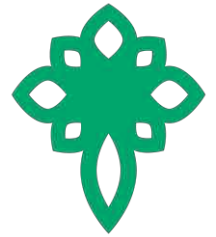




# M U C



# Magazine

The News and Views of the  
Murrumbeena Uniting Church



To make Christ known by preaching the  
gospel in word and deed

**CONTACT DETAILS**

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<http://murrumbeenauniting.org.au/>

117 Murrumbeena Road,

Murrumbeena, VIC 3163



The Uniting Church in Australia  
**MURRUMBEENA UNITING CHURCH**

December 2021 – January 2022

## MINISTRY TEAM

**REV. JAY ROBINSON**

Minister

[jay@murrumbidgeeanauniting.org.au](mailto:jay@murrumbidgeeanauniting.org.au)

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Pastor for the Young Adults and the Sonder Collective.

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Families' and Children's Ministry Coordinator.

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## CHURCH COUNCIL



**CHAIR:**

**Alison Campbell  
Rate**

0438 569 690



**TREASURER:**

**Greg Pressey**



**Caroline  
Kwong**

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**Jo Petzer**



**Rachel Dart**  
Minutes  
Secretary



**Margaret  
Reid**



**Dave  
Robinson**  
Correspondence  
Secretary

## ORGANISATIONS AND GROUPS

- Community Garden
- Craft Circle
- Drop In/Coffee with Jay
- Adult Fellowship
- Friendship Fellas (Men's Group)
- LIFT (Women's Group)

## THE CHURCH

- Adult Bible Studies
- Pastoral Care
- Worship Band
- Lending Library

## YOUNG ADULTS (18-35)

- Getaway
- Sonder Collective
- Sonderfy
- Studies
- Sunday Brunch

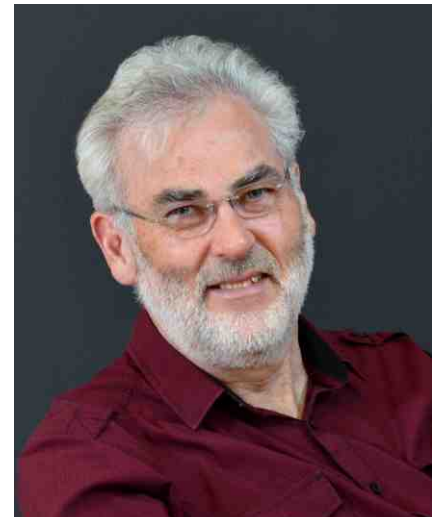
## YOUTH (13-17)

- Camps
- Youthy

## CHILDREN & FAMILIES

- Families
    - » Family Craft Days
    - » Family Movie Days
  - Kids
    - » Countdown to Christmas
    - » Kids' Time
- mainly music

Welcome to this latest edition of the MUC MAG. With it comes the news of opportunities for opening our church doors and worshipping together, as well as the various groups being able to meet (Craft, Men's Group, Women's Group, Adult Fellowship, etc.) However, it will be according to the "new normal", as we still need to adhere to the various COVID restrictions, possibly for quite some time.



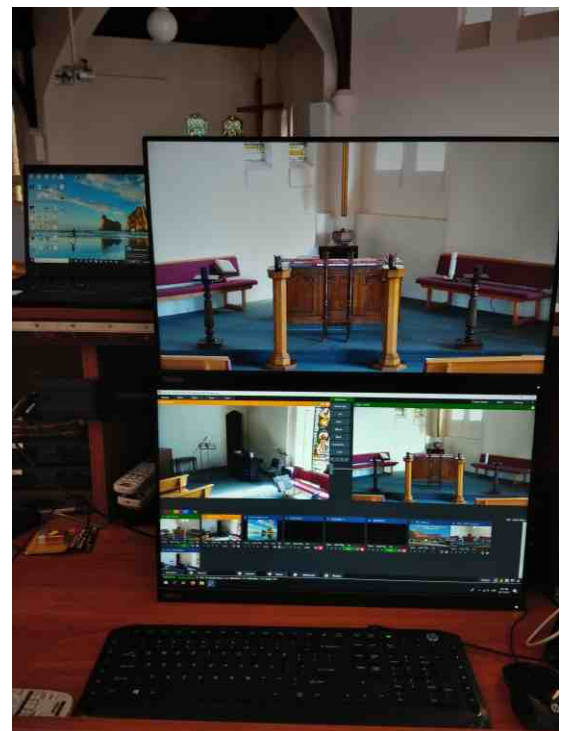
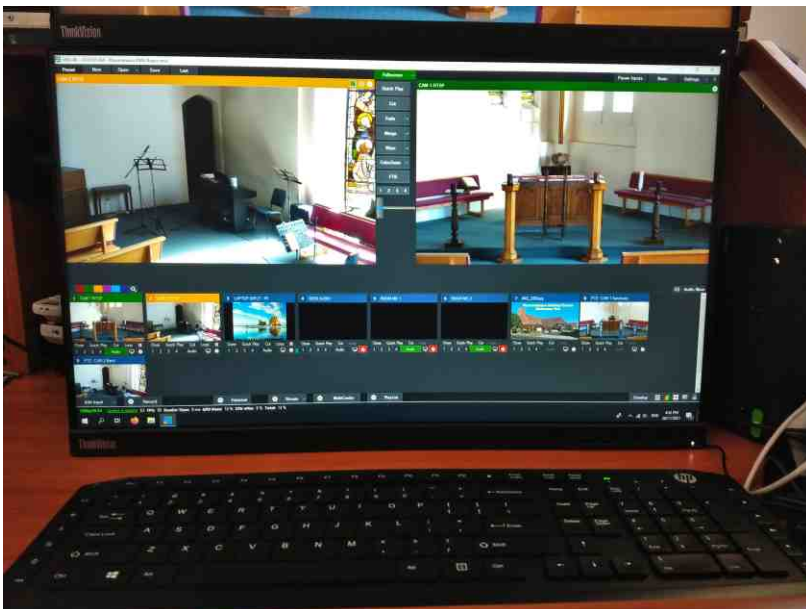
On the subject of new normal, this edition is back to normal, with 12 pages (the previous edition was a bit thin). Christina Linforth-Barker has created not one, but TWO puzzles - another cryptic crossword (how did you go with the last one? The answers are on page 9) and also a Wordsearch, which I am sure everyone can be confident of having a go at. Christina has promised to do more in the future! We also have a short story from Marg Edwards about how she has adapted to worshipping at home during these lockdown periods. Once again, Lois Bates has shared one of her daily devotional readings with us. These are in addition to our regular feature articles from the Ministry team (Jay, Kelly, and Zak).

The other good news with opening up the church again is that we can use the new Audio/Video equipment that was installed last June. Back then, just before we went into another lockdown, I had planned to conduct a couple of training sessions for others to learn and use the video side. This invitation is now open again, so I am hoping that a few readers will offer to learn. This will be especially important as there will be some Sundays when I am not able to be at church, so being able to roster others would be great. Depicted below are a couple of views of the video setup (using vMix), just to whet your appetite for what you can "play" with, if you want to get involved. I look forward to hearing from you.

Blessings upon you.

*Roger McCowan*

Please e-mail articles to: [triumphguru@gmail.com](mailto:triumphguru@gmail.com), or hand them to Roger on a Sunday, preferably no later than 16<sup>th</sup> January.



As well as our own website at <https://www.murrumbeenauniting.org.au/> you might find the following links of interest (if you haven't already).

[facebook.com/murrumbeenauniting/](https://facebook.com/murrumbeenauniting/) - Live stream of 10:00am Worship and Service

[murrumbeenauniting.online.church](https://murrumbeenauniting.online.church) - Live stream of 10:00am Worship and Service

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-v0xIBPkGfZJcOl062yCjg/> - recorded Service

## FROM THE MINISTER...

*Rev Jay Robinson*

As we begin to head into my favourite month of the year and favourite season of the church something else that will be special is happening - we will be returning to worship in person!

Bruce and I attended a funeral just before we headed off for a week of leave the day that all the restrictions were lifted, well most of them. To sit in a service of worship, the thanksgiving for a life well lived, and to sing and hear those around you singing was just sooo nice!

As we begin Advent our focus will be around Speaking Out and the words that we could be using as well as the words that are connected to every Advent - Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. This time of Advent, waiting expectantly for the coming of the Christ, is a time to prepared for the time that love came to earth in form of Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus came to show us the love of God and to reconnect us to our creator, the one who made us in God's image.

I've done a lot of talking about being created in God's image lately. Over the past few months our main focus has been in ensuring that we, and the church at large, are a welcoming, inclusive community that is open to change, acceptance, respect and awareness of the challenge that those who don't look or think like us can face.

As we head into the new liturgical year, and I know that Kelly has explained all of that in her sermon this week, we need to be looking at our life here as Murrumbidgee UC in new ways. We will get back to our mission and ministry conversations, we will need to be extra aware of those who are slowly coming out of restrictions, of those who just can't wait to be together again, and of those who are looking tentatively for a place to belong. That to belong can be offered by us, but we might need to lift our game a bit as we welcome new people into our community. As I have said before, gone are the days when we are all alike, all think alike and have the same expectations. We are going to have to listen, to adjust and respect. Now I know that we are able to do this, not always easy, but we can, of that I am sure.

As we work towards whatever the new normal of our gathering and place in the community may look like I ask that you jump on in and join us for the ride. We will need all of you listening and observing so that nothing is missed.

As we come into Advent and the celebration of the incarnation of Christ - God with us - let us become part of that incarnation, the people of God in this place and time, Christ like to the community and to each other.

As we stand ready to move forward I want to thank those who have kept us connected and together. To all our Elders - Peter Barnes, Doug Faram, Bruce Robinson, Dave Robinson, Roger McCowan, Anne Don and Marg Reid, our Pastoral Carers - Geoff and Marg Edwards, our music team - Alison Campbell Rate, Dave Robinson, Josh Pereira, John Leever. Our tech team - Roger McCowan and Bruce Robinson, and lastly (but not least) the ministry team of Kelly and Zak. THANK YOU ALL!

Let's see where this takes us.....

On the journey with you.



## READINGS FOR DECEMBER 2021/JANUARY 2022

As December comes so does the opportunity for us to gather in person again. We'll be taking it easy during December, so not a full month of morning worship. Please note that our worship on the 19<sup>th</sup> December will be in the afternoon, and not in the morning, as part of our Countdown to Christmas Festival. We'll also send you resources for worship at home on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> December.

These next couple of months calls us to speak out and be more like Christ - let's see how that challenges us.

*Rev Jay Robinson*

# READINGS FOR DECEMBER 2021/JANUARY 2022

5 <sup>th</sup> December	Isaiah 55:1-13	Speak Out - Word of Welcome (Advent 2 - Peace) Word accomplishes God's Purpose
12 <sup>th</sup> December	Ezekiel 37:1-14	Speak Out - Word of Life (Advent 3 - Joy) Ezekiel: Valley of Dry Bones
19 <sup>th</sup> December	John 1:1-18	Lessons and Carols Christmas Festival
22 <sup>nd</sup> December		Blue Christmas service
24 <sup>th</sup> December	Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]	Speak Out - Word of Wonder (Advent 4 - Love) Christmas Eve - Birth Of Jesus
25 <sup>th</sup> December	Luke 2:8-20	Speak Out - Word of Wooliness Christmas Day 9:30am - Shepherd's visit
26 <sup>th</sup> December	John 1:19-34	Speak Out - Voice in the Wilderness (Worship at home)
2 <sup>nd</sup> January	John 1:35-51	Be Christ Like Jesus says 'come and see'
9 <sup>th</sup> January	John 2:1-11	Wedding at Cana
16 <sup>th</sup> January	John 2:13-25	Jesus Cleanses the Temple Sorrowing Sunday
23 <sup>rd</sup> January	John 3:1-21	Nicodemus
30 <sup>th</sup> January	John 4:1-42	The Woman at the Well Blessing of the Backpacks
6 <sup>th</sup> February	John 4:46-54 [5:1-18]	Healing Stories

## WORDSEARCH PUZZLE

Find the following words, which may be horizontal, vertical, or diagonal.

Puzzle created by

*Christina Linforth-Barker*

ACMI  
AFL  
ART GALLERY  
BAY  
BUSKERS  
CAFES  
CITY  
COFFEE  
EUREKA TOWER  
FEDERATION SQUARE  
KULIN  
LAKE  
LANES  
MARKETS  
MCG  
METRO  
MOOMBA  
MSO  
PORT PHILLIP  
RACES  
RIPPONLEA  
SEAGULLS  
SHRINE  
TOWN HALL

TRAMS  
YARRA  
ZOO

G	J	R	H	S	I	C	O	F	F	E	E	U	D	X	A
E	R	A	U	Q	S	N	O	I	T	A	R	E	D	E	F
Y	L	C	Q	P	O	T	Z	O	O	F	M	S	O	U	L
A	C	E	B	H	O	B	O	E	K	U	L	I	N	R	J
E	K	S	S	E	K	R	F	W	I	M	C	A	Y	E	M
L	T	O	E	A	V	W	T	P	N	A	J	R	B	K	O
N	P	L	A	K	E	O	R	P	U	H	E	N	A	A	O
O	M	E	G	E	B	R	A	C	H	L	A	Y	C	T	M
P	X	N	U	S	U	T	M	Z	L	I	T	L	E	O	B
P	Y	I	L	V	S	E	S	A	R	I	L	K	L	W	A
I	A	R	L	I	K	M	G	U	C	P	F	L	Y	E	Q
R	R	H	S	L	E	T	H	C	A	F	E	S	I	R	E
M	R	S	P	V	R	M	A	R	K	E	T	S	B	P	W
B	A	Y	E	A	S	I	D	G	C	M	L	A	N	E	S

*Lak Hanyn*

It is hard to believe that we are already at the end of another year, and that this is the final edition of the MUC Mag, I always enjoying writing these articles and am grateful to Roger for his work on the editing and publishing of our Church magazine, as it gives us all a great opportunity to share with each other what is going on in the life of our Church. We had lots of great plans for 2021 and sadly not all of them came to fruition due to COVID. However, some of the highlights of the year have been working with Jay and Kelly in the Ministry team, it is a great privilege to work alongside such dedicated, kind and knowledgeable people. Being a part of the kitchen garden program at the local primary school, which enabled greater investment for the Church in the community and a strengthening of local relational bonds. Also preparing and delivering material for children and families in the Sunday service (even if it did not always go to plan), hopefully it was received well and in a fun/informative manner. Another highlight was the scavenger hunt, while it required a lot of work to prepare and I am grateful to all those who made it possible, it was received really well, lots of fun and we had great up take from random people who were not formally linked to our Church but heard about the event and got involved.

I am mindful as we return to in person worship on the 5th of December there will be mixed feelings, not all will be ready to return for a variety of very valid reasons such as anxiety, health or medical concerns, whereas others will be excited and eager to be back in the fold once more. If anyone, families in particular have ways in which we can better support you with this transition, please let us know and we would be all to glad to help out where we can. I am looking forward to 2022 when we have an opportunity to hopefully return to a more stable pattern of life and work within our Church. I am in particular excited about getting to be further involved with the Local Sunday's group that meets at Murrumbena Bowls club once a month, this will also be a great opportunity for community connections and awareness raising of our Church. Speaking of the future, we are excitedly working behind the scenes to prepare for Advent and Christmas. Due to COVID we have tried to come up with a combination of indoor and outdoor events that are COVID safe, fun, engaging and accessible for all. I am particularly excited for the Countdown 2 Christmas festival style on the 19th of December, there will be craft and games, Christmas style face painting, live music and an opportunity to do some last minute Christmas shopping at stalls provided by local artists & businesses. I know I'll be buying more of Lexie Skilton's honey as a Christmas gift to myself, as it is just first class. I look forward to seeing what other stalls we will have and the interest we get from other local stakeholders who will be involved. The festival much like our street party does each year, will also give us a vital opportunity to connect with passers-by and create a space for community to flourish.

As this is the final article for year, I wanted to take an opportunity to thank all those who have been regularly involved with volunteering in children and families ministries:

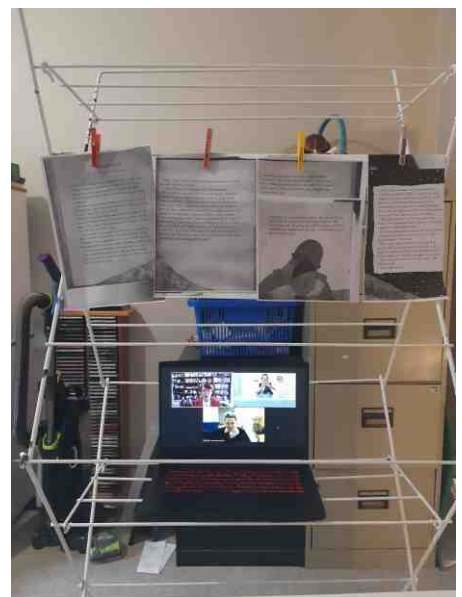
- » Alison
- » Bruce



**The Burning Bush**



**The leftovers of the Burning Bush**



**The joys of trying to creatively stream from home**

- » Carol
- » Doug
- » Glenda
- » John
- » Marg
- » Rachel
- » Roger

I am really very grateful for all that you have done in front of and behind the camera, out with the kids and at other times through out the year where needed, without your presence, dedication and willingness to serve in this Ministry we would not be able to operate to the same high level that we do. Thanks also to the Council and the wider Church for their prayerful support of me over the past year, I continue to enjoy working at Murrumbreena and am very glad to be part of the team alongside Jay and Kelly, Sue & Sandra.

Hope you all have a Blessed and enjoyable Christmas season.



**A scene from the story of David**



**A scene from the Creation story**

## DAILY DEVOTION – SPRINGS IN THE VALLEY

*Lois Bates*

This is from my Daily Reading Springs in the Valley - 13<sup>th</sup> November. Thought of sharing it with the wider church at MUC.

*“Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy” - Jude 1:24*

Take that word keep and hold it close to your heart tonight and tomorrow. It is one of the great and magnificent messages of the Gospel - “He is able to keep you from falling”. Put into the word, you, all the weakness, all the unworthiness, all the sinfulness which belongs to man since the Fall; yet, He is able to keep you. He does not underrate the disadvantage of it being you when He bids His messengers say He is “Able to keep you from falling”. It would be impossible, utterly impossible, were it not undertaken by Infinite Love. Look out, and up, then. Look up “from the depth” - the vast depth of your weakness, perhaps of your mysteriously inherited weakness. Look out

of your failure under some temptation, inward or outward, inherited so to speak from yourself, from your own unfaithfulness in the past. Look up out of your ruined purposes - unto Himself.

Being what He is, Keeper of Israel, God of the Promise, Lord of the Sacrifice, Prince of Life, Present Saviour Indwelling Power, He is able to keep you, that your feet shall not totter. They shall stand “in a large room, they shall hold on straight, until at last they enter, step by step - for it is one step at a time even then - through the Gates into the City”.

“He shall never give thy feet to tottering”. - H.C.G. MOULE

We may step firmly down upon the temptation which Another has crushed for us, and we are conquerors in Him.

*“Behind the dim unknown,  
Standeth God within the shadows,  
Keeping watch above His own.”*

# YOUNG ADULTS PICNIC



*Kelby Skilton*

**I**t is no surprise that how we have been gathering together has been a different experience than what we have been used to, and so it was nice when the weather and restrictions both eased and a picnic was possible. We were so excited to be able to take advantage this perfectly timed opportunity that the young adults gathered together at the new Community Space in Carnegie, and we purchased dinner by supporting local businesses along Koornang Road.

We then sat together safely outside, picnic style.

Conversations were buzzing as we were chatting about the adventures (perhaps quiet) that we had been each been getting up to, as well as seeing friendly faces from not only Murrumbeena Uniting crew, but the friendly Sonder Crew that also came along - even from as far as Jan Juc! Even though we have been catching up throughout our lockdowns and restrictions, this gathering was super special and I am sure that you can tell by the friendly smiles in the photo (as well as Andy Faram behind the camera lens). This time was also very special because there have been a couple of young adults that have started coming along to MUC while we have been an online community, and so this was the very first time some people were even able to meet one another off the screen.

We are definitely looking forward to the many special connections and community that we continue to grow toward, one picnic at a time.



# PORT PHILLIP EAST PRESBYTERY – UPDATE

## REPORT ON PRESBYTERY MEETING ON 17<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2021

*By Marg Edwards,*

*MUC Representative to the Presbytery of Port Phillip East*

I Zoomed into this meeting whilst in Portland and it was an enjoyable and informative time as it always is.

### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MEETING INCLUDED:

The recognition of "Faith Communities" within the Uniting Church. Two were given formal recognition on the night:

- » Zimbabwe Methodist Melbourne Fellowship
- » So Mang Church (Korean church with Sarah Back, but not our Sarah Back ... what a coincidence)!!
- » Tracie Mulia was recognised in the Ministry of Pastor at St Andrew's Gardiner congregation.



### BUDGET FOR 2022

The 2022 Budget was presented with an estimated deficit of \$61,376.

For comparison, 2021: Estimated deficit \$3,254 and 2020: Deficit \$13,967

### MISSION AND LEADERSHIP IN 2022

Attendees were split into Break out rooms for discussion around three subjects:

- » Mission Catalysts
- » Listening to First peoples
- » Regional Placements

I chose to attend the Regional Placements group where we discussed various aspects of having Regional ministry teams to serve congregations.

## CRYPTIC CROSSWORD – SOLUTION

Did you attempt to complete the cryptic crossword in the October-November edition of the MUC MAG? You can check your answers here.

Thanks to **Christina** for creating the puzzle.



# MUC WORSHIP AT HOME

Marg Edwards

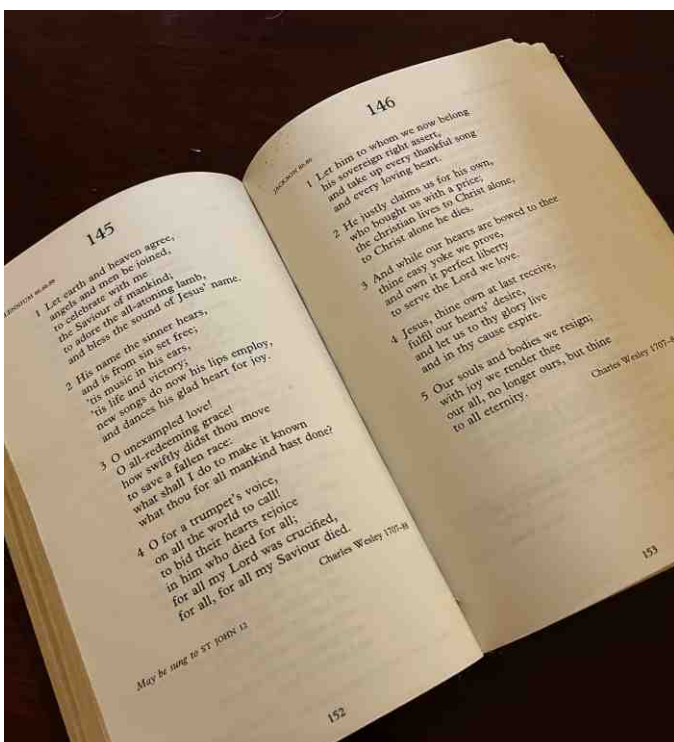
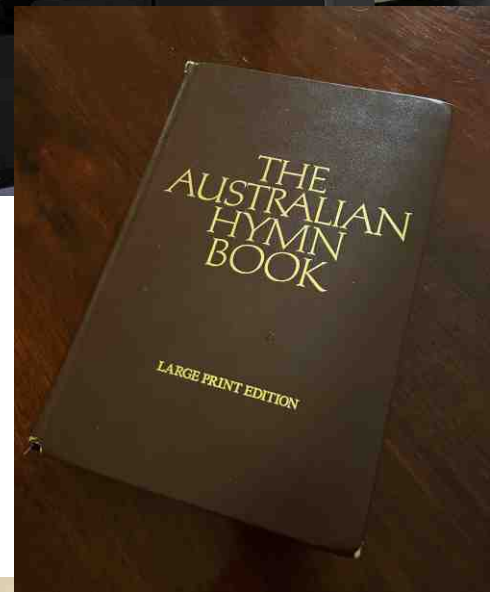
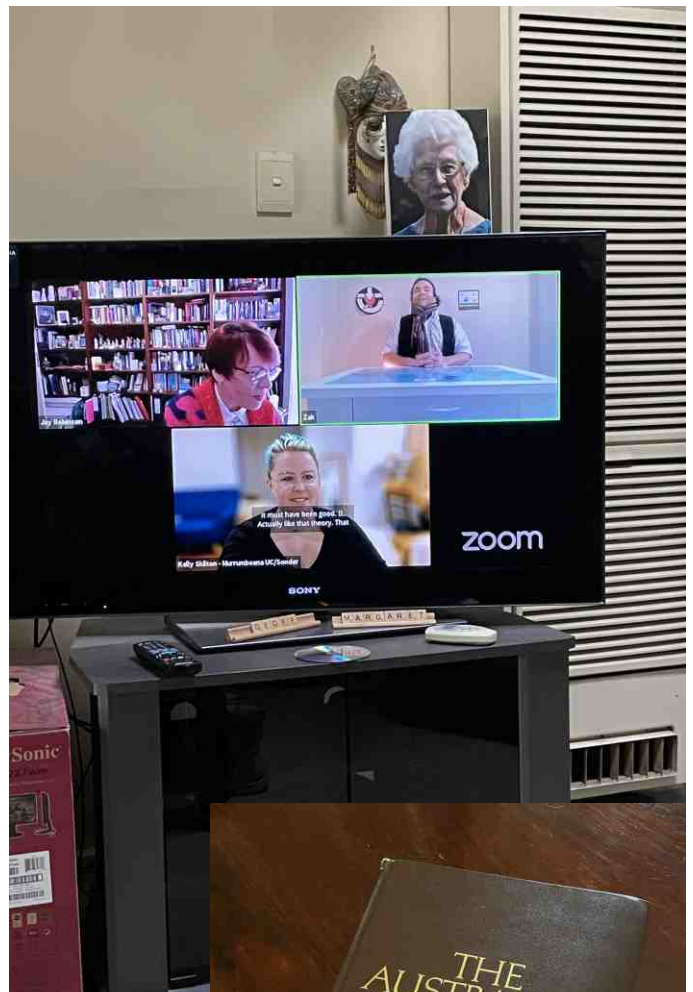
On a Sunday morning at 10am, as I tune in to our church service via Facebook, I have a photo of mum looking down on me.

I just love the introductory old hymns usually played on an organ, which start the service.

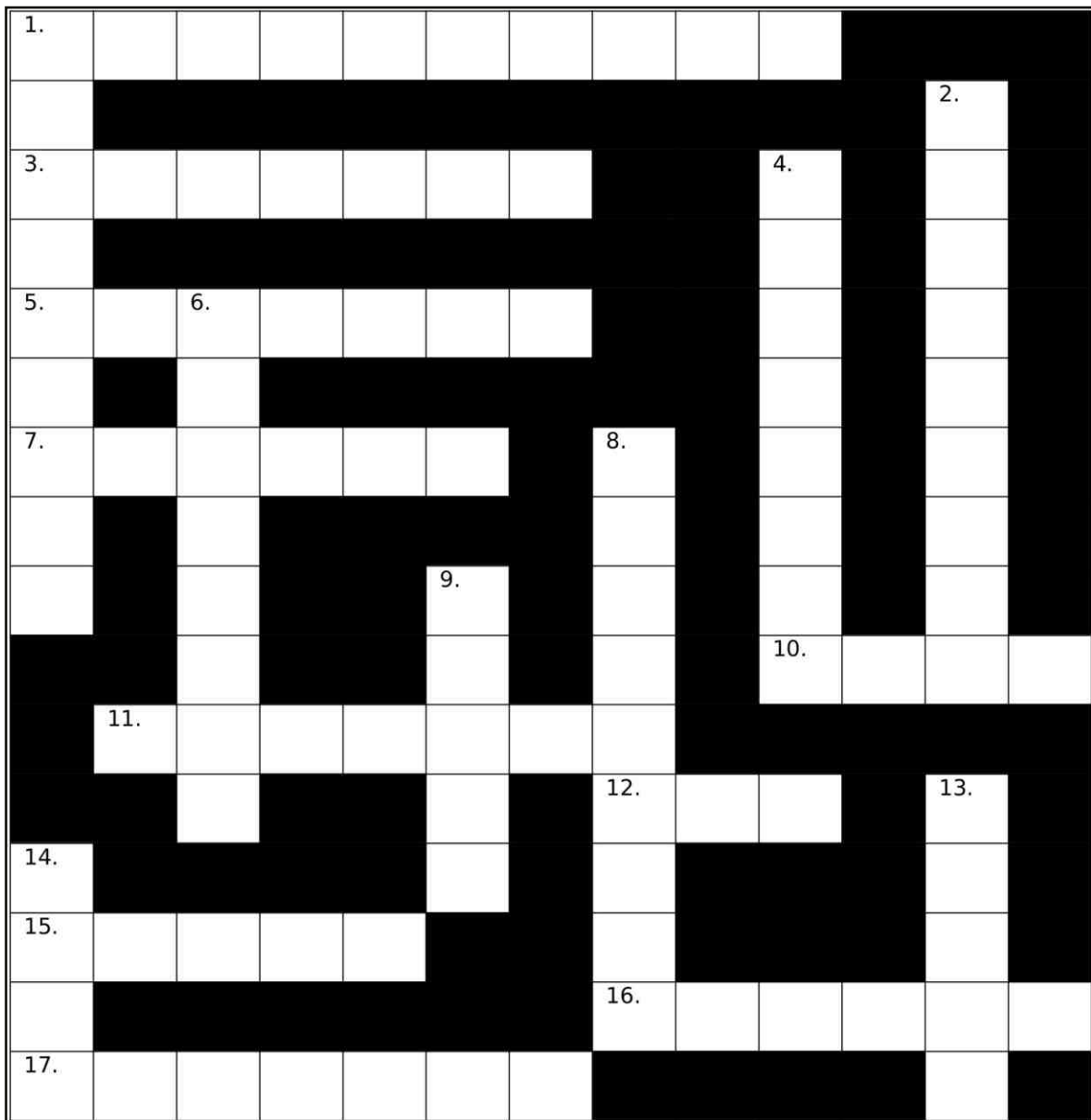
I quickly grab Mum's old large print 'Australian Hymn Book' and find the nominated hymns. 99% of the old tunes are in that book.

I sing along with the words in front of me ... often up to 6 or 8 verses.

This is a special time for me. I remember so vividly the times I accompanied mum to church at St David's, Newtown, where she would heartily sing these old hymns from this old hymn book. This time brings us close ... as she looks down on me from her pedestal.



## THEME: SUMMER



*Created by Christina Linforth-Barker*

### ACROSS

1. The last princess and knight's building is a temporary seaside construction (10)
3. Wear yen mixture for the next 365 days (3, 4)
5. Take the tea from ticket and add chocolate roulade initially? That's a popular sport! (7)
7. Seven tsars hold big organized occasions (6)
10. Turn around furs to ride the waves (4)
11. In Tess and Al's shoes (7)
12. Every other train to go brown in the sun (3)
15. Not heavy and brightens our day (5)
16. Sounds like some are in the warmest season (6)

17. A thousand hear Aussies are bloodsucking creatures (informally)! (7)

### DOWN

1. See CN runs around for sun protection (9)
2. A lolly with a hole or a water rescuer? (9)
4. Heard holy days are a good time to relax (8)
6. I scream audibly for a cold treat (3, 5)
8. Charm sis around with tee for a holy birthday (9)
9. To be a child holding the sandy shore (5)
13. Rearrange files to get winged insects (5)
14. Malcolm's first four go backwards to find a happy shellfish (4)

**Solution in the next edition of the MUC MAG**

# CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

# CONTACTS

Date	Time	Event
Wed, 1 Dec	7:00pm - 9:00pm	Church Council
Thu, 2 Dec	7:30pm - 9:00pm	Bible Study
Fri, 3 Dec	10:30am - 11:30am	Coffee with Jay/Drop-Ins
	7:30pm - 8:30pm	Elders' Meeting
Sat, 4 Dec	8:00am - 9:00am	Friendship Fellas' Breakfast
	2:00pm - 5:00pm	Craft Group
Sun, 5 Dec	10:00am - 11:00am	Worship (Holy Communion)
	11:00am - 1:00pm	Christmas Picnic
	5:30pm - 7:00pm	Sonder Collective
Tue, 7 Dec	12:00pm - 12:30pm	Midday Prayers
Thu, 9 Dec	7:30pm - 9:00pm	Bible Study
Fri, 10 Dec	10:30am - 11:30am	Coffee with Jay/Drop-Ins
Sun, 12 Dec	10:00am - 11:00am	Worship
Tue, 14 Dec	12:00pm - 12:30pm	Midday Prayers
	5:30pm - 7:00pm	Friendship Fellas' Dinner
Fri, 17 Dec	10:30am - 11:30am	Coffee with Jay/Drop-Ins
Sat, 18 Dec		
Sun, 19 Dec	2:00pm - 5:30pm	Countdown 2 Christmas Festival (incl. Worship)
Tue, 21 Dec	12:00pm - 12:30pm	Weekly Midday Prayers
Wed, 22 Dec	7:30pm - 8:30pm	Blue Christmas Service
Fri, 24 Dec	7:30pm - 8:30pm	Christmas Eve Service
Sat, 25 Dec	9:30am - 10:30am	Christmas Day Service
Sun, 26 Dec	10:00am - 11:00am	Worship (at home)
Mon, 27 Dec		
Sun, 2 Jan	10:00am - 11:00am	Worship (Holy Communion)
Tue, 4 Jan	12:00pm - 12:30pm	Weekly Midday Prayers
Wed, 5 Jan	7:00pm - 9:00pm	Church Council
Fri, 7 Jan	10:30am - 11:30am	Coffee with Jay/Drop-Ins
Sat, 8 Jan	8:00am - 9:00am	Friendship Fellas' Breakfast
	2:00pm - 5:00pm	Craft Group
Sun, 9 Jan	10:00am - 11:00am	Worship
Tue, 11 Jan	12:00pm - 12:30pm	Midday Prayers
Fri, 14 Jan	10:30am - 11:30am	Coffee with Jay/Drop-Ins
Sat, 15 Jan		
Sun, 16 Jan	10:00am - 11:30am	Worship
		Deadline for submission of articles for MUC Mag
Tue, 18 Jan	12:00pm - 12:30pm	Weekly Midday Prayers
Fri, 21 Jan	10:30am - 11:30am	Coffee with Jay/Drop-Ins
Sun, 23 Jan	10:00am - 11:30am	Worship
	5:30pm - 7:00pm	Sonder Collective
Tue, 25 Jan	12:00pm - 12:30pm	Weekly Midday Prayers
	5:30pm - 7:00pm	Friendship Fellas' Dinner
Fri, 28 Jan	10:00am - 12:00pm	Coffee with Jay/Drop-Ins
Sat, 29 Jan	9:00am - 10:30am	LIFT Women's Breakfast
Sun, 30 Jan	10:00am - 11:00am	Worship
Tue, 1 Feb	12:00pm - 12:30pm	Weekly Midday Prayers
Wed, 2 Feb	7:00pm - 9:00pm	Church Council
Thu, 3 Feb	7:30pm - 9:00pm	Bible Study
Fri, 4 Feb	10:00am - 12:00pm	Coffee with Jay/Drop-Ins
	7:30pm - 8:30pm	Elders' Meeting

The contact details for the various groups that host these events are given below.

### **Murrumbeena Community Garden**

Kay Pentland  
Glynis Ramsay  
0407 506 662

### **Knitting and Craft Circle**

Glynis Ramsay  
0407 506 662

### **Friendship Fellas**

Roger McCowan  
0439 711 381  
Geoff Edwards  
0409 568 206

### **Lending Library**

Anne Don  
9578 4217

### **LIFT**

Mary-Lou Keur  
0409 937 727  
Roz Franklin  
0403 762 695

### **Sonderfy**

Kelly Skilton  
0432 714 758

### **Murrumbeena Uniting Afternoon Fellowship Group**

Anne Don  
9578 4217

### **Women's Bible Study**

Alison Campbell Rate  
0438 569 690