship”

March 2011 Mavis Graham turns 100

March 2014 Arthur Krust celebrates 60 years as lay preacher

March 2013 Farewell to Chris and Ginie

June 2013 Welcome to Ian and Helen Pearson

September 2013 ‘An Ethiopian Affair’ fundraising luncheon (also, in other issues, ‘An Evening in India’ and ‘i-India event’)

December 2006
Killara CONNECTION

David praised the smooth running of the building of our Church / Hall Link. He impressed upon us how the project had been very well managed by Murray and completed in only 18 weeks (earlier than the original estimate).

WELL DONE TO ALL INVOLVED!
Our Congregation now has a great asset to enhance our Fellowship.

David Keetley / Hilda Gebbie



NEW FRONT ENTRANCE





Chris and Ginie's farewell gift

A very warm welcome to our new Minister



Plus—

Lots of people receiving honours – Mike McEwen, Ian Stanwell, Llew Russell, Arthur Krust and recent Honours in 2023 to Jeff Newman



Dear member of the Interfaith family
It is with great pleasure I invite you to join the 20th Interfaith Prayer Service celebrating the International Day of Peace. It seems it started the other day. But we have journeyed together as God's people from different faith traditions for twenty long years. I thank you for your love, prayers and support to make it possible.
Rev Dr Manas Ghosh

Thursday 21 September at 11am.
Venue: Knox Cultural Centre,
Knox Grammar School, 2 Borambil Street,
Wahroonga, NSW 2076
(Just a stone's throw distance from
Warrawee Train Station)
Keynote Speaker: Rev Simon Hansford,
Moderator of the Uniting Church in
Australia, NSW and ACT Synod.
Could you please RSVP by 10 September to
Rev Dr Manas Ghosh on 0429 892 548 or at
revmanasghosh@gmail.com



INTERNATIONAL PEACE DAY INTERFAITH PRAYER SERVICE AT KNOX

Actions for peace: Our ambition for the #GlobalGoals

This year's theme is a call to action that recognises our individual and collective responsibility to foster peace. Religious leaders from Aboriginal, Bahai, Brahmakumaris, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Islamic, Jain, Jewish, Mandaean, Sikh, Sufi and Zoroastrian communities will be in attendance. This year marks the 20th anniversary of this local interfaith prayer service.

We will commemorate the day with an interfaith prayer service and keynote from guest speaker Rev Simon Hansford, Moderator of the Uniting Church (NSW ACT). A light vegetarian lunch will be provided after the service.

When: 21 September 2023, 11am

Where: Knox Cultural Centre (KCC) auditorium, Knox Grammar School
The KCC is in close proximity to Warrawee train station

RSVP: Rev Dr Manas Ghosh at revmanasghosh@gmail.com or phone +61 429 892 548

Winter Bushwalking Outings

On August 22nd walkers visited Northwood, a tiny suburb on the Lane Cove River. Highlights were seeing some of the old houses, including Northwood House.

Northwood House was designed by noted Colonial architect Edmund Blacket and is an elegant house of the late 19th century. We were admiring it when the owner came out and waved to us. He could have been telling us to 'go away, get lost!' – but no! he invited us to walk around his garden. The gardens had been beautifully landscaped and freshly paved. There was a flourishing kitchen garden and – at the back - a dear little Mud Kitchen, with cake moulds for the children. A house and garden renovated but true to its past.



Bushwalking in Davidson Park Picnic Area on 3 June



NEXT WALK **Friday 15th September at 10am**

AGM of Congregation

The Annual General Meeting of the congregation will be held on

Sunday, 24th September.

All members of our congregation are encouraged to attend.

The AGM will also receive nominations for the Church Council.

Should you wish to nominate someone at present not on the Council, please fill in a nomination form (available in the foyer) and obtain the signature of the nominee and one additional nominator.