



KILLARA CONNECTION

Journal of Killara Uniting Church

'Fiveways' - Corner Arnold Street and Karranga Avenue

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Issue 109 February 2026

Confirmation



Youth Pageant



Christmas Chorale



The Youth Pageant for 2025 took inspiration from the 'Dwelling Place' artwork produced by students of Nungalingya College in the Northern Territory, and the kids became First Nations people sitting around a campfire hearing the story drawn from the artwork.

They learned that, down through the ages, people have built special 'ceremony places' to reach out to God, and ask forgiveness for their sins. They saw – with the eyes of God? – how the beautiful world God created became cracked and messed up because of human cruelty and greed – and how people cried out to God for help.

God answered, sending Jesus – and then no special temple or ceremony place was needed to know the mind of God, for when Jesus walked amongst us he was Immanuel, "God with us".

They saw the Cross, and knew the story, how Jesus died and rose again, and is now with God the Father – so where does God dwell now? God's Holy Spirit will live amongst us and with us if we open our hearts and lives to Him.

Where does God dwell now? He will dwell in our hearts if we let Him.



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IN THIS ISSUE

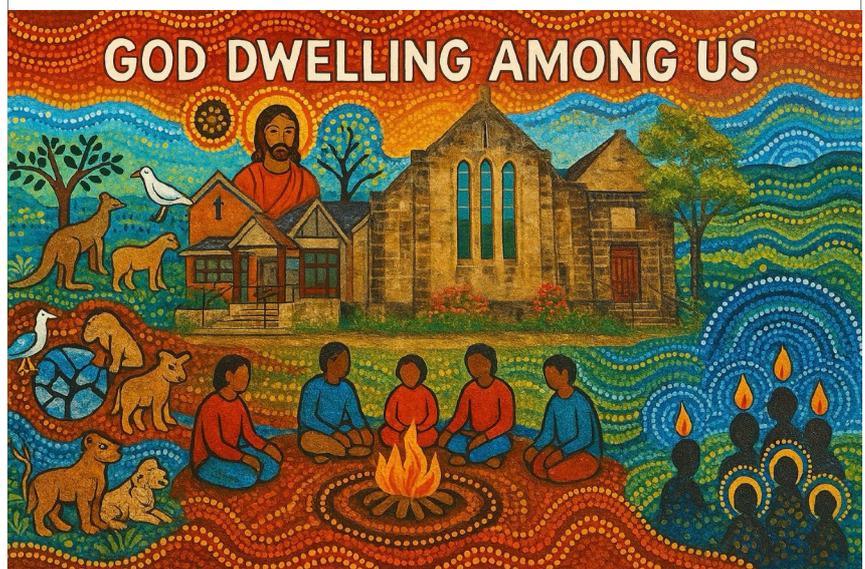
- Youth Pageant:** Cover
From the Editor: Page 2
From the Minister's Desk
 Page 3 & 4
Confirmation: Page 5
Marjorie Coulsen: Page 6
Graham White: Page 7
Hope in Believing: Page 8
Lindara Report: Page 9
An elegy: Page 10
Snapshots: Page 11
Activities: Page 12

From the Editor

This issue, as always, reflects facets of our congregation's life – events, people mourned and life within our wider community. Within it there are some themes: in his Minister's page, Yangrae writes of the eternal Word becoming flesh and living amongst us, a concept central to the Youth Pageant, God's Dwelling Place'. Then, Yangrae writes also about the world's darkness being unable to quench the light coming with Jesus. We look back on Lachlan's confirmation and can remember a time when we stepped forward in faith with a similar joy and unquestioning obedience, but our mature years may bring pain and suffering - that 'darkness' that struggles against the light. The short article, written anonymously 'Hope in Believing' is witness to living 'not [with] loudness, but faithfulness; **not [with] fear, but love; not [with] darkness, but light**'.

In this issue, the format of Killara Connection has slightly changed, and I thank our Minister, Yangrae Son for his help with the design. At the same time, grateful thanks goes also to Linda Brown, who for many years has cheerfully and competently undertaken the layout of Killara Connection, often adding items of interest and attractive graphics to the copy.

Julie Sekhon

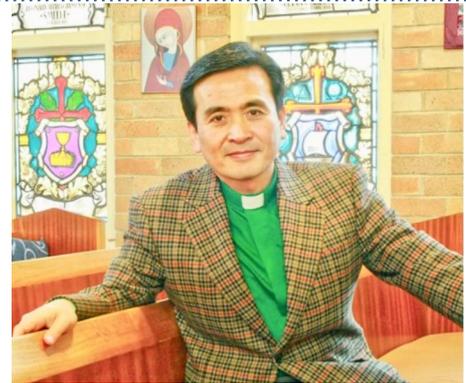


From the Minister's Desk.

THE WORD ON THE MARGINS

John 1:1–14

How would you sum up the Christian faith in one sentence? I tried it myself - then asked ChatGPT - and wondered whether it needs our next Confirmation class.



St John's Christmas sentence is sharper than any of ours: *"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us."* (John 1:14) John is not writing sentimental poetry. He is proclaiming the centre of reality: the eternal Word (Logos), through whom all things were made, has stepped into our actual human life in Jesus of Nazareth (John 1:1–3).

John's phrase *"made his dwelling"* literally means "pitched his tent". It echoes the tabernacle in the wilderness - God's presence with Israel, not at a safe distance, but in the middle of the camp (Exodus 40). Christmas is God coming near: not an idea, not a moral program, not advice from above - God with skin on. The incarnation tells us what God is like: *"full of grace and truth."* (John 1:14)

Yet John adds a hard line: *"He was in the world... and the world did not recognise him."* (John 1:10) That is not only "out there". Sin bends our vision and trains us to misread light as threat, truth as intrusion, and grace as weakness. We can be surrounded by God's gifts and still fail to see the Giver.

This is why John's Christmas gospel speaks into the kind of year we have lived. After the tragedy at Bondi, many of us felt how suddenly darkness can break into ordinary places. And within our Killara church family, there have been losses and heavy burdens - empty chairs, quiet tears, prayers spoken when words are hard to find. John does not pretend darkness is small. He dares to say, *"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."* (John 1:5)

How does that victory reach us? Not by slogans, but by receiving Christ. *"To all who received him... he gave power to become children of God."* (John 1:12) Christmas is the gift of a new identity - born "not of human decision... but of God" (John 1:13). Before we do anything for God, we are named by God.



That is why I keep thinking of a dandelion - unwanted, yet stubbornly bright. The late American theologian Jung Young Lee tells of a dandelion seed blown across the sea. Trying to survive, it turns green like the grass - and loses its joy. In the end it dares to bloom yellow again, even if it is rejected. There is a parable there for any of us tempted to hide our

Christian distinctiveness, simply to fit the mood of the age.

The **Word** chose to come in humility, from the margins, so that the unseen might know they stand on holy ground. As we continue to live in the light of Christmas, receive him again - at Killara, in our homes, in our grief and gratitude. Let him dwell among us, so we may bear witness with John: not loudness, but faithfulness; not fear, but love; not darkness, but light.

Yangrae Son
Minister of the Word

[This article is an edited extract from the sermon preached at Killara Uniting Church's Christmas Day service.]



Confirmation of Lachlan Thomson

It was a special privilege for our congregation to be part of Lachlan's confirmation. Our church had witnessed his and his sister's baptism, his parents' marriage and had been the church community where his grandmother Joan worshipped. It mattered to Lachlan that he be part of that faith tradition as he affirmed his own faith.



The service was led by our Minister, Revd Yangrae Son, assisted by Dr Rosalie MacLarty, Senior Chaplain at Know Grammar School, who had prepared Lachlan for confirmation. Pastoral Carer Jan Smith assisted and Jenny Boulden, Chaplain of Knox Preparatory School was also in attendance.

Lachlan boldly affirmed his faith with a clear understanding, which challenged us all to remember our own coming to faith and confirmation. He affirmed the vows made at his baptism as he made the sign of the cross on his own forehead.

In closing, Revd Yangrae Son addressed Lachlan:

Let your light shine before the world, that all may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.



Marjorie Coulsen

6th April 1933 – 25th October 2025

We honour the passing of a longstanding, valued and active member of Fiveways Killara Uniting Church, Marjorie Coulsen whom died in October 2025.

Marjorie Coulsen grew up in Monbulk in Victoria's Dandenong Ranges, where her parents owned Flemings Nursery. She was from a loving family of 13 children.

After completing her schooling, Marjorie joined the airline TAA, then worked for Vogue Fashion. After marriage and raising her family, she worked as a secretary in a medical clinic. Marjorie and husband Graham met while playing squash.

Marjorie and Graham had three children - Andrew, Jane and Sue. Sadly, Marjorie and Graham endured the loss of Jane to cancer, leaving behind young children.

Marjorie joined Fiveways Killara shortly after the millennium, and was a valued member of our Church. She served as a very caring and much loved Pastoral Carer over the years, stepping down in 2024 to meet the then challenges of Graham's ill health. Graham passed on in 2025.

Additionally, Marjorie was an avid supporter and volunteer for Lindara Markets for many years, organising and operating the Jewellery stall. She supervised the Jewellery stall with a smile always, and great marketing skills.

Marjorie loved her garden and always had a lovely display of flowers and vegetables.

Marjorie had a joyful personality and shall be missed by many.



Jill Henriks

Graham White OBE

Died 21st September aged 93

A quiet, unassuming and courteous man, Graham and his wife Judy have been long time members of our church. Although attending less regularly in recent years, they appreciated being kept in touch with people and activities. Graham's quiet manner belied the fact that he had had a distinguished career in the ABC.



Graham grew up on a farm in rural Victoria, and had first-hand experience of the challenges of making a living on the land, having to cut short his university education to help support the family and farm. He found employment in the ABC and became Head of Rural Broadcasting in 1953, whilst a very young man. He is remembered for introducing the popular television series 'A Big Country', which today continues as 'Landline'. He also saw the need for better broadcast reception in rural communities and pressurised the Government to provide satellite connection to better serve them.

In 1973 he became General Manager of ABC Television, a position he held for 10 years

During his time at the ABC Graham was seconded to UN Food and Agriculture Organisation to work on broadcast training courses in South America and the Pacific.

Whilst a reporter with the ABC in Victoria he uncovered a scam whereby agents dealing with primary produce gave low prices to the ABC for publication whilst selling the goods for much higher prices. This deceived the primary producers, who thought their goods had sold for the low prices. Graham refused to publish the low prices, despite receiving a very nasty threat from an agent. Subsequently there was a Royal Commission into the prices charged at Melbourne markets.



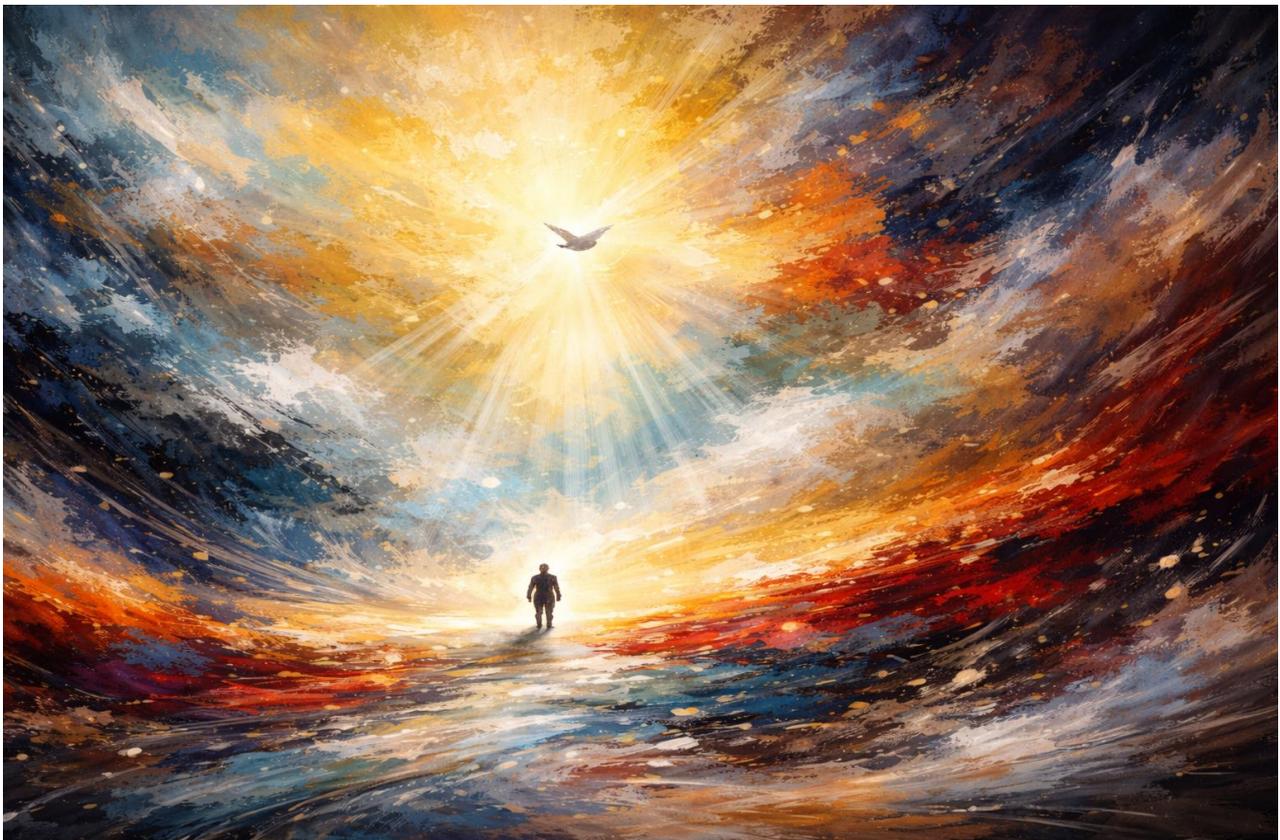
We honour Graham as a far-sighted leader and a man of integrity.

Hope in Believing

She woke reluctantly from a happy dream - a rare event these days - trying to recapture but without success the details of the happy dream. It had evaporated and could be neither recalled nor revived and would likely never return. She realised then that this was just another day to be endured, just like so many other days in recent months. It was pain that woke her up. It was pain that ruled her day and all her days. The doctor had said, with a sigh, an injection, actually two, might help a bit but there were risks involved and the consequences could be worse. Yet she knew that this decision was relatively minor, unlike what people in the north with floods and others in the south with fires were being forced to make - to either stay and defend or leave and live. Either way there were battles to be fought and challenges to be faced. Whatever the decision, big or small, pain, loss and grief would likely be involved. Let us support in whatever way we can and pray without ceasing and in hope for all who are faced with making decisions, big or small and are living with the consequences.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope and the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13)

Anonymous.



Lindara 2024/2025

(Extract from Report of the Chair, Philip Crawford)

Lindara was formed to support families with children within the Ku-ring-gai and Hornsby areas who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. In 2024/2025, 20 families including 41 children within our local area were supported by the Lindara Family Program.

CatholicCare Broken Bay Diocese operates the CatholicCare Lindara Family Program within its Homelessness Services division under a co-operative agreement with Lindara that has been in place since 2005. The current two-year agreement has been renewed until 30 June 2026.

CatholicCare reports that during 2024/2025 challenges of previous years such as rising housing costs ... increasing living expenses, inadequate wage increases and high interest rates all served as drivers for housing instability. In this environment, the Lindara community's steadfast commitment to the Lindara Family Program, and CatholicCare partnership in delivering service, has stabilised and supported families in crisis through the provision of access to transitional accommodation ... [and has] broken cycles of homelessness for those families by walking alongside them to maintain dignity and meet their needs through increased employment, education and community networks ... and provided a cost effective solution to the interim support needs of local families.

Community numbers supporting Lindara with donations have declined. Lindara Markets remains a steadfast supporter of and donor to the Lindara Family Program; however, the broader, principally church congregational donors have dwindled in number through decline in congregation size and changes in demographics.

With a decline in donations, cash reserves have continued to be drawn upon to meet the agreement with CatholicCare to finance the Lindara Family Program. In the financial year 2024/2025, cash outgoings exceeded cash received by \$33,431. While there remain sufficient cash reserves to meet the obligations of the current agreement to fund the Lindara Family Program to 30 June 2026, there will be insufficient funds to continue to fund the program at the same level much beyond the current agreement.

A new form of funding may be feasible at a level commensurate with the incoming donations received. As with any charitable organisation, there may come a time when the persons responsible for the charity form a view to deregister Lindara. This is not my view for Lindara at this time. The sincerity of the need for help, the good work performed by CatholicCare running the Lindara Family Program, the stories of renewal, the continued support of remaining contributors all speak to some future for the Lindara Family Program and for continuing to support families in crisis.

This past year has seen changes in the Lindara Executive Committee. The Chair, Treasurer and Secretary each provided notice to resign their roles [independently and for personal reasons].

[Postscript: At the time of writing, two new appointees have been made to the Executive Committee, but whilst the vacancy exists for two additional Committee members it has not yet been possible to allocate the roles of Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. There is an urgent need to fill the vacant positions. – Ed.]

An elegy for a child lost on December 14

The terrorist attack of December 14 at Bondi shocked and horrified us – innocent people gunned down. Amongst the stories from that day, that of the ten-year-old victim, Matilda, was particularly poignant. **Ian Neilson** has written these lyrics which can be sung to the tune of ‘*Candle in the Wind*.’

Verse

Goodbye Matilda, ten
Though we never knew you at all
You had the grace to be yourself
And relax into your father’s arms.
“I have difficulty breathing” so you said
As you passed into eternity
As your many soulmates passed too
A journey no one expected

Chorus

And it seems to me you lived your life
Like a candle in the wind
Never knowing where life took you
Before all this hell broke loose
But your name and memories
Will forever haunt our minds
As we journey on together
Let our hate reverse to kind.



Snapshots of our Church's life over the past months

Our church family enjoys times of fellowship in many forms – coffee at a local café, walking to interesting sites, and rejoicing in special anniversaries.

Ray and Bev Hollings' 70th wedding anniversary on 12 October 2025, was marked with a special cake. Ray spoke movingly and eloquently of what the Church has meant to him over the years

More recently, on 1 February 2026, we gave thanks for the 71st wedding anniversary of D'Arcy and Joy Hardy. In Advent Joy and D'Arcy lit the Advent candle and led the candle liturgy during the service, and D'Arcy continues to serve faithfully through his skilled involvement in the audio-visual ministry during worship.

Music brings an extra dimension to our worship and we thank visiting musicians. Our carol service on December 14 was uplifting and a joy to us all. Thank you, Paul Wait, for organising this.



Regular 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)

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.

