

# New Horizons

Newsletter of the Warwick/Killarney Parish MAY 2026



## 160 years WARWICK CITY BAND

Congratulations to the members of the Warwick City Band who are a regular part of the entertainment for our Market Days. Thank you for your continued support.



## Congratulations Barry Kelly OAM.



Barry is pictured with Queensland Governor Dr Janette Young as he is presented with the OAM in recognition of the vital role in the Vietnam War as part of the Royal Australian Engineers as a sergeant combat field officer. Barry has been a fierce advocate for veterans, especially those facing disability and hardship.



David and Sue Fox attended the Volunteers Morning Tea hosted by SDRC.

27 May 2026

## From the Minister's Desk – A Season of Growth, Gratitude, and Grace

Over the past few weeks, our parish has been in a rich season of listening and discernment. Thank you to everyone who participated in the consultation process and completed the surveys. The response has been overwhelmingly positive, and I am deeply encouraged by the love and commitment expressed for our worshipping life together.

At the same time, your comments have highlighted some areas that need attention and renewal. Please know that these reflections are taken seriously. As *Proverbs 15:22* reminds us, “Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.” Your voices are shaping our next steps.

You will begin to notice some gentle changes in our services. We will be including **more modern songs** alongside our treasured hymns, helping us worship in ways that speak across generations. In addition, **every service will now include an intergenerational moment**—this may be a short story, an object lesson, a song, a video clip, or something creative that helps all ages engage with the Gospel.

A formal feedback session will be held in the near future, but we are able to begin implementing some of these suggestions immediately. Thank you for your openness, your honesty, and your hopefulness for the future of our parish.

As many of you know, I will be taking **Long Leave from 1 September to 1 December** this year. Rev Ian Smallbone will be relieving me for part of that time at 50% capacity. All arrangements are falling into place, and I am confident that our new Office Administrator will be fully settled by then. Elizabeth has already taken on the compliance and Safe Church portfolios, and together we are discovering a few surprises—some challenging, and yes, some very positive.

During my Long Leave, I hope to visit my children in the **UK, USA, and South Africa**—that is, if I can successfully navigate the rather complex visa requirements for foreign nationals living in Australia. Your prayers for this would be greatly appreciated.



On Friday night 15<sup>th</sup> May a highlight was joining the **Girls Brigade camp at Kinkuna**.

Such a fun, energetic, and faith-filled time, and I was blessed to be part of it.

A focus of the camp was on Africa and I was able to share many memories with the girls.

Recently, I had the joy of officiating at the wedding of **Simon and Kathy Klein** in Freestone. It was a beautiful celebration of love and community.

Kathy is the daughter of Mervyn and Olwyn Mauch.



Standing there, however, I was reminded again of how much we need the new toilet block.

My heartfelt thanks to the volunteers who have already begun this project—we hope to share some progress photos with you soon. *“Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labour in vain” (Psalm 127:1)*, yet God certainly works through faithful hands.

I remain deeply thankful for the many amazing people serving across our parish. The level of care, compassion, and quiet faithfulness is a gift. As some of our members grow more frail and require additional support, I trust that the saints who serve so quietly in the background will continue to uphold them with love.

And to those who are in need of care—please know you are not alone. Reach out.

Let us walk with you. *Galatians 6:2* reminds us to *“Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way, you will fulfil the law of Christ.”*

May God continue to guide us as we grow, listen, and serve together. May the Creator who formed us, the Christ who calls us, and the Spirit who sustains us lead us forward in hope.

**Grace and peace,  
Ansie**



## Moderator's Convocation - Leading Change In Complex Times

By Rev Willie Liebenberg



The recent Moderator's Convocation was a timely and encouraging opportunity to pause, listen, and step away from the busyness of ministry for a moment – creating space to reflect on where the Spirit might be leading the Uniting Church in this season.

Gathering with ministers and leaders from across the synod, the Convocation offered space for honest conversation, shared learning, and prayerful listening. Rev Charissa Suli led us beautifully into the practice of stillness – stillness before the chaos. Rev Bruce Moore challenged us through the story of Jacob wrestling with God. What stayed with me was this: when we wrestle with God, we are blessed – but we often walk away with a limp. And that limp becomes our teacher. It's not about drawing attention to the limp but recognising the blessing of God that comes through it.

Throughout the conversations and shared stories in our groups, was a strong sense of both the real challenges facing congregations and the deep faithfulness being lived out across the church. Churches are wrestling, yes – but they are also continuing to trust, serve, and follow. What I valued most was the reminder that renewal is not something we manufacture. It is something we are invited into as we listen carefully – to God, to one another, and to our local contexts. How encouraging to hear the diverse and creative ways congregations are responding faithfully to their communities, often with courage and hope amid significant change.

One key takeaway for me was the call to lead with *hope* rather than *anxiety*. There was a strong sense that we are being invited to resist simply managing decline, and instead to lean into practices that nurture discipleship, deepen community, and open our churches more fully to the people God is already bringing among us. We should be paying close attention to what God is already doing at the local level. Rather than looking for one-size-fits-all solutions, the Convocation affirmed the value of contextual ministry – being deeply rooted in place, responsive to real people, and open to new expressions of church shaped through genuine relationships.

For me, this reinforced the importance of practices that we have implemented in my personal context that prioritise connection; strengthening intergenerational life, succession plan for leaders, and focusing on belonging before belief. The emphasis on renewal as relational rather than program-driven will continue to shape how we approach ministry in our local context.

The panel conversation led by Annie Phillips – with Toby Lewis (Anglican Church), Emily Higgins (Alpha – Sphere), and Josh Bull (Community Church, Melbourne) – was particularly inspiring. It was encouraging to see younger leaders carrying such passion for God’s mission and the renewal of the church.

Bernie Kelly was a real highlight for me. His reflection on *inside-out leadership* was both challenging and affirming, reminding us that healthy leadership flows from the inside out – and this applies not just to leadership, but to our spiritual lives as a whole. Many churches, and many Christians, live from the *outside-in*: **Have → Do → Be**. We build our faith on activity and appearances. We stay busy. We stay involved. And eventually, we hope we become the people we want to be. God works the other way around: **Be → Do → Have**. God begins with the heart. Renewal doesn’t start with doing more, but with allowing God to work deeply within us first. We become the people He wants us to be.

Bernie also challenged us with the *Big Rocks* metaphor – identifying what truly matters and placing those things first, before everything else fills our lives.

- **Important and Urgent:** things that really matter and can’t wait—crises, relationship breakdowns, health scares.
- **Important but Not Urgent:** the most important space for discipleship and leadership—prayer and Scripture, marriage and family, rest and Sabbath, vision, planning, formation, and mentoring.
- **Not Important but Urgent:** things that feel pressing but don’t truly matter all that much – emails, meetings we don’t need to attend, admin that could be shared or simplified.
- **Not Important and Not Urgent:** pure drain – mindless scrolling, comfort avoidance, procrastination disguised as rest, filling time rather than being present.

Coming away from the Convocation, I am reminded that renewal is not something I can force or manufacture. It begins with slowing down enough to notice what God is already doing – in me, in our congregation, and in our community. Growth starts not with activity, but with attention. Practically, this means I want to give renewed priority to the *important but not urgent* practices that so easily get crowded out.

I am also challenged to lead with hope rather than anxiety – to resist reacting out of scarcity or fear and

instead trust that God is at work even when outcomes are uncertain. Renewal asks me to listen more deeply, to God, to our local context, and to the stories of those around us.

The invitation before me is to live and lead from the inside out – allowing God to shape the heart first, trusting that right action and fruit will follow. As I place these “big rocks” first again, I pray that space will open for growth that is genuine, relational, and shaped by the Spirit rather than driven by urgency and programs.

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## ***People in our Congregation....Introducing Janet Forbes***

We sit near them...we wonder about their life's journeys...we talk about the weather! But how much do we really know about them? This section of New Horizons opens up intriguing and amazing details about that person who sits near you at Worship as, in a sketchy interview, we open up talking points!



So, what do we know about Janet Forbes who came amongst us in 2025?

Born as Janet Kirkland on a farm at Deuchar, not too far from where I lived for over 40 years. Maybe I remember meeting her Mum at the Willowvale CWA. Her parents, May and John Kirkland provided a loving home for Janet and her 5 brothers and sister. She attended the Deuchar State Primary School, then Allora until Year 10 and finally to Warwick State High.

Janet fondly remembers being a part of the Allora Presbyterian Church, enjoying PFA and basking in the closeknit friendships it afforded. Then it was off to Toowoomba to study and become a three-year trained Primary School Teacher (yes, another one!)

Her career began at Warwick Central School and later transferred to Ballandean School shortly before marrying Russel Forbes in 1977. Russel, also a teacher, was based at Stanthorpe State High, teaching Manual Arts. Janet later transferred to Stanthorpe Primary School and taught there until they moved to teach in Collinsville.

Later that year, Russel returned to Karara to help rebuild the family-owned hotel which had burned down the previous year. Together, Russel and Janet ran the hotel for the next three years. Now, there's some yarns they could spin! However, from there Russel took on a part time job at Scots PGC as Manual Arts teacher and the family grew with the births of a daughter and 2 sons. Janet enjoying being a full-time mother until 1994, immersed in sport, scouts, guides, music etc.

Back teaching saw her working at Central and many of the smaller schools around the district. From 2011 until 2013, she and Russel were involved in the Mount Isa School of the Air. On their return, Russel continued at Scots until his resignation in 2015 through ill health. For Janet, it meant continuing work as well as caring for her husband with the help of Blue Care and some really good friends. During this time, she held positions at Central School as Head of Curriculum and Deputy Principal.

In 2025, Russel died, having been a resident of Churches of Christ Nursing Home for the last 2 years of his life. During which time Janet attended church with him. Janet said his brother had been a huge support for both of them over those difficult and taxing 10 years.

Now a widow, Janet felt the need for an anchor and a community... and so she came to worship with us where she knew many of the congregation. She came alone but was quickly welcomed and made to feel at home. But it didn't stop there! She became part of the life of the church as she was guided into mainly music, the Hospitality Group, TWEATTT, and becoming part of the Market Project. She says she is open and willing to help out wherever she finds herself needed and trying whatever!



Janet's father John Kirkland planted the two Cape Chestnut trees which are such a feature of the entrance to the Warwick Uniting Church

Now...it's over to you all to find out so much more about this amazing woman and her checkered life story as we all become her anchor and her Christian community!.....Shalom, Jean.



*Do you know where the Defibrillator is at the Warwick Complex?*

Each group should have a designated first aid qualified member. However, it is helpful if other in the group have knowledge of how to use the Defibrillator.

On Wednesday, a workshop was held outlining the initial procedures in case of a suspected cardiac arrest.

**Do you have the tools and skills to save a life?**

When sudden cardiac arrest strikes, having a defibrillator means you can step in with the tools to save a life before paramedics arrive. A defibrillator used within the first few minutes can increase survival rates up to 70%.

A defibrillator is a life-saving medical device that analyses the heart's rhythm and delivers an electrical shock to restore a normal heartbeat during sudden cardiac arrest. It interrupts chaotic, life-threatening rhythms (like ventricular fibrillation) to allow the heart to resume pumping effectively.

The explanation was very easy to follow so that those in attendance should now have confidence if such an emergency occurred.

Naturally, we all hope that is not ever needed.

However, FYI The Defibrillator is on the right hand wall of the foyer to Williams Hall just beside the First Aid Box. Take note next time you go in.





However, anyone who acts as a volunteer – welcoming church attendees, pouring tea, etc - and all blue card holders are required to complete Safe Church video training. Please call into the office to see Elizabeth if you need help to get started.

Installation of the air conditioning for the hall has been delayed due to defective equipment – it's coming – before summer. But 2 of the heaters from Williams Hall will replace 2 faulty heaters at Kilalrney.

Our Finance, Property, Risk and Jumpers and Jazz Task Teams have met as noted on the weekly notice sheet and along with other teams report monthly to Church Council – keeping us up to date on the details of their roles. We hope that our new members will be able to join us for lunch our Pastoral Care team is organising on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May so we can get to know them a little better than when we try to balance a cuppa and sandwich on Sunday morning.

Only 7 weeks till Jumpers and Jazz is upon us – thank you to those who have donated and/or taken up jam-coloured wool for pom poms for our tree decoration. We will be producing an interactive music display – two exquisite items crafted by Ray Browne – and we will connect the theme of JAM with our church identity. Watch this space.... But we will need people to fill a roster to church sit and tree-sit – every morning from Friday 17<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> July. Caroline has a roster ready to go.

Lawrie is initiating a renewed approach to our digital presence through Synod which will include information about our services, notices, events and provide information about bequests.

Terry's catering team has provided for the Safe Haven Peace Walk, a Zonta lunch and refreshments after Dorothy Gartery's funeral – along with Friday morning Courtyard Coffee – which is always a busy, chatty gathering place for sometimes as many as one hundred visitors – many from the local community – who are very appreciative of our hospitality.

On the weekend of the 16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> May Revs Russell Reynoldson, Dylan Miegel and Mrs Kerry Andrews held discussions with council members and examined our registers etc in their task of getting to know how we as a parish operate. Thank you to those who returned surveys to enable a wider perspective of our blessings, strengths and concerns. You might notice some new ideas that have arisen from their comments.

The photos of all your council members have been posted in all three places of worship so have a look – ask any of us for clarification on points of interest. We continually aim to represent you in the decision-making processes that are required to keep us a busy, vibrant, safe engaging place of worship.

Shalom Sue Campbell

