



The Journal of Killara Uniting Church Parish

"Fiveways" - Corner Arnold Street and Karranga Avenue

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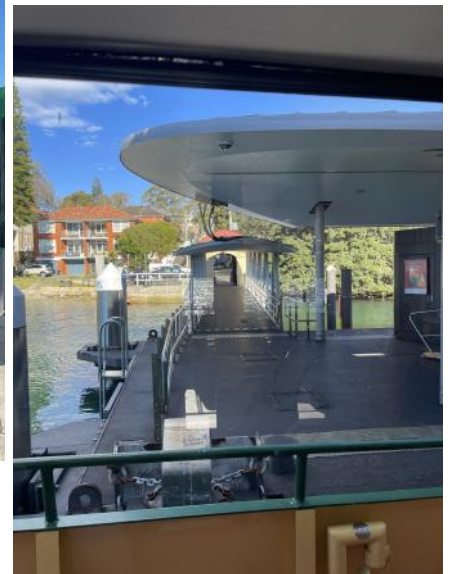
Issue 108 Sept/October 2025

Snapshots of Our Church Events

July 20 The beautiful voices of Cantrice contributed to our worship.



Walks and Talks



It was a beautiful day in July to take a ferry to Balmain.

June outing was to the Art Gallery of NSW with a private tour of the Archibald Prize entries with our own expert guide Sue Mitchell who shared points of interest about the paintings and artists.

More photos and walking news on page 12 & 13



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From the Editor

Recently I have been struck by the responsibility inherent in the missioning song we sing at the close of every service: 'Send me Jesus', specifically the last line... **'in your name, Lord, I will go'**. In this issue there are reports of work done specifically as service to God, - a report from KDCEA and from the Handicraft Group.

For most of us, our days are filled with activities which will not make headlines, nor seen as contributing to the Kingdom of God, but we still live as 'servants of our King' in all our doings.

Dr Anthony Rees, in his commentary on Psalm 15 (With Love to the World, commentary for September 14) writes:

'...like in the wisdom tradition, this psalm is as much about how to be a decent person as it is to reach for God. And yet there is something profound about that: for closeness to God is not gained by elaborate actions, but rather, in the humility of a gentle and generous life. Such a life demonstrates true fear of the Lord, and according to the psalmist, a security and steadiness in the face of trouble as one dwells in the tent or on the hill of the Lord.'

As we read the tributes Helen James and Chris Hare have given of their fathers, we can recognize a kindness and generosity in both men: not performing outstanding acts, but getting on with what needed to be done and being ready to support when needed. Both men have been or had been grounded in their Christian faith and 'dwelt' - or in the case of Chris's father, still 'dwells' - in that faith, as seen in their lives and dealings with others.

And for us, as Yangrae has said, remains the honour and responsibility of 'bearing on our brows the seal of him who died'.

Julie Sekhon



From the Minister's Desk.

Those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted." [Luke 14:11]

In Luke's Gospel, Jesus is found at the Pharisees' banquet, watching guests scramble for places of honour. With a few unsettling words, he turns the table upside down: "Take the lowest place. Invite those who cannot repay."

In the Kingdom of God, honour is not found in rank or pride, but in humility, hospitality, and grace.

This vision of an upside-down banquet leads us to a new understanding of family. In Latin, *familia* once meant the whole household, not just relatives, and came from *famulus*, "servant." In Korean, there is a word for family, *shik-goo*, which literally means "mouths to feed." Family, then, is not limited by bloodlines but created around the table of shared meals, mutual care, and service. At Christ's table we are drawn into God's family — nourished by grace, bound together in love, and sent into the world as

Christ's witnesses.

This month's *Connection* reminds us that we are representatives of Jesus in all we do.

Each time we gather around the Lord's table, we are marked as those who "bear on our brow the seal of him who died." We are called not only to receive but also to embody Christ's love — embracing those in need, welcoming the stranger, and serving with joy.

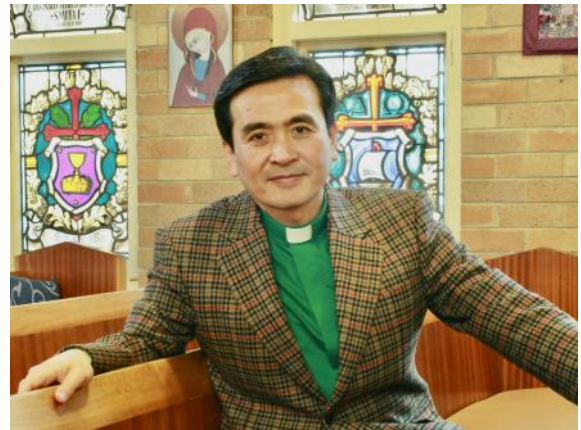


I see this witness alive in our congregation. It shines in the work of our church and in many quiet acts of kindness and service done by our faithful members. These are signs of Christ's Kingdom among us — simple, faithful acts that speak more loudly than words.

So let us continue to lift high the cross in our daily lives, as those who are sent.

Around Christ's table we are family; in the world we are **his** representatives. May our lives tell the story of the One who humbled himself, so that all might be lifted up.

Yangrae Son
[Minister of the Word]



Stories from Father's Day: My Dad

Chris Hare

A couple of years ago, while in the UK, I took my Dad and son, Oliver, to visit the RAF Hornchurch Heritage Centre, a small museum on the edge of the former airfield site.

After completing the audio tour, I noticed that some volunteers from the centre had formed a small circle and were engaged in conversation with an elderly visitor. They were clearly Battle of Britain history buffs and seemed quite excited.

With notepads and pencils in hand, they listened intently as the old man spoke, recalling his childhood memories of growing up in the area during the Blitz. His 3 older sisters and his 7 year-old brother were shipped off to Australia as evacuees, while he himself had been too young to be evacuated and was left behind.

He recounted the story of a German fighter plane shot down - its pilot parachuting into a field backing on to his house. The excitement of seeing the local men run out with pitchforks to apprehend the enemy pilot, and the women tearing strips of silk from the parachute.

He explained how he and other kids would pick up pieces of shrapnel in the street, which they'd then 'trade' with one another.

And, quite matter-of-fact, the old man described how V2 rockets would pass overhead, while they took cover under their desks.

After the war, he served as a military police officer in the RAF during National Service. It didn't sound as if he enjoyed the experience much, but it was his required duty, and he got on with it.

Watching the elderly gentleman as he spoke, in a fairly frail voice, it was as if he, like them, had been transported back in time. While it was a chance for him to revisit his youth, for these volunteers, it was an increasingly rare opportunity to ask questions to someone who had experienced it firsthand.

Of course, the elderly man was my Dad, and for me, it was a chance to learn some events from my Dad's early life that I hadn't heard him speak much about before. I guess, to him, they didn't seem especially exciting.

But it got me thinking about how these early events, and others, undoubtedly influenced his approach to life, and perhaps how he has been a father to my sister, brother, and me.

Through all things, he's really just got on with life, calmly and without complaint. Whether that's been taking a second job to make ends meet when the family was young. Visiting friends or family, or helping them out when things have been tough. Driving wherever, whenever, to drop us off as kids or pick us up.

During my childhood years, Dad always played a fairly traditional role in our family. Employed in the City of London, he would be consistently out the door at 7.50 each morning. He'd walk the seven minutes to the station before heading into the City.

He'd usually get back home by about twenty past six, with a copy of the Evening Standard under his arm. Family tea would be around the kitchen table at 6.30, and Dad would always be there. I didn't appreciate it at the time, but family mealtimes provided stability and a sense of belonging.

If Dad wasn't busy ferrying us around in the evenings or on the weekend, he could usually be found somewhere in the garden or in his greenhouse. He's always been a passionate and successful gardener, growing plants from seeds, winning 'Best in Show' medals for his 'famous' chrysanthemums, or, for many years, tending the church garden. Proving that nothing has dented Dad's enthusiasm for gardening, at the age of 89, he had a new greenhouse delivered last week.

Dad has been an active member of the Methodist Church for nearly his entire adult life. From being a Youth Club leader, appearing in and directing plays performed by the Wesley Players drama group, 2 stints as a church steward, Treasurer, and for many years, a member of the choir. He still manages to attend worship most Sundays.

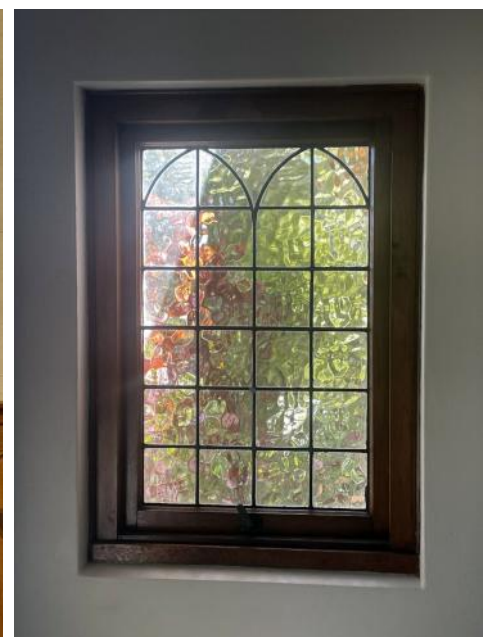
Outside of Church life, he was, and still is, an avid football fan. While he is first and foremost a Tottenham Hotspur supporter, if there's a game on TV, he'll watch it regardless of who's playing... While he likes the challenge of a contest, above all, he values fairness and sportsmanship.

In recent years, Dad has slowed up a lot, though despite his declining physical strength and mind, you'll not hear him complain. He's still interested to know what we're up to and wishes us the best for whatever we're doing.

In asking him what his favourite hymn was, Dad responded, "How Great Thou Art". It reminded him of great memories from a trip they made some 40 years ago to Norway with the church. They had climbed up a mountain, drank water from a stream, and then sang that hymn.

Looking at my Dad's life, I realise that, while it may not be seen as extraordinary, perhaps this *is* his superpower — simply getting on with things. Lending a hand wherever he can, and offering words of support or encouragement when people need them.

My Dad has always allowed us to choose our own path, while offering his wisdom, guidance, love and support. And in being a father, he has shown me how to be by example, for which I will always be grateful. I'm glad he is my Dad.



Stories from Father's Day 2025: My Father

Helen James

It is an irony of life: like many Baby Boomers, I owe my existence to World War 2!

My father was born in Townsville. His parents were Scottish and had come to Australia in search of a better life.



Dad left Townsville in August 1942 to make a difference against the Japanese in World War 2 and was sent to Bathurst in the military camp.

My mother was born in Dark Corner, on the outskirts of Bathurst. She was a member of the Presbyterian Church in Bathurst and a member of the Fellowship, as well as being a member of the church choir.

The Fellowship used to entertain the soldiers for supper after the evening service. This particular night, mum was wearing a rather cheeky little red hat and in the congregation was a young soldier who admired it and thought he would like to get to know the girl wearing it. He came around for supper, but was very puzzled when he found that the girl who was wearing the hat was a blonde and not the girl with the dark hair who was in the choir! He didn't know that a friend liked the hat, wanted to try it on and wore it for the rest of the evening. It all was resolved, the soldier asked if he could walk Mum home and from then on her life changed completely – *thanks to the hat!*

The soldier was, of course, my Dad, George. They became engaged; Dad went off to war and was a prisoner of war in Changi. Life was difficult, but he was indeed fortunate to be commanded by 'Weary' Dunlop who was an extremely intelligent surgeon and has been credited with saving thousands of POW lives.

George was one of the lucky ones returning home after the war and they were married on 8th December 1945.

I was born in January 1947, with my sister Anne, and late brother David arriving a few years later.

After the war, my mother had an inheritance, which helped them get started in life, but Dad then learnt to become a builder. He consequently built our two houses in Bathurst as well as many other homes. It's such a thrill now to return to Bathurst and see all of the houses Dad built, which are still standing.

After a serious heart attack when he was 40 (which he was fortunate to survive), Dad invested in a men's wear business which was very successful.

He was very entrepreneurial.

I have great admiration for my Dad. It must have been so difficult to return to normal living at 'home' after being in a war for four years.

Like many of the POWs, Dad never talked about his experience. He was a remarkable man and able to forgive his enemies. He taught us as children to 'do unto others as you would have them do unto you'. But of course the trauma of his experiences was evident, and he died at age 61 from war related issues.

Dad was generous and kind. I recall him lending money to people in trouble – often not repaid – and he was always there to help others in need.

Dad was determined to ensure we had the best family life possible, and made sure we were well educated. We kids have wonderful memories of our childhood. Actually, both Mum and Dad worked together to raise us to be independent and we were supported in having a good education and the opportunity of learning many hobbies and sports. We also had many family holidays and family outings.

I am grateful to have had the fortune to have had a Dad who was there for me at all times, and in conjunction with Mum, made me the stubborn, determined woman I am today, who finds it hard to give in...!



Thank you for your contribution and volunteering

We appreciate diverse people reading the lesson and leading in prayer

What is Christianity and how does it affect our lives?

The Killara District Christian Education Association (KDCEA) is the arm of Protestant churches in the district bringing knowledge of the Christian faith to students in our local high schools. Both Killara and Lindfield Uniting Churches are corporate members of the Association.

KDCEA has two paid teachers, Daniel Joo (Co-ordinator) and Ecashia Jacob, who, together with volunteers Larissa and Colton take the Special Religious Education (Scripture) classes each week. Scripture lessons are given in both Killara High School and Lindfield Learning Village. Although its ministry has been to secondary students, KDCEA's teaching now reaches junior classes at Lindfield Learning Village.

Scripture teachers going into our schools today need to present a structured program of Christian education, and a curriculum approved by the NSW Department of Education. Teachers must not be seen as proselytising. Nevertheless, the KDCEA team has found in Killara High School a core of students eager to explore the Bible and find out what Jesus means to them.

A group of 30 senior students meet weekly, and voluntarily, as a lunch-time group to study the Bible. They are keen. Although KDCEA teachers are in attendance, it is the students themselves who conduct these meetings. Such lunchtime groups are potential training grounds for future Christian leaders. With a fall-off or regular Church attendance, the importance of religious education in schools is evident.

Recently the KDCEA Management Committee (which includes Ian Martin and Julie Sekhon from KUC and Lorraine Prowse from Lindfield UC) hosted the Scripture teachers over lunch and enjoyed talking informally to the teachers. Over a simple meal, there was time to get to know each other better and the Committee was impressed with maturity and dedication of the teachers.



Colton



Daniel,

Larissa,

Ecashia

Handicraft Group visits North Ryde Uniting Church

Sarah Roger



North Ryde Uniting Church provides food and aid to disadvantaged people in the local Community. Our Handicraft Group found they could help: and took knitted articles, including rugs, children's jumpers, beanies and slippers.

Sarah Roger writes, 'We saw that they had a cupboard of donated dried food as part of their pantry outreach. People from a large social housing estate and others from the community can come two days a week for the pantry goods as well as for frozen meals, pastoral care, and now for our knitted items.'

'A woman came in some time ago, looking for a jumper each for her 3 year old son and 1 year old daughter. When the church received our knitted articles, they got in touch and the little boy was given a jumper and beanie knitted by our master knitter Dorothy Newman. The little boy was **sooo** happy and beamed with pride. Dorothy is now knitting bigger jumpers for these two for next winter. Marilyn Grant who runs this outreach of the North Ryde Church is so appreciative of our knitted goods, which mean that they can not only offer people in need a cuppa, but also something to keep them warm. She wants to visit our Handicraft meeting and tell us about their church achievements which says are very rewarding.

God's work is being done through our small Handicraft Group!'



Walks and Talks

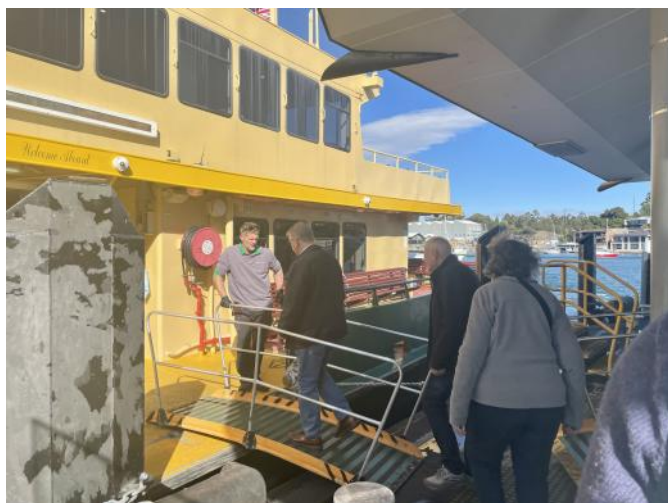
Our monthly walks bring much interest as well as fresh air and exercise. **As well as a visit to the Art Gallery**, where - of course – we needed a commentary, other walks have been given extra significance by John Giles' background information, whether it be about nature, industrial history, or even origin of a place name.



June outing was to the Art Gallery of NSW with a private tour of the Archibald Prize entries with our own expert guide Sue Mitchell who shared points of interest about the paintings and artists.

Walk 28th July

On July 28th, John and Liz Giles led the group on a tour of industrial sites and parklands at Balmain. It was a beautiful sunny morning and we caught a ferry to Balmain to start the walk.





On August 15th 8 walkers joined Liz and John Giles on a walk around the summit at Bobbin Head.

The day was clear and mild and the walk amongst the trees was refreshing.

We saw wildlife – two turtles in a stream and a group of yellow tailed black cockatoos apparently gathered around their babies. It delighted us all, and especially Faith.

An old burnt tree was little more than a shell, but it had a message – see photo.
Thank you, John and Liz – for great outings!





Janet Lumsden,

our beloved friend and church member, passed away on Thursday, September 18th.

A memorial service for Janet is **tentatively** scheduled for **Monday, 23 February 2026 at 11 a.m.** at the **Killara Golf Club**, where Graeme's service was held.

We will celebrate her life in a future issue of Killara Connection.

Regards
Julie



**Shirley Turgoose
11.5.35 – 24.6.2025**

Shirley passed away in June after a long period of ill health which impacted her life over the last few years. Dearly loved by her family, she showed unfailing courtesy to friends and others. Our sympathy is extended to her husband Keith and her family.



August 17
Revd Yangrae Son and Revd Ezra Tseng of the Bible Chinese Christian Church jointly conducted the service,



September 21
Killara Uniting Church held its Annual General Meeting



Another Fun and Games



August 3 Another Fun and Games ...
Never was Bingo so much fun, nor
soup so tasty!

...We celebrated Chris Richardson's
special birthday...



August 24 Robert Mackay returned with his
clarinet to our morning worship as
guest musician.



...then, on 9th September, John and
Margaret Middleton received their Medal
of the Order of Australia

Killara Uniting Church Activities

Church Services: 9.30am-10.30am followed by morning tea. You are always welcome. Make friends and be uplifted by praise to God.

Book Club. 2nd Thursday of the month. Held in Stewart Room (Room off main Church Hall), 2.30-4pm, Book kit borrowed from local library and given out to be discussed at next meeting. Afternoon tea provided. No charge.

Contact Julie Sekhon (margaret_sekhon@bigpond.com)

Christmas Choir. Choir practices in late November and early December for Christmas carols in mid-December Contact: Paul Wait June.paul@bigpond.com

Coffee. Final Friday Coffee morning at East Killara Coffee shop, Koola Avenue. Last Friday of the month 10 am. Coffee at own expense.

Handicraft Group. 4th Thursday of the month. Held in Stewart Room (Room off main Church Hall) 10am- 12 noon. Bring along your own craft to work on, or knit for charity (wool provided) Contact Sarah Roger bumbleb1@bigpond.com Includes morning tea. No charge

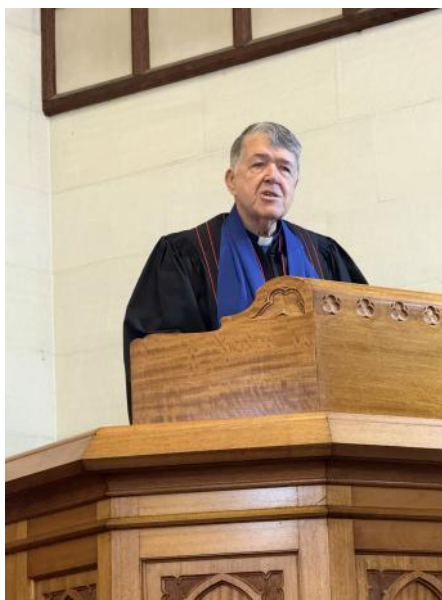
Lunch at Killara Bowling Club. Monthly, usually 2nd Sunday of the month at 12 noon. Cost \$25. A roast dinner, meat varies –they can cater for diets. Please contact ahead of the Sunday: Margaret Middleton 0488908844 or margmid@gmail.com

Walking Group. Generally once a month. . You can ask to be put on the email mailing list to be notified of next walk. Contact John and Liz Giles elizzieg51@gmail.com Free

Lindara Market. Conducted three times a year at Lindfield Uniting Church. 8am to 1pm. Next market 22nd November.



...our pulses ran a touch quicker as we sang out hymns to **Paul Wait's** accompaniment...



July 27 We welcomed **Revd Keith Garner**, Presbytery Chair to our pulpit as a visitor



A wonderful organ recital by our **organist Kyung-Hee** in our Church. A large and appreciative audience