

# New Horizons

Newsletter of the Warwick/Killarney Parish July 2025



It's good to be  
back at mainly  
music.

Morning tea in  
the sun.

Playground at  
Warwick  
Thursday



**Killarney Girls' Brigade Camp - plenty of concentration**

## ***The Steps We Take in Life***

I'm approaching another birthday and these days my life stretches backwards rather than too much left to travel. But I found a lovely piece of wisdom recently that put living in perspective. Soren Kierkegaard noted that *Life can only be understood backwards but must be lived forward.*

As we ponder the years that have passed, I think we can clearly see the pattern that God built into me, the steps that mapped out the highway that has brought me to the present. His Spirit has guided and urged us ever onward along that path we can discern by looking back. But it is not the end! The path is still unfolding and the adventure that is discipleship calls us ever onward. So, thanks Mr Kierkegaard for making that clear !

My son and his wife are following the six month route Gordon and I took in 1996 and they have set me up an app called Polar Steps which shows me where they are on the map, then journals the day's adventures one by one with relevant photos. Out came my detailed hand-written journal and my photo albums and I was able to relive our steps over our 6 months. The same, but different! That was the past and I am living in the present and the future.

When we were taking services at Akooramak, we introduced the congregation to the hymn *Jesus loves me* as they contemplated their future steps. I think many of us can echo its words. *The chorus remains the same.*

Jesus loves me this I know, though my hair is white as snow.  
Though my sight is growing dim, still he bids me trust in him.

Though my steps are, oh so slow, with my hand in his I'll go. On through life, let come what may, He'll be there to lead the way,

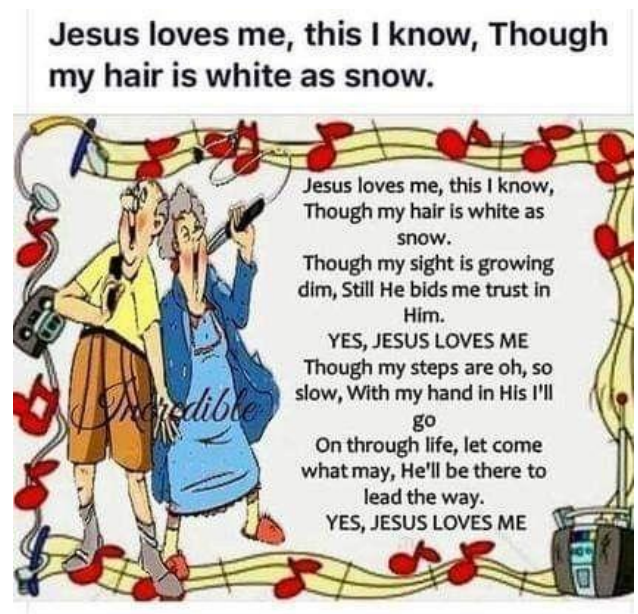
Though I am no longer young, I have much which he's begun. Let me serve Christ with a smile...go still the extra mile.

When the nights are dark and long, in my heart He puts a song, Telling me in words so clear, "Have no fear, for I am near."

When my life on earth is done, and life's victories have been won, He'll take me home above and then I'll understand his love.

I love Jesus does he know? Have I ever told him so? Jesus loves to hear me say that I love him every day.

So...let us think back over our life's journey....  
note the Pattern and understand how it helps us move fearlessly into the future....  
Shalom, Jean



**Happy Birthday Jean for Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July**



## Getting to know our overseas workers.



For a few years now our generous catering crew at the Warwick UC have provided a lunch on the first Sunday of the month which we call TWEATTT – Those Who Eat Alone Talk To Themselves. This is an opportunity for those who eat alone to have a meal in company of other ‘singles’.

Usually it is mainly older females, but recently it is drawing a new clientele – some of our overseas workers – from Fiji, New Guinea and South Korea. All these younger workers are away from their families and while they join us for morning tea each Sunday this often doesn't provide the type of conversation that goes further than a friendly chat.

The chance to sit by someone for an hour or so and swap stories about their life and families at home builds friendships that help fill the gap of what they have left at home, and another point of interest for oldies to hear about lives quite different from their own. Our workers are usually younger than our home-grown TWEATTTers and this makes the relationship just that bit more special. Many of them come from multi-generational homes and are quite unfamiliar with our culture of singles living on their own. But it's certainly a two-way street. Tanya and Geoun Won are regular attendees both at our worship services and TWEATTT.

So, we're all learning a little bit more about these sometimes shy, always friendly workers who are living in Warwick and away from their homeland and families for months to years at a time. It has certainly enriched our congregation and helped everyone to widen their idea of life and worship on the Downs. Long may it continue.

Sue Campbell   Communication Task Team.

*O Gracious God, we come before You, seeking Your guidance to strengthen the bonds of friendships. May Your love flow through us, fostering understanding, patience, and joy in our relationships. Help us to uplift one another, to share in both laughter and sorrow, and to grow together in faith. Bless our connections, that they may reflect Your grace and bring glory to Your name. Amen.*



### Willow Tree Update

Here's a small snapshot of how your support helped women and families who visited WillowTree 37 during June. Visitors – 34, food hampers -6 lunches – 8, clothing -4.

We're open just 4 hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays, yet in that short time, the demand for support remains steady and real.



We also offered social and emotional support on several occasions, along with referrals to mental health providers and other external agencies.

Your donations make this possible. If you'd like to contribute, you can do so via our website or during opening hours. All donations over \$2 are tax-deductible. 💜💚

Some of the Pantry staples you could donate: Muesli Bars Savoury crackers Packet of chips Pasta sauces vegemite jams gluten free food plain and Sr Flour brown sugar white sugar raw sugar jars of coffee tea bags salt and pepper Peanut Butter tinned spaghetti, baked beans, vegetables – pas, corn, carrots etc. sauces tomato, bbq, soy, sweet chili etc. stock cubes cereals .

## Worship Services in Warwick During August.

For a number of years each Sunday in August we dedicate to different groups in our Community, highlighting the value of the outreach they give and the different groups of people able to benefit from their mission.

In 2025, we celebrate

- Warwick mainly music on August 3<sup>rd</sup>;
- Willow Tree 37 on 10<sup>th</sup> August;
- our very special Veterans service will be held on 17<sup>th</sup> August
- while on 24<sup>th</sup> August David Cahill will conduct the Sacrament of Holy Communion
- and the final Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> August will recognise the Courtyard Coffee hospitality team.

Each service promises to be a time to thank and encourage the members of these special groups who all make such a significant difference to the lives of those whose paths they journey together.

Please join us either in person or online.

*The inner essence of worship is to know God truly and then respond from the heart to that knowledge by valuing God, treasuring God, prizing God, enjoying God, being satisfied with God above all earthly things. And then that deep, restful, joyful satisfaction in God overflows in demonstrable acts of praise from the lips and demonstrable acts of love in serving others for the sake of Christ.*

## **The following are summaries of the minutes from the three meetings of our congregations held during June.**

### **Congregational Meeting of the Killarney Uniting Church 1<sup>st</sup> June 2025**

**Present** 9 in attendance **Apologies** 1

**Acting Chair** Carolyn welcomed everyone , noting the last meeting was on the 7<sup>th</sup> July 2024

#### **Ministers Report**

- Reverend Ansie thanked everyone for their love and support over a very tough journey during the last year.
- Compliance issues within the church are a heavy burden which may affect the performance of the ministry. The loss of Jonna Cowan has been a great loss for us as Jonna managed the risk assessments and reminders of these. The church are considering employing someone to help with administrative responsibilities.
- The management of risk increases the load on the volunteers and minister of the church – our group overseeing bodies for Mainly Music and GB receive the subsidies but the church and Ansie carry 100 percent of the risk. Ansie requested that the ministry teams be more responsive in these tasks.
- Offerings from the Killarney Worship Centre are lower perhaps through the loss of some of our faithful older members.
- The Sunday worship services are impacted by the loss of musicians and lay preachers since the stepping aside of Jean Reid, May Morris and David Cahill. Darryl has volunteered to assist with AV in Warwick to take the place of Barry.
- We currently have David Cahill, Darryl Simpson, Angela Lester, Brad Beck and Duncan McDiarmid available for the Killarney preaching roster with Ansie usually preaching on communion Sunday and the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday being Ecumenical services. There may be a need for time changes for services in the event of only one preacher available for Warwick and Killarney. The Killarney Congregation are happy to do what is required although we should consider the impact on our ageing congregation members. Ansie outlined the importance of training lay preachers to secure our future.

#### **Protea Place**

Protea Place has been renamed Willow Tree 37 and is managed by an independent committee, which includes Jill Bockman as the chair plus Rev Ansie and members of the community.

Our congregational member Genny Laing volunteers on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Our thanks to Ansie and her able helpers for all their hard work in getting Protea Place transferred into the safe hands of a local committee.

#### **Pastoral Care**

Please ensure that you have a pastoral carer looking out for you. The role of the pastoral carer is to pray for their designated congregation members, to connect with us and to share our joys as well as to pray for our ministries. The carers also gather every term to report.

#### **Units**

The Warwick units will be finished at the end of August 2025

The Killarney units will be finished at the end of September 2025

## **Visa**

There has been great financial, emotional and physical stress to Ansie, Willie and their family around securing a Visa as well as inequity within the Uniting Church Presbytery. Our hearts and prayers go out to Ansie and her family because of this injustice.

## **Presidents Report**

- Carolyn mentioned that the Community meetings organized with KLife Aged and Community Care seemed to have fallen by the wayside.
- The QCWA scone bakeoff was a huge success with 60 in attendance.
- KLife are planning a volunteer recruitment program targeting school students and also looking for corporate volunteering and intergenerational involvement.
- The staff housing development in Arbutus St begins Community Consultation in June
- A monthly community newsletter is being produced and submissions of community events for the calendar are welcomed.
- Genny Laing will update the First Aid kit.
- Girls Brigade is going well with 18-25 girls in attendance.
- The Killarney Music program is offering a social outlet for homeschooling families and 3 violin students, and 5 piano students are currently receiving affordable tuition. It is planned that the students will play during a worship service.
- Mainly music continues with 3-5 being the regular weekly numbers. We have had the joy of Hannah Keogh's little one Dallas attending when Hannah is well.

The meeting closed at 11:00am

## **Freestone Uniting Congregational Meeting. 8 / 06/25**

The meeting opened at 3 pm . Chaired by Alan Payne who welcomed everyone there. Present: 13.

Rev Ansie thanked the congregation on their attendance and keeping the Christian light shining in Freestone.

In addition, Ansie thanked Alison Payne for the work enhancing the gardens around the church grounds also John and Aaron for the Tree planting. John was also thanked for the organization of the installation of the air- conditioner which works well and is much appreciated by those present. John Payne responded and thanked Ansie and the other ministers for their work and coming from Warwick to conduct the monthly church service.

## **General Business.**

Concern was expressed by the congregation about the state of toilet amenities. A general discussion was held and suggestions to remedy the situation were put forward. John and Alan Payne will see what can be done about improvements.

A proposal was put forward to get a new tank for the church and a shelter erected.

The meeting concluded with a fire drill; all members exited the church in an orderly fashion.

The meeting closed at 3:30 pm. Afternoon tea was served.

## **Warwick Congregational Meeting Sunday 29 June 2025**

**Opening Prayer:** Chairperson Terry Smart opened the meeting with a prayer at 11.00am.

**Attendance:**38      **Apologies:** 11.

### **REPORTS:**

#### ***1. Affordable Housing Update:***

Ian Darnell reported that work should be finished by end of August. All kitchens are in, tiling is completed, landscaping has started, and driveways will be done in next few weeks. Rain had caused a delay to Killarney, but it should be finished by end of September. Rev Ansie reported on the operational side. Meetings had been held with Regional Housing Limited and feedback about the Thursday Island projects were beneficial. Planning on co-ordinated openings at end of Aug / beginning of September. RHL will appoint a House Officer to receive Expressions of Interest. Tenant Welcome Folders were being prepared. Sue Campbell thought the complex needed a name. Peter Campbell suggested the inclusion of UCA in the name to recognize the many contributions of the church to the wider community. Kathy Payne agreed.

#### ***2. Organ Update:***

'David Cahill apologised that progress was not as speedy as hoped. He explained that an early professional quote of \$250.000 had been the motivation for him to do as much of the restoration as was possible. He believes it has the potential to be a significant recital instrument for regional Queensland and felt the completion was at least 18months away. Because of the rising costs he forecast an appeal will be needed in the future. He also warned the meeting that more care needs to be taken with closing doors, locking the church and turning switches off when leaving. Terry thanked David for his report and his patient expertise with the restoration.

#### ***3. Church Chairs and Pews:***

Ian Darnell advised the meeting that 74 padded chairs were acquired from Raymont Residential College in Brisbane. Church Council decided to experiment with different layouts to make best use of the space and seating. The black vinyl chairs had been removed and the wooden pews rearranged to give wider aisles for weddings and funerals. A diagram of the experimental layout displayed. Several speakers were concerned at the potential to lose the traditional and valuable wooden pews. Many suggestions were put forward without a consensus being reached. Ian Darnell pointed out that the church only had the storage container 'til the end of August so a decision would need to be made soon.

#### ***4. Minister's Report:***

Rev Ansie discussed Protea Place being cut off so suddenly and outlined the work which was needed to continue as Southern Downs Women's Support Centre and now WillowTree 37. She thanked all who had been involved in the difficult transition.



All the members of each congregation were reminded that everyone has a prayer support person and encouraged to keep in touch on a regular basis. It is important to feel establish a good relationship so that if a difficult time arises you know where to turn.

The passing of Jonna Cowan had left a huge gap to be filled, and she was sorely missed all around the church. It is hoped to employ a part-time office person to help with all added administrative duties, which include compliance and added duties for the affordable housing project.

Two people in the congregation are contemplating entry into ministry and we are asked to pray for them.

Sue Campbell commented that while many people had helped with the re-establishment of Willow 37 but emphasised it was Rev Ansie who had done the majority of the hard work and this continues.

#### **5. Grounds' Report:**

Peter Campbell thanked Ray Browne, Lee Wells and John Morris for their help during the year with the mowing and care of the church grounds. He asked church members to be considerate of the volunteer's efforts. There should soon be more road parking spaces available for our use. Ian Darnell advised that the back of the Red Cross block may also become available for parking when the building work is completed.

#### **6. Jumpers and Jazz Report:**

Sue Campbell explained what was happening and when, during the Festival. She encouraged church-sitters and poster-distributors to add their names to the list of available volunteers. Help would also be needed to dress the tree in the Cascade theme on Thursday 17 July.

#### **7. Emergency Lockdown.**

An Emergency Lockdown Procedure was then carried out at 12.12 pm. All doors were shut and locked.

**Closing:** The Chairman concluded the meeting at 12.15pm after a closing prayer by Rev Ansie.

### **God's Garden**

Workers needed for God's Garden!

Autumn and winter are always difficult growing times; however, Alison Payne has planted some Asian Greens in the garden and would appreciate help to rejuvenate the beds which are without plants at the moment. Perhaps even some preparation for planting seedlings in a month's time.

John and May are away until early October! How good it would be to have looking 'bloomin' marvellous when they return. I am sure Alison and Sue Fox would be happy to assist and advise anyone willing to volunteer an hour or two.



## **Jazz in the Courtyard at the Uniting Church**

Many locals have found our Courtyard Coffee – open every Friday morning at the Warwick Uniting Church on Guy St – but this Jumpers and Jazz season our Jazz in the Courtyard is open from Friday 18th July to Friday 25th July – 9:00am to 12 noon – excluding Sunday.

If it's sunny you can relax in the sun on the grass – or you can find a cosy spot inside our hall.

There's a secure area for young families to visit too – with young children welcome to play in the outside play area.

Instead of the one-off Jazzy Breakfast we have provided in the last few years, this year we are including brunch/light lunch choices throughout the morning - as well as barista coffee and sweet treats at very reasonable prices.

Pop-up stalls also provide an opportunity to look for a special, locally produced piece of art or craft with plenty of plants to choose from.

Also, drop by and wonder at our tree – depicting the cascade of our faith through the generations of our ancestors.



### **It's Time**

It's time, God said to think again of what has been, and give your thanks for people  
and for places who have touched your life with love.

It's time, dear God when thinking turns to prayer, as thanks are given for places  
and for people and the love they've left with me.

It's time , God said to think of what might be, of hopes and dreams,  
and people and new places who will offer life and love again.

It's time dear God, when hoping forms new prayers and dreams come true,  
and places and new people give me all that's new and right and good.

Anonymous.



- In the event of any incident or accident on our premises,
- Please report said incident to Synod via the QR code on this poster – displayed in two places in your church or hall.
- As our local safe church manager, I will be notified of the incident and will follow through on any action that needs to be put in place to minimise future hazards of this nature.
- Copies of this poster are on each of the buildings and more are available from the church office. Sue Campbell