



# New Horizons



February 2025 Newsletter of the Warwick/Killarney/ Freestone Parish



Adam Nielsen, Ian Darnell, Hannah Scott, Rev Ansie, Kay Bittner, Rev John Case, Cllr Joel Richters.



Scots PGC in Worship

# Pastoral Ponderings

February 20, 2025

Dearest Church Family and Friends

Greetings in the name of **Jesus, our Lord and Savior!**

As I reflect on our ministry year from February 2024 to February 2025, which concluded at our Annual Meeting on February 16, I feel compelled to pause and express my heartfelt gratitude. What an incredible year it has been, filled with grace, love, and mercy!



We are blessed to have many in our parish who generously share their **gifts, talents, and treasures**, making this a truly special place to worship and serve both God and His children. While we typically reflect on the past year during our meetings, this year's gathering was unique. We focused on two major projects: the **Caretaking of the Women's Support Centre and the Affordable Housing Project**. A big thank you, to all who turned up and supported this meeting!

Both initiatives have had a profound impact. We were truly blessed to hear from the Team Leader of the Support Center, who shared the positive effects the safe space has had on vulnerable women since last November. Additionally, various stakeholders and participants contributed greetings and updates related to the Housing Project, with a detailed report from Regional Housing available for those interested in learning more.

I must take this opportunity to sincerely thank the many ministry and task team groups that have excelled over the past year. Our **Market fundraising initiatives** have allowed us to engage in mission opportunities and explore how to embody Christ in our community. The record income from these initiatives not only supported our financial goals but also showcased an active faith community that shares its resources so generously.

Our **plant sales** have become a highlight for many in town, and excitement builds for each sale! The **courtyard coffee** has experienced a remarkable year, bustling with both familiar faces and new friends building connections within the community—a true blessing.

Our **home groups** are flourishing, and our preachers are sharing the gospel in ways that enrich our lives as we journey together toward becoming disciples of Christ.

As I look forward to the year ahead, I am thankful for all those actively involved in our ministry. I encourage others to step boldly and join us in this mission to make Christ known across our three churches!

In the first week of March, we will embark on our journey towards the cross with the theme **God's Story, Our Story**. Lent helps us to take stock and evaluate our own lives, and it gives us a wonderful opportunity to go a little deeper this year.

Lots of blessings

Ansie

Blessings to you all!

## CHURCH COUNCIL CHATTER

62 people attended our Annual General Meeting which focussed very briefly on changes to Council Members before hearing about the Southern Downs Women's Centre and an in depth look at those involved in our affordable housing.

Thank you Ansie and Ian for bringing this together in such an informative and interesting way.

Church Council would like to thank those stepping down from Council. Jan Reid, Scott Young, Barry Kelly, Barb Cutmore and Terry Smart – thank you for your input and support.

Dianne Cahill, Angel Lester, Ian Darnell and Sue Campbell were endorsed to continue past their 3 to 5 years because of the expertise they continue to provide.

We welcome Raelene and Cameron Mauch and Graham Reid as new members to Council and look forward to the suggestions and ideas you will bring.

Our 2025 Church Council (we will have photos in Williams Hall foyer asap!)

Rev Ansie	Marg Wells	David Cahill	Raelene Mauch	Graham Reid
Brad Beck	Ian Darnell	Sue Campbell	Cameron Mauch	Daryal Simpson
Jenny Lane	Dianne Cahill	Angela Lester	Alison Payne	Carolyn Vardy

The Executive Committee of Chair, Treasurer and Secretary will be endorsed at the March Church Council Meeting. Last year's Exec: Brad Beck as Chair, Jenny Lane as Treasurer and Marg Wells as Secretary will stand for those positions again.

A substantial change has been May Morris and Jean Reid retiring from preaching. Sue Campbell spoke an appreciation for May and May for Jean. We will miss these two wonderful preachers, but now we can sit with them – have them among us to hear the word! May and Jean, we thank you most sincerely and may you be blessed with others serving you. Please be aware that this puts pressure on our preaching roster.

### **INAUGURAL 2025 CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING – Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March**

7pm Williams Hall

You are invited to an open session for presentation of the budget and discussion on our priorities on use of Church property, usually discussed at our Annual Meeting, however, with affordable housing under construction and the with our caretaking of women's support through the Southern Downs Women's Support Centre ending in April, Council agreed together to concentrate on those two huge priorities.

We extend congratulations to the staff at the Support Centre for remarkable work, a wonderful talk and the committee behind the incoming Willow Tree 37. Check out their Facebook page!

The Minutes of the Extraordinary AGM are out. Contact Marg Wells if you do not have a copy 0427144 812.

**Warwick, Killarney, Freestone Parish  
Uniting Church of Australia  
Income and Expenditure Statement**

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>change</b>
Total Offerings & Donations	119,257	149,422	20%
Fundraising (Markets/coffee etc)	35,438	40,227	12%
Property Income	11,456	18,406	38%
Investment Income	487	397	
Ministerial Services	2,650	750	
Other	5,987	-200	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$175,275</b>	<b>\$209,003</b>	16%
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Ministerial Stipends	90,642	92,849	2%
Mission & Service Funds	29,250	32,604	10%
Property Costs	30,272	35,804	15%
Sundry Operating Costs	24,194	21,561	-12%
Other (admin/RE etc)	775	3,427	77%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>\$175,133</b>	<b>\$186,245</b>	6%
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>	<b>\$142</b>	<b>\$22,758</b>	99%



## Focus reports from the AGM

### Southern Downs Women's Support Centre



Could not have got to this point without the wonderful support from our local community, Presbytery and Assembly  
The hardworking local committee take over from April 1  
Centre hours Tues and Thurs 10-2  
Like the Facebook page for updates on what is needed

Karen Hannafin (Team Leader) and Melinda Eastwell (Support Worker) presented by Karen.

Karen thanked Ansie and UCA for covering the Centre for the last couple of months.

Note: the Warwick Killarney Freestone Church stepped in as caretaker for the Southern Downs Women's Support Centre following the withdrawal of Protea Place on the end of their pilot program which certainly established the need for support for vulnerable women.)

Also thank you to volunteers Jo, Genny and Melinda

Some statistics:

Nov: 22 women present  
Dec: 8 women present  
Jan: 16 women present  
Feb: 13 (2 weeks) women present

*The figures show a significant increase in use of laundry and shower facilities, food, toiletries and clothes*

- The appeal to assist with a Backpack and stationary pack for children of vulnerable women will repeat and start earlier next year.
- Women report it takes courage to come to the door and press the button.
- When they do they come into kindness.
- Come with homelessness and Domestic Violence as primary issues.
- No houses available in lower priced housing: 3 years wait for Govt housing.
- UCA Affordable Housing is exciting and essential.
- The Centre is secure and confidential and can make the necessary referrals to agencies the women need.
- Living in horrifying situations.
- The Centre has worked alongside DVA to provide temporary accommodation and also has developed safety plans and can suggest places to sleep where local police drive past.
- The Community now coming to believe Centre will survive.

*Personal plea: called to be hands and feet of angels with skins on justice peace healing for those less fortunate than ourselves. As Christians called to pray for Blue House.*

## Affordable Housing

Introduced by Rev Ansie. Four years in the making with particular thanks to Ian Darnell (Site Superintendent) and Jenny Lane (Treasurer). We are now going to hear from diverse voices and how the collaborative work of many have been needed for the project

**Role as Chair of Presbytery: Rev John Case** with greetings also from Yvonne McRostie John gave a message of promise of support from Presbytery. Rev Ansie thanked John for the gift from Presbytery of \$50,000 for project expenses.

## Synod Support Team:

- Video Vanessa Griffith, Fund Raising Manager Qld Synod
- 1<sup>st</sup> time the Uniting Church has done an Affordable Housing project like this, and it has been achieved with incredible teamwork. The 3 Affordable Housing Projects (on Uniting church land): Thursday Island, Warwick, and Killarney
- When you receive funding then the real work begins and the Property, Legal and Fundraising Committee was formed. A hugely successful collaboration. Ansie, Ian and Jenny are invested and professional and it would not have been successful without them.
- Thursday Island tenants due to move in this week.
- Thank you all for listening, wish you every success for the end of the project.
  
- **Kay Bittner Synod Presbytery Support Person**
  - Works alongside Karen and Vanessa
  - 20-year mortgage over UCA property, deed signed to operate under strict protocol. Not easy for churches so skills from Synod can back up .
  - RHL Tier 1 housing provider and have teamed up with them.



## Southern Downs Regional Council: Cllr Joel Richters

- Represented the Mayor and Fellow Counsellors and also as member of UCA community.
- Role: Urban design and major events.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Cllr ever to hold portfolio of housing. Super proud of Affordable Housing work. Many more social housing projects coming around and have also partnered with RHL. Aware of desperate need for lower cost housing.
  - Congratulations on work doing.

## Site Superintendent: Mr Ian Darnell

- **Introduce a video from Laurie College, ActiveBuilt, Warwick Builder.**
  - Coming weeks the footings will commence. Finish date: August 25, will keep up us uptodate with progress.
- **Killarney Builder – Adam Nielsen**
  - up to 2 slabs and footings for rest of buildings done. Rose City Constructions. Finish August 25.
  - Feel free to come up and ask questions later.

**Regional Housing Ltd Queensland:  
Acting CEO Hannah Scott**

Amazed at Sthn Downs Women’s Support Centre and the work of the church.

Partnering with UCA to provide tenancy management under affordable housing. RHL is a community housing provider so goals match.

Don’t go into metropolitan areas.

Housing products youth accommodation traditional disability accommodation

Cornerstone, St Vincent de Paul, Salvation Army and waiting lists held by local agents and govt depts.

Rental situation here found one vacancy between here and Killarney.

Rent Market rent capped at 75% Also look that rent will not exceed 30% of income.— then renter needs to go to social housing.

Quarterly inspections allow for upkeep of units as well as care for tenants

Look for other opportunities for tenants to connect with their community.



Regional Housing is a not-for-profit company managing emergency, transitional and long-term social housing and affordable housing, as well as a range of complimentary support programs throughout regional Queensland.

An important part of our ability to deliver quality outcomes for customers is a commitment to building strong working relationships with other agencies. We undertake strategic and business planning as part of our ongoing commitment to fulfilling our Vision and Mission Statement and delivering quality services to our customers.

**Our Vision:** Every person has a home.

**Our Mission:** Regional Housing develops, manages and facilitates housing and support for people in need with a range of communities and partners.

We have a team of passionate, talented, and dedicated employees who embody our values in every aspect of their work, with immense pride in the professionalism and commitment to delivering meaningful outcomes for the communities we serve

**Our services**

- ✓ Crisis Accommodation
- ✓ Long Term Housing
- ✓ Emergency Relief
- ✓ Mobile Support
- ✓ Transitional Housing
- ✓ Affordable Housing
- ✓ Flood Relief
- ✓ Home Assist Secure
- ✓ Disability Accommodation
- ✓ Door42 Accommodation
- ✓ Homelessness Services
- ✓ Financial Counselling

**30+** Years providing housing and related services

Committed to and **passionate** about regional QLD communities

Focused on **people and outcomes**

Experience managing the **full spectrum** of social & affordable housing

Integrating supports with housing for **better outcomes**

**Recognised leader** in the QLD Community Housing Sector and within the communities we serve. Strong **Governance** and **Human Resource Management Relationships get outcomes!** Supporting Regional Communities to Thrive

Local **community impact** considered for all allocations  
Focus on improving **whole-of-life** outcomes for our tenants and clients

### **Property Types**

Warwick	Killarney
7 x 1 Bedroom Units	2 x 1 Bedroom Units
3 x 2 Bedroom Units	2 x 2 Bedroom Units

### **Local Management**

Regional Housing will employ locally providing a part time Tenancy Manager to ensure proactive tenancy and asset management services. This employment will be led by local interest within the UCA congregation and or local community.

### **Program Guidelines**

These tenancies are owned by Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust Q.(UCAPT(Q.)) and managed by Regional Housing under the Affordable Housing Program (AHP) as stipulated under the Queensland Government's Housing Investment Fund.

### **Eligibility for Housing as set by Qld Government**

Meet low-income maximum annual threshold

Must be an Australian citizen or permanent resident of Australia or eligible to be and must live in Queensland

Must not own or part-own property (including vacant land)

Must not have liquid assets exceeding \$126,125 for a single-person household or \$160,875 for a household with two or more members

Income eligibility: To ensure this housing is affordable for the needs of low to moderate income households, it is intended that tenants will be subject to incoming income eligibility limits

### **Tenant Allocation**

Applications will be lodged with Regional Housing for assessment at any time.

Assessment of applications will be made against the set Affordability Housing Eligibility Criteria. All applicants will be notified of the outcome, and unsuccessful applicants will remain on the wait list for consideration when the next vacancy occurs.

### **Rent Allocation**

Subsidised Rent Limit - Affordable Housing as 75% of the Market Rent for that Dwelling. This is interpreted as subsidised rent being capped at 75% of the market value.

Low to moderate income thresholds will apply to eligibility for the affordable housing, to ensure rent charges don't exceed the financial means of the applicant, by more than 30%.

Rent charge is capped at 30% of the gross household Income plus 100 per cent of Centrelink Rent Assistance entitlement for approved affordable housing.

### **Tenancy Management Services**

We have well established quarterly routine inspection practices, arrears management systems and conduct annual rent and eligibility reviews on all households. We have strong dispute management procedures in place encompassing support referrals to ensure tenancy sustainment wherever possible.

We will work with the congregation who holds responsibility for property management



## Minute of appreciation – Jean Reid

Margaret Jean Reid, known to all as Jean, has been part of this Church all her life: baptized here, married here and serving in so many different ways. Jean has loved this Church and been keen to fulfill her calling where ever she believed God could use her gifts, of which she has quite a few. Today we are thanking Jean for her many years of preaching.



As Jean preached, she always researched the text she was using. Jean has an extensive library, and many of these books are well thumbed. There were books related specifically to the Lectionary, but her interest didn't stop there. Books related to the gospels, books on preaching and books on specific topics were among her collection. There was never a fault with the scholarship that she shared with us, and with many others.

Each time Jean preached; she would start with a little story. Sometimes the link was quite clear, while at other points, it was the responsibility of the hearer to ponder on the reason for that particular story. Some were amusing, some serious, and perhaps quirky could describe others. I have always assumed that among her great supply of books, were these little anecdotes, ready and available at her fingertips.

Of course, the heart of Jeans' message was based firmly in her faith. Jean trusted her Lord through all the ups and downs of life. Whatever task was undertaken by Jean, Jesus was at the centre of it. This is particularly true of her preaching. We can't finish before we give thanks for her being prepared and very eager to preach when and where she was asked, as some of our neighbouring churches can testify.

While I feel very privileged to offer this Minute of Appreciation, I need to say that Jean has not willingly laid down this ministry. Jean is no longer driving, and standing to lead worship isn't feasible either. So, Jean, on behalf of all of us, and many more than we have here today, we offer our deep appreciation and heart-felt thanks for the thousands of times you have shared the Word of God.

Prayer: Loving Heavenly Father, we give thanks and praise for the preaching of Jean, as she shared her love of you. We ask your blessings on her today and always: In the name of Jesus our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

### ***Food for Thought....The Call***

I almost reached the 30 years of preaching before age and infirmity caught up with me. I began as a Lay Parish Assistant in 1997 under Rev James Stevenson and quickly became a bower bird as I collected stories and illustrations to highlight the message I was expounding. Gradually I collected lots of books where stories were connected to Bible passages and these became much easier to use.

But, now the time has come to start culling savagely all the bits and pieces I have gathered. It has been an interesting and time-consuming task as memories surfaced at what we had done over those 28 years. That's when I came upon the following interesting story which I had been seeking over the years thinking it came out of my books. It was just a piece of

paper! It is connected to John 1:1-9, 14 and it fits into the readings at the start of each year as we consider the call to service from both Old and New Testaments.

*Will you Share the Light?*

Long ago, or not so long ago, there was a tribe in a dark, cold cavern. The cave dwellers would huddle together and cry against the chill. Loud and long they wailed! It was all they did, all they knew to do! The sounds in the cave were mournful, but the people didn't know that because they had never known joy. The spirit in the cave was death, but they didn't know that either for they had never known life.

But, one day, they heard a different voice. *I have heard your cries. I have felt your chill and seen your darkness. I have come to help.* The cave people grew quiet. They had never heard this voice. Hope sounded strange in their ears. "How can we know you have come to help?"

*Trust me,* he answered. *I have what you need!* The cave people peered through the dark at the stranger. He was stacking something...stooping and stacking more. "What are you doing?" one anxiously cried. The stranger didn't answer. "What are you making?" No response.

The visitor stood and spoke in the direction of the voices. *I have what you need!* Then he turned to the pile at his feet and lit it. Wood ignited....flames erupted...light filled the cavern. The cave people turned away in fear. "Put it out!...It hurts to see it!"

*Light always hurts before it helps,* he answered. *Step closer. The pain will soon pass.* "not me", declared a voice, "nor I" agreed a second. "Only a fool would risk exposing his eyes to such light". The stranger stood next to the fire. *Would you rather the darkness? Would you prefer the cold? Don't consult your fears. Take a step of faith!*

For a long time no one spoke. The people hovered in groups, shielding their eyes. The fire builder stood near the fire. *It's warm here,* he invited. "He's right," one from behind him announced. "It's warmer." The stranger turned and saw a figure slowly stepping towards the fire. She said, "I can open my eyes now.....I can see."

*Come closer* invited the fire builder. She did. She stepped into the ring of light. "It's so warm!" She extended her arms and sighed as the chill began to pass. "Come everyone....feel the warmth!" she invited. "Silence woman!" cried one of the cave dwellers. "Dare you lead us into the folly? Leave us! Leave us and take your light with you"

She turned to the stranger. "Why won't they come?" *They chose the chill, for though it's cold, it's what they know. They'd rather be cold than change.* "And live in the dark?" *And live in the dark!* The now warm woman stood silent, looking first at the dark, and then at the man.

*Will you leave the fire?* he asked. She paused and then answered, "I can't. I can't bear the cold." Silence. Then she spoke again. "But, nor can I bear the thought of my people in darkness."

*You don't have to.* he responded, reaching into the fire and removing a stick. *Carry this to your people. Tell them the light is here and the light is warm. Tell them the light is for all who desire it.*

And so she took the small flame and stepped into the darkness.

Find that flame and live.....Jean

## ***Selah Study and Prayer Group***

This group originally met each Monday night until age made us reconsider a more preferable time when we became the Wednesday Afternoon Study Group meeting from 3-5pm. Beta Group began and we were told we needed to find a title that was more interesting than Wed. Afternoon. As we did some considering and were looking at the Psalms and kept seeing the word 'Selah'. So that's how we began under that title.

So, why Selah? Throughout the Psalms this little word occurs 71 different times. So, what does it mean? Recently, we discovered that it means to pause and think. Selah is a call to rest and reflect...to be still and breathe deeply... to settle into the moment and remain for a while. Selah would appear to be at the centre of a time to be with the Lord...a time to stop doing and sit at the feet of Jesus.

So, could we have chosen a better name for what we do on Wednesday afternoons? For the first half an hour we just have a time of fellowship around a cuppa, catching up on personal and world news. The next half hour we meet in prayer for the world, for our congregation and for those doing it tough in the family.

That leaves us an hour to read, consider and be challenged by the four lectionary readings for Sunday. It is quite amazing what comes from these discussions as we find deep thoughts and connections that either challenge or cement our faith at that moment.

If you would like to join with us, you will be welcomed and become part of this 3-fold Selah. We meet at Oaktree retirement Village in Villa 5! See Jean or May if you are interested!

Now....a challenge to Duncan! You can't just be the Wednesday morning Group....find a name!.....Shalom, Jean

### **Minute of appreciation – Rev May Morris**

Rev May began her placement at the Warwick-Killarney Uniting Church in 2003 and she and John quickly settled into the life and work in our parish, buying their own home which John lovingly restored, further up Guy St – the first minister not to live in a manse provided by the church.

During Rev May's 7 years as Minister of the Word with us, she battled periods of poor health and personal grief but continued to fulfil her role – once preaching seated with her leg on a raised stool. The spiritual guidance Rev May provided reflected her personal faith journey and humility. Her wisdom, commitment and desire for genuine personal relationships through intentional hospitality with her parishioners has continued since her role of minister as she and John have continued to live and worship with us. Over recent years they have made an annual pilgrimage back to visit family in North Queensland conveniently in the winter months.

On behalf of the Warwick, Killarney and Freestone congregations we offer our sincere thanks and gratitude for your service as Minister of the Word in our parish and wish you and John a blessed future filled with family, friends and good health. Sue Campbell.



## World Day of Prayer News

This year Bible Society WDOP events and funds raised at them, will go to support projects in the Cook Islands. The theme chosen by the Cook Islands WDOP Team is "Wonderfully made" and more information is available:

<https://www.worlddayofprayeraustralia.org/>

The Killarney Service will be held at Christ Church Anglican at 10am. Rev'd Richard who worked in the Cook Islands in his former career, will be reflecting on this beautiful place.

The Warwick Service has had a change of venue just recently.

It was to be at Warwick Baptist but is now being held at **Warwick Churches of Christ Aged Care on Dragon Street**, in their auditorium. If you could RSVP to Donna Craig - the Chaplain - please as the Team would appreciate numbers for catering.

## World Day of Prayer Services 2025

Christ Church, Killarney 10am

– *please bring a plate* 😊  
(Ven Lizzie & Rev Richard to lead)

**or**

Churches of Christ  
Auditorium, Dragon St  
Warwick 10am

(Donna to lead. Please RSVP: 07 4660 1110)

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2025



# What's on show at our March Market Day 2025?

## Market Day on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March – 9am – 12pm.

Our markets are anticipated in the community as a relaxed morning of fun and entertainment and a chance to sample some of our renowned home cooking or a bargain in the hall – with this year starting up in a hurry.

This year there are only two market days – this March day and one on 1<sup>st</sup> November.

this Market Day

Speciality stalls

Books (Gordon Bratby) and Trash and Treasure in the Williams Hall.

The usual favourites of

Plants ( John and May)

Home baked (Alison Baistow),

Treat Yourself (Mary Young),

Sausage Sizzle and cold Drinks (Angela Lester & Anne Coy)

Courtyard Coffee

– with Southern Downs Animal Rescue - ARK – bringing pets ready for adoption.

Throughout the morning entertainment will be provided by

9.00 am Warwick City Band – in church

10.00 am Highland Dancers – on grass

10.45 am Central School Choir – in church

11.15 am Ellie's Dancers – on grass

Helpers are always welcome – and needed – so if you can provide goods or assist for a while on a stall, please contact the leaders listed above. Working bees will be called closer to the time so keep your eye open for times and dates. If you can deliver a poster or two to promote the market day, please collect one and record where you will display it.

Scott Young will also need a team of workers to setup and clean up prior to – and post the day so again, help out as you are able.

So, keep the date in mind – 8<sup>th</sup> March – and be part of the day as you are able - to cook, provide some goods you no longer need at home, bring books, bake, make treats, give a donation – or just come and enjoy the morning as the community wanders around our facilities and chats with the locals.

Sue Campbell



***Courtyard Changes Thank You Cathy, Paul and Ray***



**Put your left foot in!**



**Girls Brigade - we love singing**