



KILLARA CONNECTION

Journal of Killara Uniting Church

‘Fiveways’ - Corner Arnold Street and Karranga Avenue

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Issue 110 May 2026

Fun & Games



Handicraft Group



Care of our property



A Big Sunday!

March 29 was especially big! We welcomed Revd Keith Garner, Chairman of our Presbytery, who was guest preacher. We appreciated the way in which Keith and his wife Carol entered into our activities during the day.

That Sunday, also, we welcomed Cantrice, already friends of our congregation, who brought beautiful singing to our service. Our young people also took part in the service.

Morning service was followed by ***Fun & Games!***



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From the Editor

In gathering articles for *Killara Connection*, I have become aware that much of our Church's life is **unseen**, meaning, in effect, important aspects don't get into *Killara Connection*. I mention some here:

Since our February issue, we have celebrated Easter, and followed our Lord's movements over the weeks until Passover, when the Easter moon grew to its fullness and the shadow of the cross loomed larger. We commemorated Maundy Thursday, when Jesus washed his disciples' feet, then Good Friday and, finally, the joyful Easter Day, when we shared the triumph of Christ's resurrection. There were symbols along the way, certainly, but mostly, as we shared in our thoughts the journey of Jesus at this time – that sharing was **unseen**. **Unseen** also is our day to day praying and our caring.

Another highlight over the last three months was the Anzac service on April 26th, for which we thank John Middleton and those who took part: the soloist, instrumentalists and preacher. David Gill, in his sermon spoke of the crumbling of institutional safeguards and the breaking of trust between nations. He pointed to hope, another **unseen**: it is the hope of which Jesus spoke, with power to change us.

...but **visible** evidence of a living church is also important: *fellowship* (lunches together, coffee mornings, Fun and Games) ; *helping the needy* (see the blankets, beanies and jumpers featured in this issue) and *celebration of the lives* of those who have walked the Christian pathway and whom we honour for the ways in which they served their Master. These facets of our Church life are featured in this issue.

We thank our minister Yangrae for leading us through worship so that our faith develops **unseen**, and also for being part of our **visible** church celebrations.

Julie Sekhon

From the Minister's Desk.

UNSEEN GRACE, VISIBLE CHURCH

In December last year I was invited to bring the Christmas message at Strathfield–Homebush Uniting Church, at the Tamil Christians' 40th Christmas Carol service. Returning to the parish where I was ordained and inducted thirty years ago became a providential pause: gratitude, recollection, and renewed calling.



In earlier years I pursued cross-cultural mission there —English classes for migrants, my late wife's work with the children's choir, a South Korea pilgrimage, and Bible studies shaped by voices from the margins. Alpha and Marriage Alpha, together with helping Tongan and Korean communities find a home within the Uniting Church, taught me both the possibility and limitation of our plans. Some things flourished; others did not. Yet, often unseen, the Lord kept forming his people.

Over recent months, I have been reminded that God forms his people, quietly and unseen, beyond both the success and limitation of our plans. This matters all the more when the Church can no longer rely on cultural habit or public privilege. John Douglas Hall warned that Christianity must stand on its own theological substance. But this substance is not more programmes, effort, or anxious activity. It is faith grounded in the God who gives freely. Jürgen Moltmann reminds us that Christian life is not constant performance, but joyful presence in God's grace. Worship is where we stop producing and begin receiving: named, forgiven, re-centred, and sent.

Much of this work of God is unseen: quiet prayer, inner healing, patient caring, and deepening faith. Yet this hidden life becomes visible—in worship, fellowship, hospitality, music, pastoral care, and ordinary acts of service. The church's visible life is sustained by grace hidden from view. And our discernment of this hidden grace must always be shaped, nourished, and corrected by the Word of God.

To keep the church listening to the Word of God—the Word that sustains, searches, and renews us—is, for me, at the heart of being a Minister of the Word. As I run the final laps of my race, that calling rests on me afresh. I am grateful to lead worship at Killara, and I thank all who have prepared, read, prayed, sung, served, cared, and encouraged in these past months.

Through both the unseen and the visible, God continues to form us as the Body of Christ.

Yangrae Son [Minister of the Word]

From the Treasurer's Desk.

Some roles find you rather than the other way around. Looking back, I suspect this one had been quietly following me for years.

At primary school, one of my weekly jobs was helping count the dinner money. A small task, but one that taught me early that keeping track of other people's money is a responsibility not to be taken lightly. At home, my father served for a time as treasurer at our family church, so the idea of volunteers quietly keeping the books in order was simply part of how church life worked.

When I first joined this congregation, it wasn't long before someone asked what I did for work. The follow-up question came almost as quickly: had I ever considered being Treasurer? I smiled and filed it away. Fifteen years later, I stopped filing it away, and here we are.

I share that not to make it about me, but because I think it helps to know a little about the person looking after the finances. At its heart, this is a role of stewardship. Of caring for what this community has built and entrusted to one another.

So, what does that look like in practice? The honest answer is that running a congregation with ageing buildings is expensive. Insurance alone accounts for one of our largest annual costs, and with inflation currently around 4.6%, the bills for maintenance, utilities, and general upkeep keep creeping upward. Our properties aren't just bricks and mortar — they're where we gather, where the community meets, and where groups beyond our own congregation find a home. Keeping them in good shape matters.

Of course, properties are only part of the picture. We are also fortunate to have a dedicated Minister and Office Administrator, both of whom give so much to this congregation. Naturally, supporting them fairly comes with a cost (and for those who may not have thought about it recently, the reality of modern salaries and employment costs might come as a surprise). It is, however, a cost we should be glad to carry. In a time when many churches can no longer support their own dedicated staff, we are genuinely fortunate to have both.

It's worth knowing that property rental income, from the various groups who use our hall and facilities throughout the week) makes a very real contribution to our financial health. That income, along with the generous regular giving of our congregation, keeps things afloat.

Which brings me to giving. I'm not here to make a heavy ask. But I would gently invite each of you, if you haven't done so recently, to consider whether your regular contribution still reflects what you can give. Circumstances change — sometimes in ways that make giving harder, and sometimes in ways that create a little more room. If it's the latter, even a small increase makes a genuine difference when multiplied across a congregation.

Thank you for the trust you place in those of us who serve behind the scenes. It's a privilege to do so.

Chris Hare



An Amazingly Proficient Group!

Our Church Handicraft Group meets each month for morning tea, chat and craft and Yangrae pops in the check on us!

This happy group is small but amazingly proficient. It produces a large number of knitted articles to keep our less fortunate friends warm in the winter.

We are proud of our '**service to the community and beyond**'. North Ryde Uniting Church has a pantry which supplies practical goods as well as support and care for folk who live in a large social housing complex nearby. We have supplied them with beanies, scarves and knee rugs.

Wesley Mission **Aunties and Uncles** program is a voluntary early intervention organisation. It matches children up to the age of 12 from vulnerable or disadvantaged families, providing them with a model extended family, offering stability, care and guidance for at least 12 months. For this wonderful organisation we have donated blankets, beanies and jumpers for the children.

Revd Kaz from **Wesley Mission** mentioned to Jan Stanwell that a **city women's refuge** is being opened. They needed women's beanies, scarves, socks and children's cardigans. We got working and provided the needed knits for this undertaking.

We also made rugs for two vulnerable men in the Parramatta area who live in difficult circumstances.

I would like to thank my fellow crafters for their friendship, support and wonderful knitting for the charities we support. I also thank those who have made donations towards the work we do for others. Please feel free to join us on the fourth Thursday of the month at 10am in the Stewart Room (even if just for a cuppa and a chat).

Sarah Roger





to Uniting Aunties and Uncles



to Wesley Women's Refuge



to North Ryde Uniting Church

Fun & Games

We began by walking a labyrinth, remembering people of the Middle Ages, who would have loved to make a pilgrimage to the Holy Land but for whom it was impossible due to the expense and insurmountable difficulties.

Drawing the labyrinth on the Hall floor took an engineer's skill. The lay person whose idea it was had envisaged an elaborate system of tapes, compass, Blu-tack and chalk, but our engineer just said "Oh, a spiral!", did his calculations and set about unerringly mapping the labyrinth. Thank you, Peter Gibbs!

Young and old walked the labyrinth – right down to the very young,

Then the games: Chris Hare engaged the group with varied games - "Two truths and a lie" (some truths were amazing and we thought them lies!); "Shopping Basket" or, "The Price is Right!" (great fun); and "A-Z of Fruit and Vegetables". Thank you, Chris!

Lunch followed, pizza and fruit, and we went home happy and satisfied.



Fun & Games



Janet Amy Lumsden

28 July 1931 – 18 September 2025



Janet was a much-loved member of our Church whose warm and caring nature we remember with gratitude. Church meant a great deal to Janet throughout her life, and in recent years her spiritual home was the Uniting Church, firstly at Lindfield, Tryon Road, and then at our Killara Uniting Church.

Born at Pinnaroo in rural South Australia, the youngest of seven children, Janet – then as Janet Young – experienced a life which was spartan compared to that of today: nevertheless she was involved in the activities of her community and won several prizes and commendations in the agricultural show.

Janet came to Adelaide at the age of 19 and soon after met Graeme, leading to a marriage and lifelong companionship. Janet and Graeme had two sons, Andrew and Michael, who testify to the happy home and the experiences their parents gave them.

As they moved from State to State and city to city for Graeme's work, Janet continued to make friends and show friendship in ways we remember well. . Janet was an accomplished cook and often brought baked treats when visiting. A particular cause dear to her heart was multiple sclerosis. Janet joined the MS Support Group in 1978, when asked if she could help, and as a result, gave help in abundance. She became the Group's Secretary from 1980-85, its President from 1985 – 1992 and Treasurer, 1998-2007 – and, in addition, helped with outings and meals for people with MS.

In her last years, Janet's increasing frailty meant that she was unable to physically attend church, but followed all activities closely, keeping in touch and sending appreciative emails. She is now in the presence of the Lord who had been the guiding presence of her life.

Beverley Joan Hollings

8 April 1933 – 15 March 2026



On 7th April a large congregation of family and friends gathered at Killara Uniting Church to remember Bev Hollings. All had great respect and affection for Bev, but much was shared by the family which increased our knowledge of this extremely capable but unassuming woman.

Bev grew up in Gordon, and Gordon Methodist Church was the family church. Growing up, Bev found her spiritual home there, together with the Methodist Crusader Choir and Church camps. She loved to sing, expressing her faith in song.

After schooling, Bev entered the Royal North Shore Hospital to train as a nurse. Ray Hollings was also at the Hospital as a doctor and he also attended Gordon Methodist Church, so it is not surprising that their paths crossed from time to time. The two young people were attracted to one other and developed a love which was to last their entire marriage. They were well suited and shared interests such as their mutual love of music.

As their family grew, Bev's wonderful ability to manage four daughters, be a supportive doctor's wife and actively involve herself in – and organise – church activities became apparent. She would have had little time for herself in these years, but her daughters testify that their parents had established a very happy home and they always knew they were loved.

We at Killara Uniting Church have been fortunate that Ray and Bev made us their spiritual home in recent years. Faithful, supportive – their presence was a quiet strength in our congregation. In October 2025, Ray and Bev reached their 70th wedding anniversary, and celebrations were held at Church and in the family.

As Bev's health deteriorated, life for her was difficult. Her daughter Bronwyn said that Bev confided 'that it was her faith that kept her from going crazy and giving up'. She was self-giving and above all, steadfast: steadfast in loyalty to her family, to her husband and to her faith and God.



Ronald Harry Leckie

25 April 1922 – 30 April 2026



Ron Leckie was honoured in a funeral service held on Wednesday 13th May at Macquarie Park. Officers representing the Royal Australian Air Force were present and gave honour to Ron as the last surviving member of 31st Battalion of the Bristol Beaufighters who had served in World War 2. They also formed a guard of honour as Ron was carried from the chapel after the service. During the ceremony, Air Force aircraft flew over the chapel to honour Ron. In commemorating Ron's war service, Ron's skill as navigator was mentioned, as was evident in the hazardous manoeuvres required during the war.

Sons Stuart and Ian remember their father with affection, and spoke with appreciation of his presence in their lives – sport, recreation, holidays. He is remembered as a 'doer', a man who solved difficulties, and a family man.

We remember Ron as a regular church attender whilst his health allowed, and his presence at our Anzac Day service was special. He very much enjoyed the fellowship of the Church community. Ron was interested in our Church and served a number of years on the Property Committee, only retiring at the age of 100.

Ron's wife Joyce, the mother of their three sons, David, Stuart and Ian, died in 2013. In later years Ron found a loving relationship again: this was with Edith Cowlshaw to whom we offer, as well as to the Leckie family, our warmest sympathy.

Sale of Stamps benefits many small Projects

Used stamps, trimmed by Uniting Church members are sold regularly by the Stamp Committee. In March 2025, proceeds amassed over 2023 and 2024 totalled \$27,100 and this was distributed in grants to some 32 recipients, many of them small country churches.

Projects included: Cooking classes and chat for refugees, community meals and fellowship, a simple meal following the evening service, welfare food programs, breakfast for children who travel long distances in rural areas, meals for homeless and disadvantaged people, resources for OP shops, sewing classes for teenagers and seniors, 'Scone Time', playgroups, kids' clubs.

Ruth Mitchell, Business Manager/Secretary of the Committee writes that, in 2025 sales brought in \$12,250. Although this sum also has to cover rent, there will still be \$10,000 profit. The Committee plan to accumulate funds over the two years 2025 and 2026 and encourage applications for grants in 2027. (Obviously the increasing use of electronic communication has lessened the use of stamps)

Trimming of stamps: Instructions are for stamps to be trimmed with a 3cm paper surround. If you tear stamps from the envelope, please allow enough surround to allow careful trimming. Some collectors prefer to soak their own stamps off envelopes themselves to minimise any damage to the stamp.

Thanks go to Dorothy Newman who now co-ordinates our stamp trimming and liaises with the Stamp Committee, as her husband Jeff is no longer able to undertake this task. There is a box in the Karranga Street door entrance to the church for used stamps.

So: let us save our stamps!

Snapshots of our Church's life over the past months



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 18 July