

New Horizons

Newsletter of the Warwick/Killarney Parish September 2025



OPENING UNITING PLACE WARWICK, Monday 15th September 2025

We need to extend a big thankyou to our Presbytery family for being able to celebrate this day! It was wonderful to see members representing different congregations across the Downs and to have our Presbytery Chair participating in the program.

I need to mention Rev Willie Liebenberg for his help in making sure those orders for barista coffee were delivered! Thank you, Willie! You knew everyone!!

We began around 10:30am, summoned in part by bagpipes (the wonderful Sandy Dalziel) gathering in the Courtyard for refreshments – which were pretty amazing.

Ansie welcomed people in Williams Hall introducing the speeches and I need to thank our President Rev Charissa Suli for her video. Charissa had actually turned the sod for the project way back in November 2024 but was on the other side of our big country for the event. We also heard from our Moderator Rev Bruce Moore via video and then we had brief talks from our General Secretary, Adam McIntosh and Karen Weidmann our Synod Property Development Manager, Ian Darnell as Building Designer and Laurie Colledge who gave us the beautiful complex we look forward to filling.

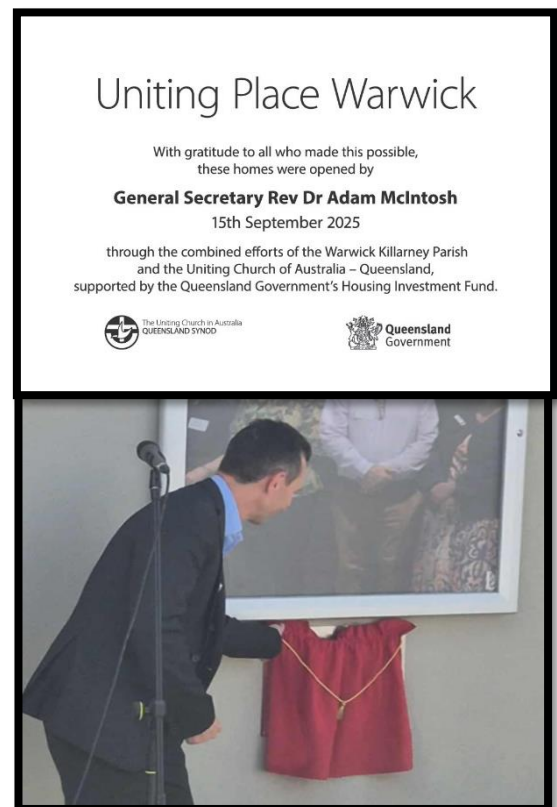
We heard from Yvette Wirkin, who was invaluable representing our key investor, the Housing Development, Department of Housing and Public Works. Lastly, we heard from Hannah Scott representing Regional Housing Ltd, the firm managing the rental side of the homes. It was such a good opportunity for many of us to widen our knowledge of the wonderful human resources we have to help us grow. You can see how many people and departments it has taken to bring our dream of affordable housing to our community. Would you believe that the speeches were finished in 30 minutes?!

The program took us from the front driveway off Guy Street for the tree planting, to the fun of 15 people cutting the ribbon – at the same time before walking to the plaque unveiling by Rev Dr McIntosh. We finished with a guided tour then back to the Hall for more refreshments.

Comments:

It was a beautiful celebration of an amazing amount of team work by so many people - pray that as people are selected and move in that they will be blessed and you will continue to see the results of all this work coming together. May God bless you.

I have to say, that was one of the best opening ceremonies I've attended. We feel incredibly fortunate to be part of such a passionate and committed group—congratulations and well done!



Food for Thought...Legacies We Leave Behind

I was there! I sat and pondered as we heard the story of how Uniting Place began as a seed and grew into those special affordable housing units for rent amid our community's impossible rental market.

I had no part in its inception, but as I watched Ansie plant that tree out the front of both those of her amazing gifts to our community of Warwick, I realised that these will remain as her legacy long after she leaves us. She will leave the community with a tangible reminder that the Christian church cares about those outside its walls, reaching out to those in need and those living on the margins. I felt a pride well up as I saw the Holy Spirit at work in our midst!

But then I pondered how each minister who has led us over the years has left behind something special that has encouraged us to shine a light into the darkness. Each one had a special gift, a special talent, a special leading from the Spirit that took us into another direction. Remember, no one minister can encompass the spread of the Kingdom of God. But we can all leave behind a legacy that reaches others, even when we are aware of it!



Here's just a couple of examples.

Handel had the gift of music of music in his soul. He opened the Royal Academy of Music and enjoyed his fleeting moment of fame. But the glory dwindled and his music was considered outdated as one project after another failed. He grew depressed and the stress brought on a case of palsy that crippled some of his fingers. His troubles matured him and his music became heartfelt. He was sent a word for word collection of Biblical texts about Christ and the opening words from Isaiah specially moved him....*Comfort ye my people!*

On March 23, 1743, after only 23 days of inception, "*Messiah*" opened in London and King George leapt to his feet during the "*Hallelujah Chorus*". From that day on, audiences everywhere have stood in reverence during those stirring words: *For He shall reign for ever and ever!* What a legacy from a broken man filled with the Holy Spirit.

Now, think about this other one! Over 200 years ago two friends met together on a busy Boston Street. One was a collector of hymns and the other a sort of poet. Palmer, the poet, pulled out a little book in which he had jotted down some thoughts and told Mason that they were written as a personal prayer to his Lord a couple of years previously over some tears conveying the craving of his life. The words were copied and, when Mason arrived home, deeply touched by Palmer's words, he immediately set them to music.

Two days later, they met again.

'Mr Palmer' said Mason, "You may do many good things; but you will be best known for this legacy...the author of "My faith looks up to Thee" He was so right as they are still loved and sung by several generations. Among them is this stanza!

May Thy rich grace impart strength to my fainting heart....My soul inspire;

As Thou didst die for me, O may my love to Thee ,

Pure, warm and changeless be...a living fire!.....What a legacy!! What is yours? Jean

An Interview with Judith Johnson.....she sits behind me at Worship!

Judith has been quietly being absorbed into our congregation over the last seven years having joined us after she moved into Oak Tree Retirement Village from Karara after her husband died. Judith, Daphne Porter and I lost our men during the same year and we became quite close through attending the Grief and Loss course together led by Ansie. It's time you all knew a lot more about her for she has lived an interesting and varied life.

She began her life as Judith Jones in the Eastern Suburbs of Sydney at Rose Bay, her mother having come from Caithness in Scotland and her father from Australia, the two having met during the war. Both parents came from large families, but Judith was their only child. After marrying during the war, her Dad went back to serve in PNG and her mother lived with her in-laws who were staunchly Presbyterian. Judith was born at Rose Bay, went to Sunday School and then attended an Anglican Private Girls school as a day girl until 13 after which she became a boarder. While at school, she joined a Presbyterian R.I. group being confirmed at age 18 in her grandmother's church.

Judith's parents separated when she was 11 but didn't divorce until she was 21. At age 40, Mum attended University and graduated with a Master's Degree in English and History. Judith began at Sydney University but decided it wasn't for her. Instead, she entered a 6 week course to become an Air Hostess with Ansett and moved to Brisbane. She flew with Ansett Airlines for 3 years and then moved into the Ansett Booking Office where she worked for the next 12 years.

The next big milestone in her life happened through joining a running group of both men and women in Sydney. It was while jogging that she met with an horrific accident when a car smashed into her, sending her up in the air and through the windscreen. This resulted in a hospital stay of 6 weeks, two of them in ICU, and rehab for 10 months. She had 10 months off work with Ansett being very considerate about it all.

Judith met her first husband at a singles group, married too quickly and it ended after 3 years. Back in Sydney, she moved in with a friend and helped with her children and found her roots back in a Presbyterian church at Mosman, Sydney. From here she met her second husband who had also been married before with teenage children.

For a while they lived at the Gold coast where Rod invented a shuffling machine for the Casino which took both them to USA twice a year, however he had been raised on a farm and the land called him back to a property at Karara where Judith made close friends there with a craft group. After 5 years, Rod was diagnosed with lung Cancer and died in 2018.

Again, she sought solace in her church roots and felt urged to join us in worship. She found herself warmly welcomed but it took some time to get to know people especially as she was still grieving. Her interests include handcrafts, reading and the activities in the village, especially Monday's exercise group. Judith is beginning to feel connected and is comfortable in knowing she is back in God's fold.

I continue to learn more and more about her and am humbled at her readiness to so unselfishly offer her services to make life without wheels more workable for us. She always sees where help is needed! Make yourself known to her and find out more about her interesting life and her desire for a closer walk with God.....Shalom, Jean

Celebrating Baptisms

In July the Freestone congregation shared with the Drysdale and Christensen families and welcomed William Drysdale.



On Father's Day, the Warwick congregation welcomed the Brownlie family as they presented Benjamin Maxwell Brownlie for baptism.



TWEATTT

OK...if I haven't caught up with you and twisted your arm to join us and you don't know what this rather strange group is all about, then this is to inform you that it is rather special group of people who share a scrumptious two course meal in the Hall after worship on the first Sunday of each month. Are they VIPs ? No!

So, what is it all about? It stands for Those Who Eat Alone and Talk To Themselves! If for any reason at all, you fit into this category, you would be well aware that a meal doesn't taste as well when you sit at a solitary table looking into space or listening to TV... or even while you prop a book up in order to make somebody or something make contact.

Mealtime is meant to be a social event with debate, discussion and catching up on what is happening around us and in the world. So, you need others to make that time a special time of contact, and to relate on a deeper level with significant others. So, here's your opportunity! You are invited to join us each first Sunday of the month to eat, chat, relax and enjoy your dinner at 12 noon.

We remain after morning tea, start chatting together and then take a seat at the table that is arranged as a square in a family way to join in some meaningful chatter. Our amazing meal is lovingly served to us by our special Catering Team who start to cook after church and the smell gets very tantalizing! It is a labour of love which we immensely appreciate! And it only costs us \$15 (money...or tap a card)

Come and try it out and make new friends!.....Jean.

Selah Home Group

This group meets for two hours at Unit 5, Oaktree Retirement Village each Wednesday afternoon. We start at 3pm to chat over a delicious afternoon tea, supposedly for 30 minutes, but often lasts more than that as we catch up on the news both personal and worldwide happening around us. The next section becomes our prayer time as we bring before God all the things that are both happy and sad around us.

By 4pm we gather our Bibles and read and consider all the four lectionary readings for the week leading up to the Sunday Worship Service. We have found this well worth doing as we are prepared for, not just the sermon, but how the songs, the prayers and the message make us aware how God is speaking through them all to us.

At 5pm on the dot, we finish with a blessing and return to our homes.

So, this is an invitation to you to join us to make deep and lasting friendships and to help us all to become the best disciples we can be for our Lord. Our numbers have been dwindling due to the ravages of age and illness....so there is plenty of room to join us and find the joy of wonderful fellowship amid the search for more meaningful faith.

Come and try us out...we are all searching!

Shalom, Jean

MARKET DAY

The second Market day for 2025 will take place on Saturday 1st November.

The featured stall are:

PRODUCE – in the capable hands of the Killarney folk. Donations of fresh produce will be very welcome as well as any cut flowers and home made preserves such as pickles, relish, jams and marmalade.

COLLECTABLES- are just that not Trash and Treasure. ornaments, china, glass ware, art, jewellery, sporting memorabilia, rare coins, stamps and other items which may be interest to a collector. Surprise us with something unusual.

CRAFT – with Liddy Loy in charge and ready to accept those special hand crafted goods, made by very nimble fingers. Not just needlework but other specialty items made by clever hands. Woodwork, jewellery, pottery, crotchet, Christmas decorations, handmade soap the variety is open to you.

As usual we have the Treat Yourself and Homemade Stalls, Books(Gordon will welcome your donations of novels) Plants – John will be busy when he returns from NQ and the food stalls to keep you energised.

Our entertainment includes –

The Warwick City Band, The Central School Choir, The Scots PGC Pipers, Melomaniacs pictured below on Saturday 13th September entertaining at the Songs'N'Scones morning at our Warwick complex.

Help on Market day is much appreciated contact Scott Young 0429 969 432 for more information.



**Moderator's Community Service Medal
Recipient
Margaret (Jean) Reid.
Where Rivers of Living Waters will Flow.**



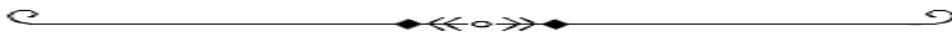
Jean Reid will be presented with the Moderator's Medal on Saturday 25th October by Moderator Rev Bruce Moore during the meeting of The Presbytery of The Downs at Crows Nest.

Jean has served this Parish through preaching and teaching, Youth groups, Women's groups, Bible Study groups, Pastoral Care, Religious Education, more recently, with Barbara Cutmore leading the Grief and Loss Program and adapting it to be more appropriate for our local needs.

As always, Jean does not consider herself deserving of recognition.

"However, we are deeply grateful for her unwavering dedication and tireless work over these many years. Thank you for your countless hours of service and unwavering commitment over the years. Your dedication is an inspiration to us all. Our Warwick/Killarney and Freestone congregations have been blessed by your dedication to our Heavenly Father. "

All welcome. It would be special for some members of the Parish to be in attendance. More details will be available in the coming weeks.



HOME GROUPS OR SMALL GROUPS!

If you have been challenged by Jean's article on the Selah Bible study group and would like to join a group, what are your options?

In Warwick most groups meet on Wednesday.

Wednesday in Wesley at present a very small group meets at 10:00 am until 11:30. In the Wesley Room Williams Hall, for a relaxed time of discussion with very little structure on a wide variety of topics. Leader is Rev Duncan McDiarmid. We may review thoughts from the previous weeks worship and preview the coming weeks lectionary or something else which is pertinent. It's often a surprise but very satisfactory and a special time of discussion and learning.

The Selah meets at 3:00pm.

At 6:00pm Rev Ansie welcomes the Intergen group at 3 Finch St. for a light meal and discussion.

During term time the Beta Study Group meet at the home of David and Dianne Cahill at 7:00pm. The study time often involves a video and resulting discussion.

All groups welcome new members if you are interested, please contact leader of each group.