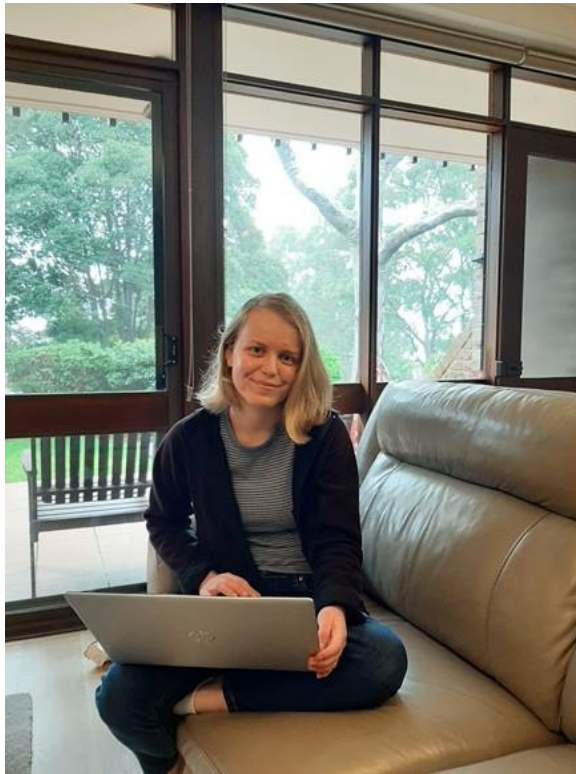




People News

Emma and Josh Floyd are busy at school, studying and catching up with friends:



Emma

I have been keeping busy with my current year 12 studies and also my part-time work at Hoyts in Chatswood. At the end of this term I will be graduating from high school and I am nearing my trial examinations.

These are a practice for the real HSC that will be in October this year. I have also recently started volunteering each week at the Salvation Army in Chatswood which has been something that I enjoy doing.

Josh

I'm glad to be back at school catching up with friends and playing school sports. I am playing rugby this term at school. I also play club AFL and I'm happy we are playing competition



Much has happened in the six months or so that our lives have been curbed by the Covid-19 threat: some big events, some little and some will put a smile on our faces.

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Editor:

Julie Sekhon
9498 3817

margaret_sekhon@bigpond.com

**Connection layout:**
Linda Brown

gibbsbrown@optusnet.com.au

**From the Editor**

In this quiet time, when our normal activities are curtailed due to COVID -19 restrictions, we have had to re-fashion our lives.

Spiritually, we are being nourished by the Sunday services and weekly Bible studies led by Yangrae, but we all miss the fellowship of our Church family.

I asked some of our members to give me their news, and have found their stories and photos a delight. I hope our readers will find the same enjoyment.

Of course, not everyone is featured in this issue, but if our Church members want this, there will be scope for more 'People News' in a later *Killara Connection*.

There is happiness and there is sadness: we have lost some special people whose lives have given much to the church and to those around them.

As I write, the news has come of the passing of Keith Smithers whose warmth and caring for our Church family has been experienced by us all. We will more fully acknowledge Keith's life in a future *Killara Connection*.

An enduring memory of Keith is the chorus he sang with us many times:

*'A new commandment
I give unto you, that
you love one another;
as I have loved you.
In this shall all men
know that you are my
disciples, if you have
love one for another.'*

In our fellowship,
our lives are linked
in sorrow and in Joy

Julie Sekhon



From the Son family:

The Editor of **Connection**, Julie, invited me to provide an update on my first grandson, Julian, born on Boxing Day in Tokyo at his 25th week of conception. His survival and growth in God's grace has brought my family nearer to God. My younger son Peter has written our annual family Christmas letter since he was in high school. I asked him to write a 'brief' update on Julian, and he ended up with an 'Epistle'. Instead of occupying much space in the Connection, I wish to place Peter's writing in the space reserved for the minister's message. Heartfelt thanks to our church family's prayerful support and practical care when the Son family were going through challenging times.

Yangrae (Ray) Son, Minister of the Word

On 17 November 2019, the lectionary readings for my father's first sermon at Killara Uniting Church included the reading Luke 21: 5 – 19, The Destruction of the Temple. Well, we surely have witnessed destruction.

As a nation, we are enduring one crisis after another: droughts, bushfires, COVID-19, increasing geo-political tensions in our international relations, ideological and culture wars, and the inevitable and painful impacts on our economic security. The world around us is changing. In this world of chaos, where do we find order, hope, trust, peace and love?

This morning on 25 July 2020 I hugged my brother farewell before his flight to Tokyo as he embarks on the most important rescue mission of his young life: Bring Family Home. It was not only farewell to Richard, but it was farewell to the times when it was just the two of us as brothers. Now our Son clan has grown, and Julian is the first-born Son in the new generation of Sons in Australia. I never thought I could love someone I had not met yet so unconditionally. I find myself smiling at the thought of seeing Julian in the flesh in Sydney.

The destruction and chaos we are enduring reminds us that there are many things beyond our control. Whether it is our health, or our wealth, there are far more things we cannot control than there are that we can. In a paradoxical way, it's placating knowing that we don't have too much control over our own lives. If you think about it, it wasn't even our choice to be born anyway.

After the chaos and destruction comes rebuilding, renewal and resurrection. The promise of new life, and the promise of eternal life, sustains us as we remind ourselves that God is in control.

Uncle Peter cannot wait for his nephew Julian to come home with sister Sayaka and brother Richard. On behalf of the Son family, we sincerely thank you for your love, prayers and care. **Peter Son.**



A big 7 months for Julian Son!

Julian, son of Richard and Sayaka, was born on Boxing Day 2019 at 25 weeks gestation, - such a tiny mite! Now blooming with health: photos show him as he was, and as he is now. Richard is now in Tokyo and hopes to bring his family back to Sydney in September.



Knitting Group News



The church Knitting Group has held two meetings in the past couple of months. We have chosen to meet in private homes in order to minimise the risk of infection from public spaces and have been able to enjoy not only cake, tea and coffee over the two hours of our time together but also a time of warm fellowship. Our thanks to Yangrae who has supported our group with his presence and encouragement.

Four hand-knitted blankets, a large number of children's

beanies and quite a few warm jumpers are now waiting to be delivered to Uniting Care to be sent out to communities in need during this cold winter. We should note that while we usually send many of our blankets and clothes to Missionvale in South Africa, regrettably this is obviously not currently possible.

My thanks not only to the devoted ladies of the group but also to the many other friends and relations who have been using this time of isolation to rediscover long-forgotten knitting skills! If anyone reading this would like to know more about our group, please feel free to contact me. All warm, hand-knitted garments and ten-inch blanket squares are very much appreciated.

June Wait
Knitting Group co-ordinator



Linda Brown has rediscovered knitting too during the COVID lifestyle limitations. Pictured are some of her soft toy creations. Contact her if you would like an easy elephant pattern which uses one ball of wool.

Linda Brown and Peter Gibbs have earned a place as “Lite N Easy” celebrities!

Linda writes :

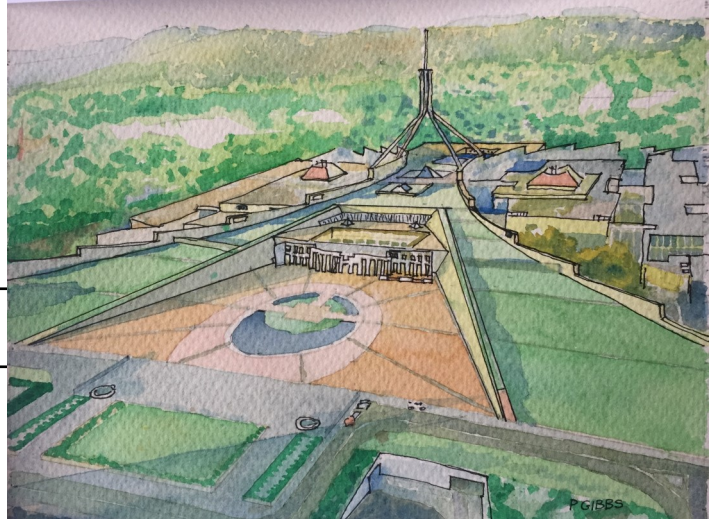
We were Sydney superstars with Lite N Easy. Peter has lost 29 kilos and me 18 over the last 9 months. We had a photo shoot) and will appear as a success story on their website. See the set-up below.

Congratulations Peter and Linda on your new sleek selves!



...and Peter now paints: as an engineer, he helped build new Parliament House: now he paints it.

People News



The Winslow family

...enjoyed a visit to Coffs Harbour during the school holidays. We watched the sunrise on the beach and visited the Big Banana where we went tobogganing, saw a 4D movie and rode the giant slide. Other highlights included a walk to the Look at Me Now headland, a picnic in the Botanic Gardens and strolling along the Urunga Boardwalk. Jeff taught us a new card game called three-nought-four which he played with his family when growing up in Sri Lanka. It was wonderful to travel outside Sydney again and spend time together as a family.





David Eastwood
1/1/35 -20/6/20

With the passing of David Eastwood the Church has lost a stalwart supporter who contributed in many ways to Killara church, and before that, to Tryon Road Uniting Church. He was appointed as Senior Circuit Steward in the then Methodist Church at Tryon Road and played a big part in preparing the congregation for church union. He has been church elder at Lindfield and member of the Killara Church Council, serving as its Secretary. We remember him more recently as choir conductor and (later) as choir member.

Born in England, David had a difficult early childhood: his mother died when he was two, and he and his father boarded with a Mr and Mrs Wilson at Luton. Mrs Wilson looked after David as if he were her own child and David called her 'Mummy'. Things changed, however, when David's father remarried and David was taken away to live in the new relationship.

After the Second World War, the family migrated to Australia settling in the Blue Mountains, where David attended Katoomba High School. After school, his first study at university was aborted and he took various jobs in the manufacturing industry, becoming production manager in successive firms. Returning to university, he completed a BA with honours in Philosophy. Concurrently with studying logic as part of the philosophy, he was introduced to computers, which were then in their infancy. This fired David's interest. Over the next period he learnt programming and, linking his affinity with computing with his manufacturing experience made him an invaluable employee, who rose to responsible position in ICL (later absorbed into Fujitsu)

David met Lynne Deane on New Year's Eve 1957 and they married in January 1961. Theirs has been a partnership of shared interest and shared caring. During the many years that David has carried the burden of his illness they have made the most of every short break to explore and enjoy our natural world.

Andrew Eastwood captures a familiar memory of David in his eulogy:

'Dad was a quiet man, which made it all the more shocking when you stood next to him in the church pew and we started singing some of those great old hymns – you know the ones – with a booming bass part that comes over the top, like the Charles Wesley classic "And can it be"... Dad would sing "My chains fell off, my heart was free, I rose, went forth and followed Thee."

Thanks be for the life of David Eastwood.



Jane Sanders

11 March 1930 – 13 June 2020

Many long-time friends joined relatives to commemorate Jane's life at a service on 24th July, indicating the many people whose lives she touched. Born and living in the local Ku-ring-gai district all her life, she contributed to Church and community in many ways.

She was remembered as a warm, generous person, quick to offer hospitality and ready to help when needed. Grandchildren were appreciative of her desire to give them enriching experiences and the plans she made for their enjoyment.

She contributed to the community in a number of ways, significantly as a volunteer for Meals on Wheels for fifty years, from the time when volunteers actually cooked the meals they delivered. For over twenty years she made recordings for the Royal Blind Society, using her elocution skills to help blind university students.

Jane met her husband John at Gordon Methodist Church and her church was always an important part of her life – both there, and later at Killara church. She made a significant contribution to fundraising for building projects at Gordon Uniting Church, whilst we at Killara remember her using her organisational skills for our seniors' lunches.

Jane was a generous hostess, and numerous people were recipients of her hospitality. Her family, however, were central to her and it was warming to hear the affection in which they held her. We offer sympathy to John on the loss of his life's partner.

The work of Lindara continues –

Rod Henriks, Treasurer, writes:

Indisputably, Brigid, our full time Lindara Family Program caseworker and her colleagues at the Waitara Family Centre are included amongst these heroes [of the COVID crisis]. Throughout the expanding months of the pandemic, they continue to provide essential services to the homeless, and women and children experiencing domestic and family violence within the Hornsby / Ku-ring-gai local government areas. Putting aside social distancing and lockdown stipulations, they have been out on the front line, frequently coming into contact with people / families for the first time, and in unfamiliar locations. We likewise sincerely thank them for their commitment, dedication, and professionalism, not only during the global pandemic, but for the important tasks they undertake.

Lindara Market:

Malcolm Allarding writes : Sadly we don't really know when the next Lindara Market will be! We only know there WILL be another one, some time. At the moment it is difficult as we are a bit of a crowd together on market day and social distancing is important.

However, we should not forget the people in our community that need support from the Lindara Family Program, and so please consider a contribution to it via

BSB 634-6343, A/c 100034008,

or mail to 'Lindara Family Program', via Uniting NSW.ACT, Accounts Receivable, Locked Bag 5013, Parramatta, NSW 2124. (Or contact treasurer Rod Henriks, 9499 3489)

If you have items to sell, maybe keep them at home for a time.

People News

The Wines family adapts to COVID:

Lian writes: Our family has really enjoyed spending more time together during the pandemic. Sophie and Angus adapted very quickly to home schooling via Zoom, but missed the daily contact with their friends. They are pleased to be able to go back to school and to play sport once again. In the school holidays, Angus has been doing a lot of mountain bike riding.

Sophie completed her Gold Duke of Edinburgh camp in extremely adverse conditions, but loved every minute.

Andrew and I had a number of weeks where we didn't work much clinically, but we spent a lot of time with our colleagues preparing and planning for the worst. We are both back at work now.

Andrew and I celebrated another quiet birthday with the family, picture attached.



Judith Williams remembers...

Judith remembers her Sunday School days in the 1930s, when our Sunday School was thriving. As a child she often sang solos behind the pulpit for Sunday school and church services.

What does she think of the Zoom Sunday services? Wonderful! She especially enjoys seeing people's faces again. She is well and is being well cared for in her lovely sunny home.

Jean Himmelhoch is well, and feels well looked after. She is seen here at Jane Sanders' memorial service, with John Fogarty who was paying a visit from Urunga.



Sue Taylor relocates:

Sue has moved from her home in Killara to a unit in Lindfield Gardens overlooking Middle Harbour. May you be happy in your new home, Sue!

***... John Fogarty moves north***

John Fogarty has been a member of Killara Uniting Church since 1952 and has supported the Church in many roles over the year: youth work, deacon, elder and willing helper in many ways.

John married Nancy Sproule – who had been a lifelong member of KUC, being christened here in 1927 – and from then involved himself in the life of our church. He and Nancy ran the Sunday School for some years, and he also led the then active youth group. Nancy died in 2009. He was an elder (originally called Deacon) from the 1960's until the 2000's. John writes 'I have forged many friendships at Killara Uniting Church & seen many changes over many years'.

John has moved to Urunga on the North Coast of NSW (20 minutes south Coffs Harbour) where a number of his family live. We warmly remember John with his unfailingly cheerful greetings, and wish him happy years of family fellowship.



The Ideals and Challenge of the Uniting Church: its DNA (a talk given Sunday 21st June) Rob Floyd

As we celebrate the 43rd anniversary of the Uniting Church tell us what makes the Uniting Church different from others churches?

The DNA of the Uniting Church

With thanks to Rev John Squires: <https://johntsquires.com/>

The Uniting Church preaches Jesus Christ the risen crucified One and confesses him as Lord to the glory of God the Father.

An ecumenical church

We were formed by the union of three churches, Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian, in 1977 to form the Uniting Church in Australia. We remain **committed to working ecumenically with other Christian denominations.**

We belong to the National Council of Churches in Australia, the World Council of Churches, the Christian Conference of Asia and the Pacific Conference of Churches. We co-operate with many denominations. Even more broadly, we build relationships with people from other faiths, Muslims, Jews, Hindu, to name three.

We value the ministry of all the people of God

Our *Basis of Union* affirms that every member of the church is engaged to confess Christ crucified, and every person is gifted by the Spirit to engage in ministry in their own particular way. We are a church that values the ministry of each and every person.

We are committed to the equality and mutuality of women and men in ministry.

We ordain women to ministry and have women in ministry and leadership roles across every part of the Church.

We make decisions when we gather in council, being open to the Spirit, and seeking to discern the will of God.

We live this out in our councils by practising a process of consensus decision-making.

We have a firm commitment to strong professional standards

This applied to Ministers as well as for lay people who exercise leadership in the church.

We are in Covenant with the First Peoples of Australia

The Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (UAICC) was established in 1985, and a Covenant between the UAICC and the UCA was implemented in 1994. This Covenant recognises that working for reconciliation amongst people is central to the Gospel.

We are a multicultural church

In 1985 Uniting Church declared that it is a multicultural church, which rejoices in the diversity of cultures and languages which are found across Australia.

Within Australia, there are currently 13 national conferences based on regional groupings and people from 193 language groups who belong to the Uniting Church.

Each Sunday, worship takes place in Uniting Churches in 26 different languages, not including the many indigenous languages used in worship by first peoples across our church.

Through UnitingWorld, we maintain partnerships with churches in Asia, the Pacific, Africa and the Middle East.

We engage in difficult discussions about contentious issues

Our Basis of Union commits us to learn from the insights of contemporary scientific and historical studies, and affirms that we remain open to correction by God in the way we order our life together.

We are a justice-oriented church

We have a strong commitment to advocating for justice for all. We are actively committed to serving those people who find themselves on the margins of society. Our Care Agencies are among the largest in Australia.

A regular stream of policy documents, public statements and worship and prayer resources point to our commitment to seeking justice for all.

We have also been vocal on issues of environment and climate since our formation. Our partnerships with Churches in the Pacific in particular, but Asia and Africa as well, have intensified our awareness of the negative impacts that are resulting from climate change. We know that we need to act now, to reduce the threat.

Rob was asked about the work of the Assembly of the Uniting Church and his own role:

The UCA isn't hierarchical. Each council, be it Congregation, Presbytery, Synod and Assembly have different but complementary roles. So the Assembly is responsible for those things that are best done nationally.

That includes determining matters related to doctrine and worship, setting standards for ministry training and admission of ministers from other denominations, and matters relating to the Constitution and Regulations of the Church.

The Assembly holds relationships with other churches and other faiths, and also holds our international partnerships through UnitingWorld.

The Assembly also supports the relationship we have with our First People through the Uniting Aboriginals and Islander Christian Congress and the National Conferences we have of people who are culturally and linguistically diverse.

The Assembly also speaks into the public space and advocates to Government on issues of policy and issues of justice.

My job is to support the President and the General Secretary, and to lead a team of people who have oversight of the work we do in those areas.

What excites you about being a part of the Uniting Church?

The Uniting Church:

- Disciples and nurtures me and calls me to live out my faith and to witness to the love of God and the saving power of Jesus.
- Draws me into thoughtful reflection, reading the Bible, challenging me to be informed by science, economics, politics and history, and to live an informed and vital faith.
- The Uniting Church is inclusive. It draws me in to respectful relationships with people regardless of age, gender, race, religion or sexual orientation.
- Encourages me to be ecumenical and inter-faith in my dealings, to engage with people across the Christian and broader faith spectrum, sharing in hospitality, seeking mutual awareness and understanding, building bridges.
- Encourages me to be active in advocating for justice in the work

People News

Zhou family – holidays and learning new skills.



Heather and Kaylee have enjoyed their holidays including some play dates, whilst Nathan has had his first soccer lesson, and learnt to ride a bicycle!



Apart from the kids, Jane's photo has appeared publicizing Uniting Finance, on the Autumn issue of *Insights*. Jane says that this was taken quite a while ago, when she was working for the Uniting Church. Obviously, they still like the photo: so do we!

