



Knitting Group should be justly proud of its efforts!

A bright and colourful display of rugs, jumpers, beanies and knitted toys was on show on Sunday, March 3rd. These are destined for underprivileged children at Missionvale, South Africa or homeless people in the west of Sydney.

The Knitting Groupers laid down their needles for a Christmas Celebration on 14th December. At the function, Sarah Roger took over as the Group’s Co-ordinator.



Arthur Krust reaches 70 years as a Lay Preacher.



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From the Editor

Lent is upon us and Easter only a few weeks away, so the events we celebrate in this issue seem already well in the past: the joy of Christmas and other local celebrations. Let us spare a few moments to relive the joy and the fellowship we enjoyed at these times.

The ever-changing seasons remind us that we are moving into autumn, into the chill of another season. One thing that is an unchanging reminder of the coming Easter – is the waxing moon. It is the same moon that Jesus saw, and the glorious full moon that comes at Easter would have held a dreaded portent for the human Jesus. We are mindful of that as we move towards Easter. The immense significance of Easter is hard for us to grasp, but in our thoughts, we turn from the celebrations of Christmas to walk with our Lord towards Easter.

Julie Sekhon



It is always uplifting to hear beautiful music from Gioconda and Rosemary . These photographs from the Church service on 11 February, 2024

From the Minister's Desk.

If our Message is obscure to anyone, it's not because we're holding back in any way. No, it's because these other people are looking or going the wrong way and refuse to give it serious attention. All they have eyes for is the fashionable god of darkness. They think he can give them what they want, and that they won't have to bother believing a Truth they can't see. They're stone-blind to the dayspring brightness of the Message that shines with Christ, who gives us the best picture of God we'll ever get.

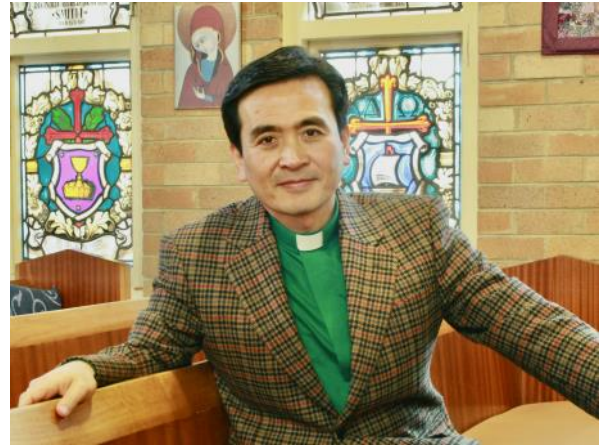
(2 Corinthians 4:3-4 the Message)

Last month, out of the blue, I received a phone call from a Korean Church in Strathfield, which is the first Korean migrant church in Australia. Its minister asked me to write congratulatory reflections for his church's 50th anniversary publication. His invitation stirred my heartbreaking memories of that congregation. About 27 years ago when I ministered to the Strathfield-Homebush Parish, the Korean congregation was marred by internal conflicts, and had no minister. I consulted my church council, and got its mandate and blessings to bring the Korean church and our Parish into one combined parish, with which both churches agreed. For more than 6 months I had led 4 worship services and attended one service on Sundays in four congregations of three different languages. Many meetings in both churches exhausted me. Not only my health but also some internal cracks among church members finally failed the 'grand vision' for bringing the English-speaking congregations and the Korean-speaking congregation into one.

Like us, the people in Corinth were wearing the glasses of their cultures, through which they perceived the world. The Apostle Paul's task was to take off such blurring glasses from their noses, and then put new glasses of faith onto them. He struggled to change them. He wrestled and battled with them to remould their hearts and guide them into the faith in Jesus. It is 'biblical' evidence that we are still 'stone-blind' to the dayspring brightness of the Gospel.

How can the selfsame Gospel, which was given only in a societal and cultural context (even in the New Testament), be wholly extricated from any culture, and be allowed to speak to entirely different cultures? Following the Apostle Paul, we, servants of the Word, have been struggling to be faithful messengers of the gospel.

Yangrae Son
[Minister of the Word]



Youth Pageant

The young people presented their Christmas Pageant on December 10th. It featured a shell which had kept the sound of the waves and the sound spoke 'blessing'. A young girl discovered that God gave a man called Jacob a blessing whilst he slept

...and an angel announced to shepherds that a blessing had come for the whole world.

We found the blessing had come through a girl called Mary (and she was the littlest Mary ever!) and he was a baby called Jesus.



Christmas Chorale

The Killara Chorale brought us Lessons and Carols on 17th December.

Always a delight, and always an inspiring prelude to Christmas, Paul Wait is to be thanked for readying the choir and shaping the program. A mixture of well known, and bright newer carols were interspersed with the scriptures which led us through the ages as God worked with his people, culminating with the babe in Bethlehem.



Thank you Paul, and thank you choir!





December Readers and Christmas photographs of the Congregation



Financial appeal

Just a short announcement regarding our financial appeal late in 2023.

This is primarily to thank those who dug into their pockets to arrest our decline in finances.

I apologize for my tardiness in not getting back to you sooner, but I was inconvenienced by several medical episodes that prevented me doing so.

A special thanks go to an unknown contributor who gave \$30,000 towards our audio-visual upgrade. As such the Council have given the go ahead to seek out an appropriate supplier-installer to protect us from an audio-visual breakdown.

However, we are not out of the woods yet. We have arrested the decline but would welcome additional funds from those who that have yet to indicate their further support for our ongoing operations.

– that word “operations” keeps coming up in my conversations. ???

Please think seriously on how best you can continue to help support our wonderful congregation in this delightful venue.

Be it a one-off, a bequest, or, ongoing regular contributions.

Ian Neilson

11-Feb-24



Thomas Jennings – a very special Grandfather

On Father’s Day, September 3rd, when we honoured our fathers, Jan Stanwell spoke about her Grandfather, whom she honours as a fine Christian man. Here is her story.

I would like to tell you about my Grandfather Thomas Jennings. He was rather special. Born in Balmain in 1859, he grew up in a strong Methodist family. They owned a store called ‘From a Needle to an Anchor’ – obviously having a wonderfully diverse range of goods. When the family moved from Balmain, they chose the then ‘outer’ suburb of Ryde, where they settled for a number of years. With his strong Christian faith, Thomas decided to collect the local children for Sunday School. He set about walking the streets of Ryde **ringing his bell...** and as with the Pied Piper, the children followed.

They gathered in the front room of a local’s home, but outgrew that spot quite quickly so moved on to the larger front veranda of another home. This quickly became inadequate too, so Thomas approached the Methodists, hoping they would be able to build a church to accommodate them. Unfortunately, they didn’t have the money.

Thomas then approached the Anglicans who saw the need and supported Thomas and built a small church in East Ryde, calling it ‘St Thomas’, as a tribute to my Grandfather.

By coincidence, when I started work in the city, there was an elderly lady working in the office who one day told me that she had been one of Grandfather’s very young Sunday School pupils. Because he was so gentle, told such wonderful stories and had a long beard, she thought he was Jesus!

Janette Stanwell (née Jennings)

Celebrations and remembrances:

A wedding

Times of celebration included the wedding of Peter Son to Joanna Lu on December 3rd. Apart from the lovely bride and handsome groom, we noticed that the mother of the bridegroom was also very pretty.



A special birthday



We celebrated Edith Cowlshaw's centenary on December 10th (her actual birthday was in November) with a delicious cake and speeches. It would be hard to find a more vital centenarian!



The Knitting Groupers laid down their needles for a Christmas Celebration on 14th December. At the function, Sarah Roger took over as the Group's Co-ordinator.

Meanwhile, Coffee Mornings and Bowling Club lunches continued



December
 February
 January

Eurovision and Annette

I began my Eurovision journey in the late 20th Century, with our national broadcaster Special Broadcasting Service (SBS), who holds the rights to Eurovision broadcasting in Australia. Australia was invited to compete in Eurovision by the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) because we were successful Grand Final Interval Acts twice. We then, competed successfully, notably gaining second place with Dami Im singing "Sounds of Silence" in the Grand Final to Ukraine who won with "1944", a song about the impact of WWII. Eurovision is now not only geographically based, but Broadcaster rights based too. The EBU governs the laws and regulations of the operation of Eurovision which have changed over time and include European countries who are willing and able to compete, Israel and Australia. Turkiye, for example, refuses to compete at Eurovision, even though they have contributed outstanding entries in the past. Many European countries have been unable to compete because of financial problems, national debts, civil conflicts and invasions. Russia cannot compete this year again, because of its' invasion of Ukraine.

Eurovision first began in the 1950s, the Cold War era; as a musical platform to promote peace, harmony(!) and cooperation between divided European countries who were rebuilding Europe. Truthfully, the competition began as a means to test out all European broadcasters' shiny new broadcasting network! Television!

Five countries automatically qualify for the Grand Final – France, Germany, Italy, Spain and the United Kingdom. There are two Semi Finals where each country competes to qualify for entry into the Grand Final. The Grand Final in 2023 was determined by a Jury Vote and Public Vote, combined, 50/50.

In 2004 Ukraine won with "Wild Dances", a high energy song with wild dancing. I usually really like Ukraine's entries because they are often sung in Ukrainian and English and use traditional melodies/instruments in contemporary ways. The female lead singer went on to become a politician with the Ukraine Government after Eurovision.

Australia's entry in 2023 was a synth/metal band from Perth, Western Australia called Voyager, their song was "Promise". Synth/metal is a contemporary form of techno Rock music. Voyager's male lead singer is a partner in a law firm who has advised Ukrainian and other refugees on Australian immigration law among other legal matters.

All Eurovision performers must sing an original song in any language(s). There maybe one or more performers on stage – choirs, dancers, acrobats, musicians and props. Performer's ages range from late teens to octogenarians; their professions range from home duties, dentists, physiotherapists, lawyers and "amateur" musicians to name but a few. Musical styles range from traditional to contemporary.

I am a Eurovision fan because of the range and styles of songs, the musicality of many talented performers which inspires people to unite and celebrate contemporary musical expression and talent, even if their favourite country does not strike a chord with others. Eurovision enables people to learn to understand and appreciate diversity inclusively, without rejecting musical expression which may not be your first choice. All countries win in Eurovision and if you win the highest votes in Eurovision there is no monetary prize. Eurovision is the largest musical competition in the world, in which millions of people choose to vote.

ABBA (Sweden) debuted with "Waterloo" in 1974, Riverdance (Ireland) began at Eurovision as an Interval Act in 1994 and Sweden won 2023 with "Tattoo" sung by Loreen, the first female artist to win Eurovision twice. Christians have been represented at Eurovision. However, historically, we don't progress from the Semi-Finals to the Grand Final with our Christian songs.

In 2019 I travelled to Israel to attend all three live broadcasted shows. I travelled extensively throughout Israel marvelling at Jerusalem, where I stayed twice, Nazareth and Capernaum where Jesus preached, worked and grew up around the sea of Galilee.

In 2023 I travelled to Liverpool, England to attend the three Jury/Preview shows which are not broadcasted. Liverpool has a large Ukrainian community and hosted Eurovision for Ukraine in this year, who won with "Stephania" in 2022. The U.K. came second to Ukraine with "Spaceman" in 2022.

Europeans, in particular, take Eurovision very seriously each year and the world watched the Grand Final 2023 in the 200+ millions, launching many artists further in their professional journeys.

In 2024 I am travelling to Malmo Sweden to attend three afternoon shows that are not broadcasted.

In Australia, in Eurovision Week, many fans including me, bravely watch the live shows beginning here at 5am and carefully vote – no we can't vote for Australia in any shows.

Annette Harman.

Arthur Krust reaches 70 years as a Lay Preacher.

In the service of 4th February, Arthur Krust was presented with a certificate recognizing the 70 years in which he has served as Lay Preacher, having been accredited by the Methodist Church just after his 17th birthday.

Arthur said that the conviction that there was a continual struggle in the world between good and evil, had challenged him to be part of the fight for good. In early years he had the testing task of open-air preaching outside the Ryde Cinema. He said also that it had been an absolute joy and incredible privilege to serve as a lay preacher, saying "I have been greatly blest to serve with so many saints.

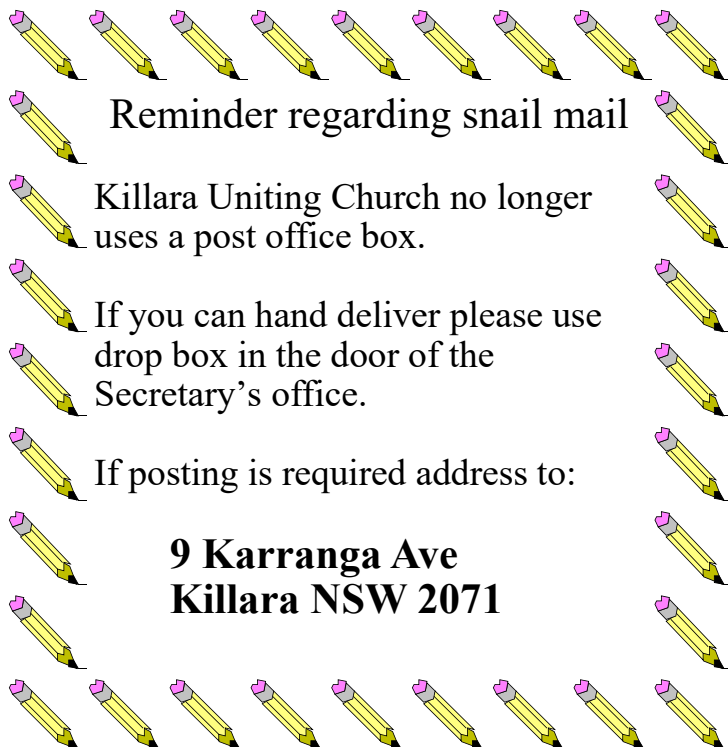
"To God be the glory. Great things He has done!"



Fun and Games has a Pacific Island experience!

On March 3rd, Megan Richter from UnitingWorld gave a talk about the work of Uniting World in the Worship Service, and led us through an awareness-raising game which led us to realise that life is not always idyllic on a Pacific Island – climate change, economic pressures, comparative lack of facilities for education and sanitation and encroaching salination.

We appreciated the work that UnitingWorld is doing in conjunction with local churches.



Reminder regarding snail mail

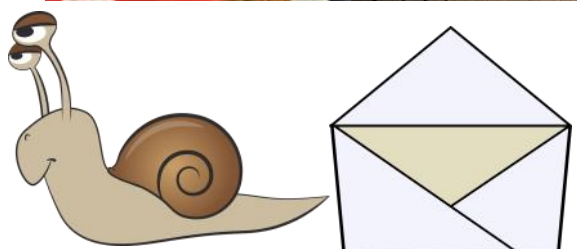
 Killara Uniting Church no longer uses a post office box.

 If you can hand deliver please use drop box in the door of the Secretary's office.

 If posting is required address to:

9 Karranga Ave

Killara NSW 2071



Remembering Revd Mervyn Kelly

By Elaine Morell and the Editor

Mervyn Kelly arrived from Exeter in 1957 to take up his post as Minister at Killara. I am able to pinpoint the year as he christened my twin nieces very soon after his arrival.

My memory of Mr Kelly is of a warm, kind and interested church leader who was particularly encouraging to the younger members of the Church. My girls tell me he cut a fine, tall figure in his black vestments. He seemed to have a relaxed and easy relationship with all his congregation.

One day when I was doing the flowers, and was admiring the new blue carpet, he told me that he had been to many meetings to decide the colour, but as the Christmas service was to be televised, and it needed to be laid in time, he made the decision and chose the blue. That was in 1962 or 1963.

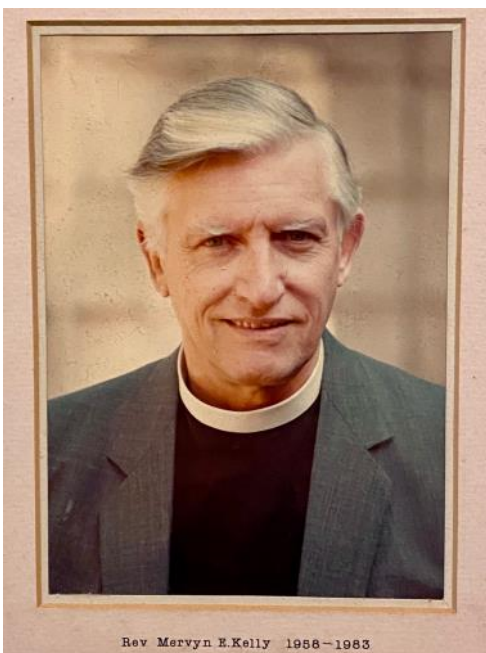
I guess not too many of our present congregation would remember him but he was here for nearly thirty years. He was an asset to our Church and I was always sad that I lost touch with him.

...and we reconnected with him!

It was a joy to reconnect with Mervyn Kelly after we were alerted to his presence at Roden Cutler Lodge, where he celebrated his 100th birthday on 22nd August. Our present Minister, Yangrae Son and several members of the congregation were able to visit him in between Covid lockdowns. He met them with the gentle courtesy that we remembered from old. Sadly, Mervyn passed away on 30th October.

On 14th January part of the morning worship service, was set aside to remember Mervyn Kelly, and memories or photos were contributed by people who were part of the congregation at the time. Jane Himmelhoch Mutton sent photos of Christmas gatherings of the Himmelhoch and Kelly families in the mid-1960s, Peter Bidence and Rosemary Swan contributed photos of their respective weddings, which were conducted by Mervyn whilst Jannion Kaufmann and John and Margaret Middleton contributed memories.

We were pleased to have with us on the day, Mervyn's daughter Patricia, her son Matthew and daughter-in-law Victoria.





MP for Davidson, Matt Cross, congratulating Mervyn Kelly on his centenary.
Photograph used by permission



Alternative Transport Options and Other Useful websites

Needing to give up driving, for whatever reason, can be an emotionally laden and daunting prospect for many people. This document aims to provide information regarding a few available transport options for people who need access to transport other than their own private car. It is by no means exhaustive. It is current as from March 2024.

MY AGED CARE www.myagedcare.gov.au

Key points:

- Australian Government-funded aged care service
- excellent and easy to follow website.
- can arrange a driver service if eligible*
- provide transport vouchers and subsidies.
- assist with shopping, appointments and social activities.
- (Additionally, can provide help at home
 - getting out and staying social
 - temporary help
 - keeping well
 - keeping home liveable)



*NB: You can apply for an ACAT (Aged Care Assessment Team) online. The ACAT will assess suitability for government funded programs, including transport. NB: A MEDICARE CARD IS NEEDED (see later website).

TAXI SUBSIDY SCHEME www.transportnsw.info/taxi-subsidy-scheme

Key points:

- To contact Transport NSW in relation to the Scheme, visit <http://transportnsw.info/concessions-application> or phone 131500 and select option number 5.
- for NSW residents unable to use public transport due to severe and permanent disability
- 50% of taxi fare up to \$60.00 per trip
- wheelchair accessible
- eligible categories listed on website.
- information about how to apply, get a Smartcard and paper travel documents etc. is all online

COMMUNITY CONNECT TRANSPORT www.communityconnect.org.au

Key points:

- Can be a more flexible option for people living in their own homes.
- Provides services for medical appointments, shopping, social outings, NDIS and disability, everyday trips etc.
- Point to point service.
- Client contribution fee is applicable.
- Website explains how scheme works, the transport services available, gives comprehensive passenger information, lists the service areas and gives information on how to apply.
- Phone (02) 9490 9500

KU-RING-GAI NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE (KNC) www.knc.org.au

- Aged care provider based in St. Ives
- Commonwealth Home Support Service (CHSP) funded by the Dept of Health
- Offers a range of services including transport.
- For eligibility refer to the My Aged Care website or 1800 200 422 or the KNC Community Care Coordinator ph. (02) 9988 4966 M-F 9am-5pm

DARTS (Disabled Alternative Road Travel Service) www.yourside.org.au

- Provides services, including transport, for disabled wheelchair users.
- Operates Hornsby, Hunters Hill, Ku-ring-gai, Mosman, North Sydney and Ryde.
- Phone 1300 134 332

HORNSBY KU-RING-GAI COMMUNITY TRANSPORT (HKCT)

www.communitytransport.org.au info@communitytransport.org.au

- A door-to-door service which operates from Turramurra, phone 9983 1611 for further information.
- Funded by Commonwealth and State Governments to Hornsby and Ku-ring-gai residents who are approved participants in, or eligible for, the Commonwealth Home Support Program (CHSP) (which is determined by referral from My Aged Care).
- Provide transport for health, other important activities, to local shopping centres as well as providing social outings.

Some other useful websites supplied by our parishioners:

1. Accessing an ACAP (Aged Care Assessment Program): www.health.gov.au Click on Aged Care

Here one can arrange an assessment by the ACAT (Aged care assessment team) for eligibility to become part of a government funded aged-care program which includes access to government-funded transport, as well as other areas of assistance.

It is understood that one can apply for this program before it is needed. You are put on a list and when the need arises, all your details will be on record which makes the process quicker and easier.

2. Aged Care Decisions: www.agedcaredecisions.com.au

3. Meals:

www.villagechef.com.au (Meals on Wheels and accessed through My Aged Care)

www.liteneasy.com.au

www.dinnerladies.com.au

www.gourmetdinnersevice.com.au

These last three websites are commercial providers of prepared and semi-ready prepared meals. All come recommended.



Bushwalking has started for 2024

In early December there was a walk around Pymble with a time of fellowship before going into recess during the heat of summer.



Our first walk for 2024 was on 8 March. ! Today we walked the leafy streets of Wahroonga. Taken at the Fisk commemoration of the first message transmitted from UK to Australia.



Next walk: Friday 5th April, heritage Walk around Hunters Hill



Coming Events

- 23rd March 8am – 1pm. Lindara Market
- 24th March Palm Sunday 9.30 am Killara UC service
10 am Lindfield UC service
- 28th March Maundy Thursday Tenebrae service (joint service) 7.30pm at Lindfield U C
- 29th March Good Friday (joint service) 9.30am Killara UC
- 31st March Easter Day 9.30am Killara UC
10am Lindfield UC