



A treasured heritage



On Sunday 16th February, Killara Uniting Church had a visitor from Canada, a grandmother, who as a baby was baptised in our Church. Christine Allan and her daughter Sara Jane, together with Sarah Jane's 10 year old son, came to view one of our lovely stained glass windows, a window in memory of Christine's father, James Jeffrey Allan. Christine was most impressed and found it quite emotional.

The family was welcomed and after taking time to wander around, said how beautiful our Church is and how fortunate we are to have such a wonderful place in which to worship.

Jan Stanwell



Christmas Chorale

Our Killara Chorale again presented Lessons and Carols on a Sunday prior to Christmas. This has become an important part of our Church's preparation for Christmas as we hear again the verses that resonate and warm our hearts with reminders of God working in human history.



Advent is a season of waiting: waiting for the hope, peace, joy, and love of God to break into our lives anew through the story of the birth of Jesus, and through acts of hope, peace, joy, and love.
Today we light the third candle, the candle of joy.
We wait.
We wait —
not because we do not know the story of Jesus, and not because you are not already and always here.
We wait
because to wait
is to expect something more.

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**From the Editor**

Over the past weeks we have been experiencing what the Apostle Paul wrote about when he said 'If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts suffer with it' (! Co. 12 26a) This is part of what it means to be the Church as we share in some measure the grief of our minister Yangrae, whose wife, Michelle, is gravely ill. Yangrae has shared his thoughts as he grapples with the life-changing events that have struck his family and we thank him for his 'From the Minister's desk' letter in this issue.

Each one of us is part of Christ's church in our local area, and we can warmly acknowledge the skills and expertise that some of our number have displayed and which are highlighted in this issue: Ian and Jennifer Neilson have given ten years to the Church as Joint Treasurers, and Rob Muir modestly describes the audio-visual upgrade, not mentioning that he has spent over five years in fitting the specifications to our needs and budget. Not all our contributors to the life of our Church can be highlighted in any one issue, but just these examples show that the local church at Killara is still functioning.

With ANZAC celebrations coming in April, there is an article from John Middleton, foreshadowing the special service on April 27th, and we have been given access to an article by Kathie Rieth also dealing with commemoration of servicemen from our own Church: it is opportune to include that in this issue.

We have included some lovely photos from last December's 'Lessons and Carols' presented by the Killara Chorale under the leadership of Paul Wait, and there is a spread of other incidents and commemorations in this issue which touch on our Church's life past and present. I hope you enjoy reading this issue.

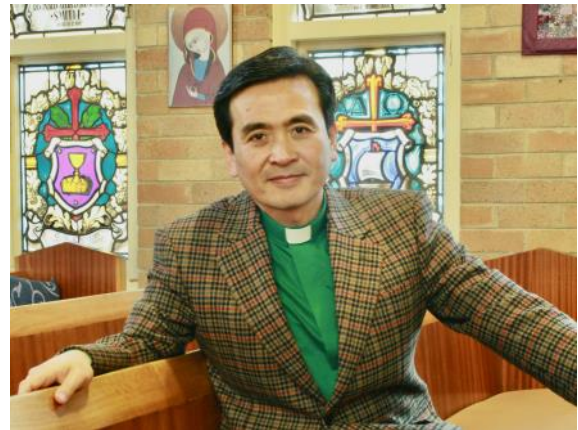
Julie Sekhon

**We remember Michelle**

From the Minister's Desk.

Ash Wednesday marks the commencement of Lent. The faithful participate in church services and receive a cross of ash marked upon their foreheads. This symbolic gesture serves as a poignant reminder of our mortality and the imperative for reconciliation with our Creator God.

In the Ash Wednesday service, we are humbled by the solemn words, ***"Remember, you are mortal. Ashes to ashes, dust to dust."***



These words remind us that we are mere mortals, dependent on God's will for our existence. Ultimately, when our lives come to an end, we will return to the earth as dust. While this truth may be unsettling and uncomfortable to confront, it acknowledges our inability to achieve salvation on our own and recognises the need for a saviour. The Lord said to Paul: "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." (2 Cor 12:9)

Being confined to a hospital room on a cancer ward, I observe patients passing away in other rooms and new ones being admitted. As I lie beside my dying wife, accompanying her on her final journey on earth, I find solace in reflecting on Genesis 3: "You were made from soil, and you will become soil again." Through this reflection, I hold Michelle as my cherished wife, devoted mother, and gifted musical grandmother. Above all, she holds the title of a beloved daughter of our Heavenly Father, to whom she is led to return, and in whom we will meet again.

I am deeply grateful to our church families for your love and care during this challenging yet graceful time. There are no words that can adequately express my gratitude to you. I miss you and our beautiful church. In Christ, I love each and every one of you.

Thank you all for the messages of support and fellowship which are a great comfort to me. Let me share this email exchange with its insightful reflection:

Dear 'A',

From your beautiful rose photos, I can almost smell them. After spending over six weeks in the hospital, all the fresh flowers had withered away, leaving only cards and crochet flowers to endure the long ordeal.

Spending my time by my dying wife's side in that 'prison cell' is undoubtedly not a joyful experience, but it has provided me with numerous opportunities for introspection and personal growth.

'A', I'm captivated by the quote that you shared with me: "What a father says to his children is not heard by the world, but it will be heard by posterity" (Jean Paul Richter). Would you believe that Jean Richter and I were born on the same date, even though he was born 200 years earlier?

I pray that my approach to embracing death will be remembered by my children, so they may learn to live their lives more fully and gratefully.

Since I'm not physically present at church, I can't help but feel a little worried about being forgotten and my sense of duty to serve the church feeling diminished. But your kind words, meant to be a message of gratitude, really hit home: "Although unseen, thank you for your ministry, and KEEP ON" I am deeply grateful to God for you and my church families. With all my love and prayers in Christ, Yangrae.

[4 March 2025]. Yangrae Son
[Minister of the Word]

Letter written before the very recent death of Michelle 30 March

Our Audio-Visual system has been upgraded

Five years in the planning, and under the threat of our old system giving way at any time, at last we have an upgraded A/V system. Rob Muir has worked with our requirements and within the limitations of our Church's budget, to bring into being the upgraded system. Here is Rob's outline of the new system:

AV System Upgrade

Rob Muir

In early February our AV system was upgraded with the installation of a larger projection screen and high-definition projector, audio processor and AV control system.

The larger screen and brighter projector provide better viewing of the words of hymns and other text from all seats in the church including the back row.

The upgrade also included the installation of an extra computer connection point at the rear of the church as well as the latest computer connection interfaces for VGA, HDMI, USB-C and Thunderbolt.

Enhancements were also made to the AV controller i-Pad to provide better tuning between the microphone our minister Yangrae uses and the one used by visiting ministers.

Following feedback from our congregation, one of the objectives of the AV system upgrade was to increase the volume of the microphones. We have been able to achieve this, however, to do so has meant our volunteer AV operators have to work a little harder to control the volume level between different speakers and during the singing of hymns. Please bear with them as they become accustomed to the new system.

We are always on the lookout for **more AV operators** so if you are interested in joining the team please do not hesitate to speak to Rob Muir or contact Danielle in the office.



Our new projector and screen, part of the audio visual upgrade

Lee (Jean Selina) Kelly
 31st October 1938-7th March 2025

Gentle caring, and with a welcoming smile – these were characteristics people voiced when describing Lee Kelly; characteristics which were endorsed by her son Paul, who spoke of a mother who was gentle and encouraging. As a nurse over many years at Dalcross Private Hospital she was notable for the care she showed to the patients.

Lee was for many years a member of East Killara Uniting church, and Revd Michiel Groenewegen who took Lee's funeral service agreed that Lee exhibited these and other Christian virtues, but suggested that Lee had also a steely core that enabled her to 'keep on keeping on' when life was tough.

Rosalind Hobbes knew Lee in her years at East Killara Uniting Church and writes:

I met Lee about 50 years ago, when our East Killara church opened in the 1970s. Lee lived locally and joined the church and Belinda and Paul came to Sunday School. It was a family-friendly congregation and we got to know each other well: most of us had children about the same ages.

At different times, when she could, Lee joined in all the activities – the Bible studies, the social activities – and later on became an elder. She also helped at the Saturday morning working bees where we enjoyed coffee breaks together. She also helped at the Lindara Markets. In the last few years, Lee has been a regular member of Killara Uniting Church. Lee enjoyed her overseas trips when Belinda married Stuart and moved to Los Angeles, and Paul married Angie and lived in England. When Paul returned to live in Sydney, Lee enjoyed picking the girls up from school and having time with them.

We all enjoyed Lee's gentle nature: she was kind, modest and always helpful – and a good listener. She had the loveliest smile. She will be greatly missed.

The following prayer was found inside Lee's Bible:

*For moments of laughter,
 For times of joyful sharing,
 For happiness we feel for family and friends,
 For peace within us,
 We give thanks.
 Help us, loving God, to remember them
 When our lives are difficult and stressful.
 Help us, O God, to remember that you are always with us
 And give thanks for that, in Christ's name, Amen.*



Dale Chuhuly sculptures Adelaide Botanics

World War I, Grief and Killara Uniting Church

Kathie Rieth and Judith Godden



In 1916, Private Dene Fry heard that his brother Alan had died of wounds in France. He was, he wrote to his mother, 'upset and sick at heart', but being comforted by other soldiers who also 'have been through this hell'.

A year later he wrote to her about finding his brother's grave, a group one with six other soldiers. If he could, he assured his mother, he would ensure the grave had a more permanent marker but, he cautioned, 'this will be very difficult'. Within days, Dene Fry was himself dead.

Dene and Alan Fry's mother Caroline could only mourn from afar. She was not alone. Out of a population of around 5 million, over 400,000 Australians enlisted. More than 60,000 men – and some (female) nurses - never returned. They had no graves in Australia and overseas travel was too expensive for most to contemplate. As one soldier's epitaph read: 'He was the loved of all/yet none/o'er his grave may weep'.

After the war finished in 1918, grieving communities created memorials to those who had served. You see these memorials all over the North Shore. They take many forms— hand-painted illuminated rolls of honour, gilded names on timber panels, stained glass windows, incised marble panels, bronze plaques mounted on sandstone piers, and robust granite monuments. Some places are memorials including tree-lined avenues, peaceful groves, and even buildings.

One such building is the Uniting Church, 29A Arnold Street, Killara.

This Church began life as the Congregational War Memorial Church. It replaced an 'unpretentious wooden building' built in 1902 and extended in 1906. One admirer of the new church described it as

an example of that chaste simplicity of design which is always more worthily executed in stone ... an example of solid strength and severity combined with graceful proportion; the clean white sandstone with the square massiveness of the tower speaking of endurance.

Its purpose as a war memorial was clear, with the foundation stone laid on Anzac Day 1923. A panel above the main entrance was inscribed 'This Church was erected in recognition of the grace and favor of Almighty God and as a memorial of human service and sacrifice in a time of great national peril, 1914-1918.'

The opening ceremony on 5 April 1924 was deeply personal for many involved. The four memorial buttress stones were each positioned by a grieving mother, one of whom was Mrs Fry. It was officially opened by Smith Greenwell, a senior deacon of the church. He and his wife Emma had two sons who had served in the war. One of them, Carlyle Greenwell had survived to become a renowned architect. He and another prominent local architect, Henry Budden CBE, designed the new church.

The Church's honour roll for World War I is a cast bronze plaque attached to a wall in the original entrance foyer. It lists 25 members of the congregation who had volunteered. It is telling that 8 (around a third) of these service-men died, including Alan and Dene Fry. As was sadly common, they weren't the only brothers listed: brothers Leonard and Werner Rossbach also died in the service of their country. Beautiful stained-glass windows were dedicated to each man.

Later the Church added an honour roll for World War II. Among the names is Dene and Alan Fry's only remaining brother, James. He died when his plane was shot down in 1944. The clean white sandstone of this still vibrant church has darkened over the years, but the building remains handsome; an enduring expression of a community's grief and gratitude. As with other churches, it has long provided comfort to those who grieve, for those who saw things that should never be seen, and for those denied a final goodbye.

Acknowledgments: Kathie Rieth research; Kathie Rieth 'Killara Uniting Church – a War Memorial Building', *Ku-ring-gai Historical Society Newsletter*, October 2013, Vol. 31 No. 9; Lorna Watt, 'Killara "Five Ways" Uniting Church', *The Historian*, 44:1, December 2015; *Rallying the Troops*, Ku-ring-gai Historical Society, (\$80 Anzac special at <https://khs.org.au/rallying-the-troops/>). Photographs: (exterior) <https://commons.wikimedia.org>; others KHS.



Treasures of the Viking Age The Galloway Hoard



Linda Brown and Peter Gibbs spent a few days in Adelaide particularly to see Chuhuly in the Adelaide Botanic. We also went to see the Treasures of the Viking Age at the South Australian Museum. This is the richest collection of Viking Age objects ever found in Britain and Ireland. It had lain undiscovered since AD900 and contained objects up to 300 years older. It was uncovered in **2014 on Church of Scotland land at Balmaghie**, Kirkcudbrightshire, Scotland. The vessel is associated with Zoroastrianism and the Sasanian Empire. What was extraordinary was the remnants of silk from Asia, silver sourced from Samarkand and Tashkent (in modern day Uzbekistan), AngloSaxon jewellery and intricate beads and heirlooms. Then as now connecting people thousands of miles apart and yet at a time when trading and travel would have involved great hardship.

The silver **Pectoral Cross** depict **four evangelists** using niello and gold. It was found with a spiral coiled silver chain which suggests it had been recently worn before the Hoard was buried. Two of the brooches are believed to show the senses of Vision and Hearing. The "hearing" emblem was enlarged and used as a logo and represents a man's ears ringing from the noise of bells being struck.

Imoji over 1,100 years old



KILLARA UNITING CHURCH
Cnr Arnold St and Karranga Ave

ANZAC Memorial Service
9.30am Sunday April 27, 2025

1st World War 1914-1918

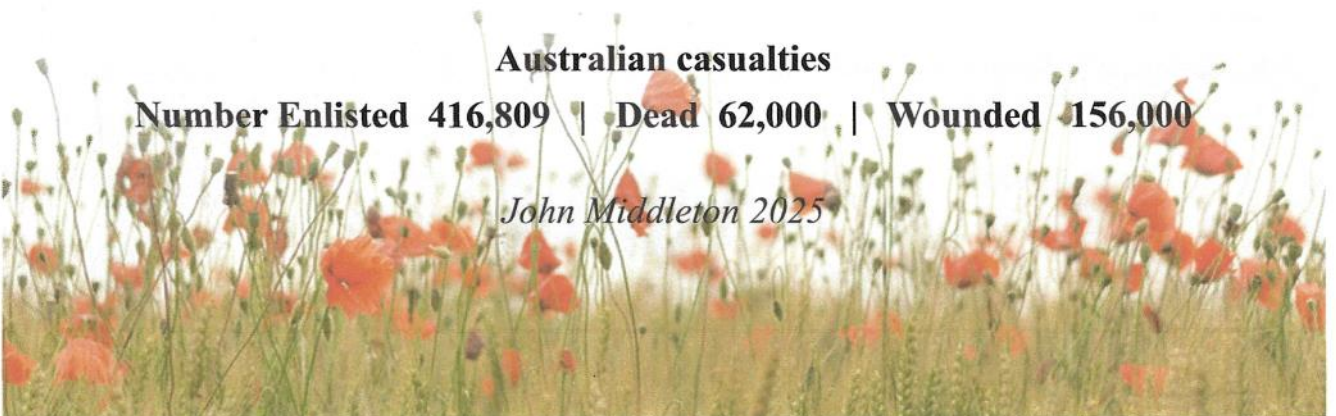
Thirteen years after the formation of Australia as a self-governing nation, it went to war in response to the Commonwealth call of Great Britain. Led by British military leaders, the fledgling Australian and New Zealand army was thrown into an impossible battle at Gallipoli where it lost 8,700 young men, killed in eight months, climbing heavily fortified Turkish hills and in doing so, forged a legend of bravery that is as strong today as it was 100 odd years ago. All these young men volunteered to serve. Women with nursing skill of wide ranging ages instantly became younger to join in the fray.

Following Gallipoli, the young army, now more experienced, was moved to Western Europe namely France and Belgium, to battle with Great Britain, France and Canada against an experienced German army honed by well trained professional leaders. The battle in this theatre of war was marked by the heavy use of cannon and machine guns and over flat land, a soldier's life was very cheap. For the Australians, battle names of Fromelles, Pozieres, Mouquet Farm, Bullecourt, Ypres, Messines, Passchendaele, Villers Bretonneux became the heavy lessons of aptitude and skill that forged them into a fighting force feared by the enemy. But it was not till they were led by their own General that their exceptional skill was known outside their immediate war zone. In March 1918, Lieutenant General John Monash took over leadership of the Australian Corps and in his first battle, minutely planned and assisted by US companies, crushed the opposition at Hamel. For this Monash was knighted in the field by King George V. Shortly after, a similar plan was used by the Allied Army in a much more extensive battle of Amiens with the same success and not long after, Germany capitulated. What was left of the Australian and New Zealand armies, came home.

Australian casualties

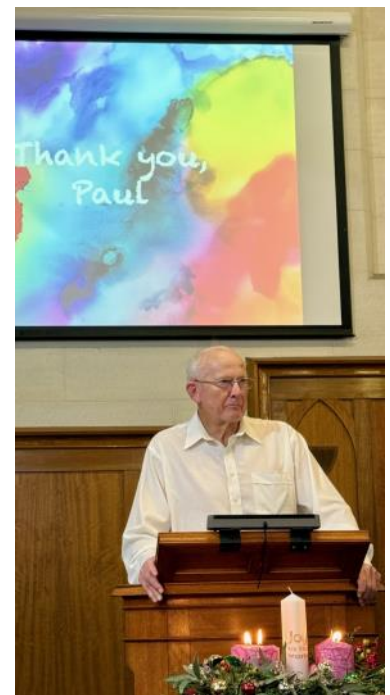
Number Enlisted 416,809 | Dead 62,000 | Wounded 156,000

John Middleton 2025



More photos from Our Christmas Chorale

Our Killara Chorale again presented Lessons and Carols on a Sunday prior to Christmas. This has become an important part of our Church's preparation for Christmas as we hear again the verses that resonate and warm our hearts with reminders of God working in human history.



Open Invitation

ANZAC Memorial Service
9:30am Sunday 27th April 2025
Killara Uniting Church

KYDS FREE COUNSELLING SERVICE CELEBRATES its 20th Birthday

I feel it is important as a caring community, that members of Killara Uniting Church are aware of the KYDS free confidential counselling service available for all young people from the ages of 10 - 18 that has been operating in our local area for the last 20 years

Do you have concerns for a neighbour, a child or grandchild, or child of a friend and wish you could do something to help. ?

Are you aware that this free confidential counselling service is available for all young people aged 10 - 18 in the Northern Sydney region and now a range of other locations. ?

No Medicare card or GP referral or mental health plan or school referral or payment are required.

All they need to do is to phone 02 9416 0900, KYDS Head Office, behind the Library at Lindfield to make an enquiry.

KYDS was started by the Rotary Club of Lindfield and opened in 2005.

At the time, 20 years ago, there was a great deal of resistance, especially from those living near the Lindfield Library and from many, many people who were sure “no child living on the affluent North Shore could possibly have any problems that would need counselling support”.

Our local MP Brendan Nelson, and local school principals had other views.

In the early 2000's, constant negotiation with authorities and council and much fund raising were required to get the service started. Tribute is paid at this point to Rotary members, Don Durie from Roseville Uniting Church, whose tireless efforts finally got permission, David Blackwell former member of Killara Uniting Church, who initiated discussions on what was needed, along with other Rotary members, many from local churches who then became deeply involved in investigations on the day to day running required for such a service and fund raising.

Both Don and David served on the organising committee for many years.

Now 20 years later, there are more than 11 locations where young people can receive help through KYDS.

For up to date information on the service go to <https://www.kyds.org.au>

Robin Blackwell

New Mandarin-speaking church renting our facilities



From Sunday 30th March, Pastor Ezra Tseng will be building up the Bible Chinese Christian Church in our facilities. This will be a Presbyterian church and we have established a good rapport with Pastor Ezra, who brings with him his wife, Ruth and daughter Sarah.

Pastor Ezra is a ‘planter’ of Churches, and has had some experience in building churches from the beginning. Initially he will use our Hall, from 1.30pm on Sundays, but as numbers grow, their church will move into our own Church building. Pastor Ezra has agreed to give precedence to any functions already booked for the Hall in that time slot, but from next year Pastor Ezra’s church will be given precedence.

Pastor Ezra, his wife and daughter met with Ian Neilson to sign the rental contract (see photo)

A Proposal to be considered at Synod 2025 regarding amalgamating Presbyteries.

Linda Brown attended a Town Hall zoom meeting on 10 March. Below is a brief overview of the presentation. For more details visit the Presbytery Project web-page <https://presbyteryproject.uca.org.au> which provides the vision, theology and case for change built upon since 2019.

Statistics

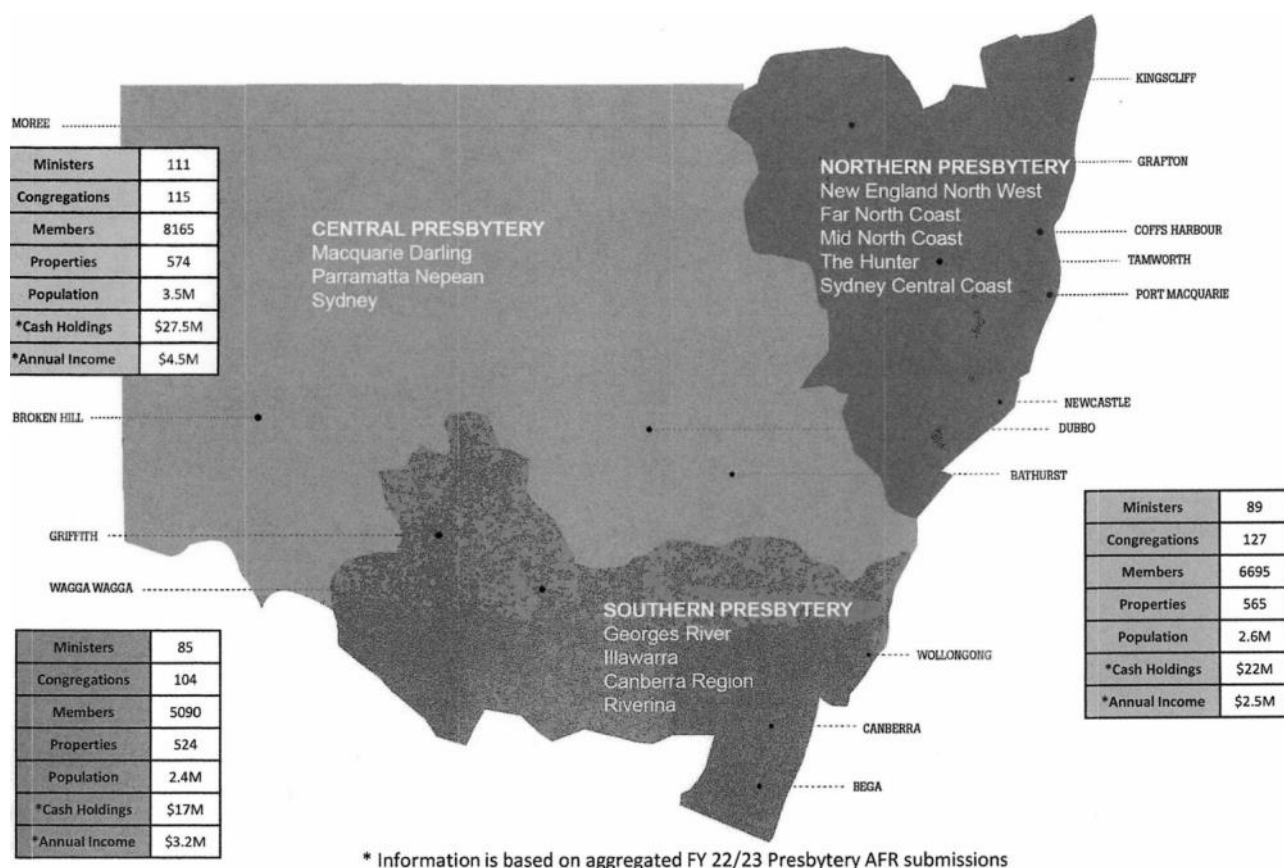
370 church councils

12 Presbyteries (comprising at least 36 committees)

500 places of worship

Ministry placements from as few as 4 to 44 (across Presbyteries)

Preferred of several options considered **Three Presbyteries (3P model)**



Funding options of Presbytery Resource Fund:

Income generated allocated for sustainably and equitably across the 3 new presbyteries; or

New Presbyteries steward income and resourcing independently; or

The Fund works as a top up fund ensuring that any short fall for baseline resourcing needs are fully funded.

What it means for Congregations:

Fall under oversight of one of three new Presbyteries (Northern Presbytery)

Greater clarity between functions of Presbytery and Synod and their connection with Congregations

Adapt to new ways of relational oversight

Seeds of Growth will not be increased to fund proposed uplift in Presbytery resourcing

Seeds of Growth to be directed to enable new ministries

Continue to worship, witness and serve

Busy Knitters visit Wesley Mission

Jan Stanwell



This happy group of knitters, together with two escorts, took a trip via the Metro to visit Wesley Mission in Pitt Street, City, to which the knitters had been invited to hear about the wonderful work that Wesley, in its many forms, does.

The main purpose of our visit was to understand just what garments we could knit to support their work amongst the 39,000 families, children and young people Wesley supports each year. Our needles are now clicking harder than ever!

During our time at Wesley we were joined by the senior Minister, Revd Dr Rick Dacey, who told us of his work there, and, at the request of Sarah, led us in prayer for Michelle, Yangrae and the members of Killara Uniting Church.

A Job well done!

On 2nd March the Church thanked Ian and Jennifer Neilson for their ten years of service as Joint Treasurers. Both have now retired from their positions as Joint Treasurers and Chris Hare has become the new Treasurer.

Over morning tea we also celebrated Ian's 90th birthday which was in February.

However Ian and Jennifer are not putting their feet up! Ian and Jennifer are still working for our Church: Ian remains on the Church Council and is Chair of the Property Committee, whilst Jennifer is also on the Property Committee.



Welcome to Rev Howard Clark



The Reverend Howard Clark read to the Congregation on 30th March an endearing book by Mem Fox called "Shoes from Grandpa". It was a wonderful introduction to UnitingWorld showing people compassion yet giving them Agency.

Donate Directory to UnitingWorld via their online link (or a bank transfer)

<https://www.unitingworld.org.au/>