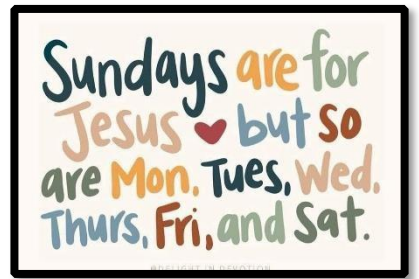


New Horizons

Newsletter of the Warwick/Killarney Parish
Uniting Church In Australia JULY 2026



Dearest Friends in Christ

Over the past six months, our parish has been blessed by the faithful and diligent work of our **Finance, Property, and Risk Task Teams**. These teams have quietly carried significant responsibilities, ensuring that our community remains a **safe, transparent, and well-governed place for all who gather here**. Their commitment, wisdom, and perseverance have strengthened our shared ministry, and I want to express my deep gratitude for everything they continue to do.

We are also profoundly thankful for the work of our new administrator, **Elizabeth**, whose steady presence and capable hands have already made a remarkable difference. I am personally grateful for the load she has lifted from me — her support is a gift to our whole parish, and her contribution enables us to serve with greater clarity and joy.



As a community, we now turn our attention to the vibrant season ahead. With **Jumpers & Jazz** fast approaching, we prepare to host **Jazz in the Courtyard** alongside our wonderful **Courtyard Coffee team**. This is always a busy and energetic time, filled with visitors, friends, and neighbours who step onto our property and into our fellowship. It is a beautiful opportunity to extend hospitality, creativity, and warmth.

Communion Bread and Grapes
knitted by Lorraine Powell

My prayer is that, in all our preparations and interactions, **we will extend God's grace and generous welcome to every person who comes our way**. May our conversations be kind, our service joyful, and our presence a reflection of Christ's love in this community.

Thank you for all you do, and for the spirit in which you do it.

Grace and peace, Ansie

Report of Presbytery of the Downs Meeting

Hosted by Central Downs Parish 19th – 21st June 2026 held at Pittsworth Uniting Church

Attending from Our Parish: Rev Ansie Liebenberg, Dianne & David Cahill

The weekend commenced with an evening meal followed by a short meeting before worship. We were privileged to have young people from Life Support Youth Group join us for the worship time. Members are a Christian group from within the town who are supported by all the churches but run by the youth themselves. They are very passionate about their faith and shared songs and testimonies with us.



Saturday started by celebrating the numerous June birthdays – especially Yvonne’s 90th – she is still actively involved in church life with mainly music and catering along with other activities.

Bible study was led by Rev Sam McDonnell from Uniting Care.

Sam focussed on the theme of ‘Unity’ with these points:

Jesus prays He is glorifying God – how are we glorifying God through our obedience?

- For protection & spiritual growth as disciples
– how will we continue to grow spiritually?
- For unity of all believers – what does it mean to ‘bear witness to unity’
and how can we be one? Believers are not told to become one, because we are one!

The day continued with the following:

- Rev Scott Ballment (Central Queensland Pres Minister) lead a Q &A session on Presbytery Capacity with the planned reduction from 7 to 3 Presbyteries in Queensland.
This will be debated at Synod later this year.
- Tracey McFarland gave an update on Synod activities
- From Naomi Bell (Presbytery Support Unit) – National Church Life Survey 2026 forms are to be ordered now with surveys to be done during a service in September/ October and returned in November.
- Rev Russell Reynoldson – urged parishes to consider applying for money from the Mission Dreaming fund. At present funds have gone to Parishes for - Kids club, coffee machine, letter drop, dinner for volunteers, data base for a community.
 - Each Parish needs a Mission Plan Vision Statement; every ministry needs to be aligned with the main focus of the church e.g. Discipleship
- Rev Russell is available for services and council meetings
- MC3 has a new round of funding soon, ?August, for Mission plans.
- Period of Discernment documents have been revised

- Aust Charities & not for profit commission require any change of persons in positions to be updated within 28 days of change – information is on the UC Hub.
- Blue Care Sunday 23rd August
- Visiting preachers can apply for 0.80c/km travel
- Anni Cramb has resigned from Pres office – Pray for an urgent replacement
- Congregation Renewal workshop in Warwick 29th August – a bus will transport folk starting at Crows Nest.
- Parishes will fund their ministers retreat costs
- Jenny Feldmeier from CBW patrol is in urgent need of volunteers to assist with transporting folk arriving by plane in Toowoomba on Sundays. They come for medical reasons and travel cost in Toowoomba on Sundays is high.
- Roma Bush Gardens want a 'Faith Space' created
- Central Downs shared memories of the Parish over the years.
- Two members from the Presbytery nominated to attend the 2027 18th Assembly in Adelaide in 2027
- Next Presbytery meeting in Stanthorpe 20th – 22nd November 2026

A wonderful weekend of fellowship and amazing food concluded with worship in Pittsworth on Sunday. A huge thank you to the folk from Pittsworth and Millmerran congregations.

We would encourage others to consider becoming a Pres rep – it is a great way to meet others and hear what is happening in the wider church.

David & Dianne Cahill will be stepping away from the role at the end of 2026.

BlueCare Grief and Loss Program

**Course commencing in the Wesley Room of the Williams Hall
on Wednesday 29th July from 5:00pm.**

Kath Warner from Nobby will be the leader for the group. In this structured program, you will meet in a group of between four and eight people for two hours a week over eight weeks. Contact Kath mobile 0428192936.

People experience grief in many ways. The grief and loss journeys relating to bereavement and dementia can bring intense feelings of sadness, confusion, anger, guilt and fear, as well as memories of happier times. BlueCare's Grief and Loss programs provide extra support and a safe environment in which to share these journeys of grief and loss.

We aim to:

- Provide information on the grief process, stages of grief, and the individual nature of each journey.
- Offer practical advice following the loss of a loved one.
- Provide emotional and social support. • Enhance effective coping skills.



Food for Thought.... Prayer....When, Where, How?

What constitutes Prayer? Is it words? Is it an overwhelming feeling of connectedness?
Is it a knowledge that Christ walks with us through all of our experiences in life?
Is it all sorts of communication? Is it firmly connected with faith?

Is it felt beyond words over an amazing sunset...or in a heartfelt response to a challenge
in a stirring hymn? Or an intense feeling as we see the plight of so many around our world
in dire situations?

John Bunyan said “ It is better to have a heart without words than words without a heart”

Martin Luther prayed “Although I am sure of my position, I am unable to sustain it without
Thee. Help Thou me, or I am lost.”

Chaplain Richard Halverson of the United States Senate told the story of a time when the
subject of prayer in schools arose just before a Senator was to speak to several hundred
men at a church’s annual men’s dinner. He asked how many of them believed in prayer in
public schools and almost every hand went up. Then the Senator asked, “How many of
you pray daily with your own children in your own home?” Only a few hands were raised.

A couple of extracts from the book *Silences and Nonsenses* by Adrain Plass.

I didn’t have to see you in the night-time there by my side...I knew it had to be you You
smiled in the darkness...it seemed to blind and burn.
But when my eyes were opened, I smiled in return....for you were there.

I didn’t have to hear you. In the silence you were part of me.
Knew your love was deep in the heart of me; I knew that you were saying, Our
happiness has grown, for prayer is only friendship...You never were alone.

I didn’t have to hold you...I was trusting, knowing your care for me, Knowing
you would always be there for me.
So let the darkness gather and let the silence roll,
The love that made you suffer is glowing in my soul....and you are there.

I drove to town this morning, it wasn’t very far.
But all the way I asked myself where I would park the car.
Imagine my amazement, when, in Devonshire Parade
I found a perfect parking space! Damn... I wish I’d prayed.

We planned a parish picnic on a day in late July, Hoping
that in summertime, the weather would be dry.
When I awoke to cloudy skies and rain, I was dismayed.
But just in time, the sun came out! Damn! I wish I’d prayed.

Long ago in Eden, Eve and Adam broke the law,
When they consumed those apples, I was doomed for evermore.
But Jesus came to earth, and through the sacrifice he made. I
found a way back home to God. Damn...I wish I’d prayed.

Keep praying, however you do it....Shalom, Jean



It's on again – starting Friday 17th July till Friday 24th July – excluding Sunday – from 9am to 11:30am - and we hope you can all join in the festival that we have prepared for us all.

As in previous years we are providing Courtyard Coffee every morning – including savoury options as **Terry's saviour mince** proved very popular last year – no pressure Terry.

The various arts and crafts stall, featuring the creations of local talented artists – some our very own members are returning. There will also be plants available for sale – all with the easy tones of jazz wafting throughout the morning.

But let's not forget the added attraction of our big Cape Chestnut Tree – this year decked out to display the Jumpers and Jazz theme for 2026 – **JAM** - and for us that means Jesus and Me and Jesus and Music. With the creativity of Ray Browne ever brewing, you only have to whisper the idea of providing interactive musical instruments around the tree and Ray has designed and built two truly amazing percussion instruments - a xylophone and glockenspiel. Needless to say, these will not stay out around the tree overnight but will be taken into the church about 12pm each day. As a result, we are asking for volunteers to sit and supervise around the tree each morning – the roster for tree-sitting and church-sitting are in the hall entrance – or ring Elizabeth in the office any morning to put your name in a slot. 4661 1080. The church will be open for visitors to wander around.

As you wonder around the tree you can enjoy your own jam session or join a new friend - and try out the different percussion instruments -lots more as well as Ray's babies – and read the passages from the bible that reference the significance of music in our worship. Plus, there will be our amazing collection of JAM-coloured pom poms adorning the tree and bible quotations. Thank you to all who had fun making their fluffy contributions. We've had fun designing our tree - getting to know people in our small team a little better and we hope you will come and enjoy the whole experience that has been prepared for us all.

We will assemble the tree on Thursday 16th after mainly music if you'd like to help. All are welcome. Sue Campbell

From The Warwick Congregation Meeting Sunday 5th July 2026



Consultation Team

Presbytery Minister

Rev Russell

Reynoldson Rev

Dylan Heigel

Mrs Kerrie Andrews.

Commendations

The team commends the vision of the Church Council in developing outreach into the community through

- Willowtree 37 Courtyard Coffee Mainly Music
- Providing Affordable housing at Warwick / Killarney
- the enthusiasm to explore what is next as you develop outreach ministries.
- the Church Council for continuing to develop strong connections with Scots College PGC through a quarterly service which College boarders attend.
- The team affirms the Ministry of Rev Ansie Liebenberg for the leadership she provides across all 3 congregations

Challenges

- The recruiting of new church leadership-
- The development of fostering intergenerational worship
- Managing the demands of IT and the need to grow new leadership in this demanding ministry.
- The demands upon the local and lay preachers
- The aging of the congregation
- The need to balance the style of worship so that all generations feel included.

Recommendations

- Continue to develop the relationship with **Scots College PGC** with the particular focus on developing a joint position that will include chaplaincy
- We recommend further building on the connection with **Scots College PGC** through the quarterly worship by involving the students in the leadership of the service and providing a service that targets the students
- We recommend that the congregation develop a **Mission Plan for the next 1-2 years.**
- We recommend the Church Council explore how to be more effective in communication within congregation and the community.
- We recommend that the Church Council further develop intergenerational worship as it seeks to connect with a new generation.

Risk Management Task Team Report to Warwick Congregation 5 July 2026

The safety of all church members and adherents and all who use our church facilities is utmost importance in ensuring that all who use the facilities are always safe.

The team consists of:- Rev Ansie Minister, David Angell WHS Advisor, Ian Darnell Property Convenor, Elizabeth Ure Coordinator, an RHL Rep (who manage the units) and myself as Convenor. We meet on the first Wednesday of each month.

Main areas of concern are the safety of all who use our facilities including incidents, hazards, safe church and monitoring the Uniting Places at Killarney and Warwick.

Some of matters in monitoring the Uniting Places include:-

- Regular audits to ensure compliance with the Risk Plan for each Place.
- Maintaining records of incidents, audits, cause analysis, financial transactions, tenancy agreements and compliance documents
- Annual reporting to State

Risk management and property management go hand in hand. A property rep is on the risk team as a risk assessment can result in a property matter that needs attention and vice versa. The safe church conditions require following up breaches of the requirements, procedures and reporting and involves audit reporting, statements of commitments by workers, training and risk assessments.

To assist with recording and incident reporting the Synod has set up a risk management and compliance system called PROTECHT.

Some of the features of this system includes:-

- Incident reporting platform
- Assists in reporting incidents, hazards.
- Provides guidelines, policies, and resources for congregations, presbyteries, and volunteers.
- assists in recording auditing of records and blue cards.

Peter Rose from the Synod Office provided an information session to the Risk Team at Warwick on how to use this system which was very informative and useful.

Thank you to those who managed the blue cards system following Jonna's capable management - Ansie, Margaret Wells and Sue Campbell.

Our administrative officer Elizabeth Ure has now taken over this role. Graham Reid.



Safeguarding Update – Protecting Children and Vulnerable People

Creating safe communities is everyone's responsibility. Recent changes to Queensland legislation and ongoing awareness campaigns strengthen our ability to protect children and vulnerable people. Below are some important updates and resources.

Daniel's Law

Following the tragic death of Daniel Morcombe, Queensland introduced **Daniel's Law**, allowing parents and guardians to make informed decisions about their children's safety.

Key features include:

- Checking for reportable offenders in your area.
- Viewing reportable offenders whose whereabouts are unknown.
- Applying to find out if a person who has, or may have, unsupervised contact with your child is a current reportable offender. **Learn more:** Daniel Morcombe Foundation –

<https://www.danielmorcombe.com.au> Queensland Police (Daniel's Law) –
<https://www.police.qld.gov.au/safety-and-preventing-crime/daniels-law>

Reportable Conduct Scheme

From **1 July**, organisations working with children have strengthened responsibilities to:

- Create safe environments for children.
- Report and respond to allegations of harm.
- Investigate concerns and notify the appropriate oversight body.
- Everyone has a role to play. If you see concerning behaviour or suspect a child may be at risk, **report it—even if you're unsure**.
- More information: <https://www.qfcc.qld.gov.au>

Online Safety

- The online world offers many benefits but also significant risks. The most effective protection remains open communication, trusted adults and clear boundaries around technology use.
- Helpful resources for parents and carers: <https://www.esafety.gov.au>

Recognising Child Sexual Exploitation

Warning signs may include:

- Going missing or unexplained absences.
- Withdrawal or increased anxiety.
- Secretive online activity.
- Unexplained money, gifts or expensive items.
- Weak connections with caregivers

Most offenders are known to the child, and grooming often occurs gradually. about a child's safety, report your concerns—don't investigate yourself.

<https://projectparadigm.com.au/>

Coercive Control

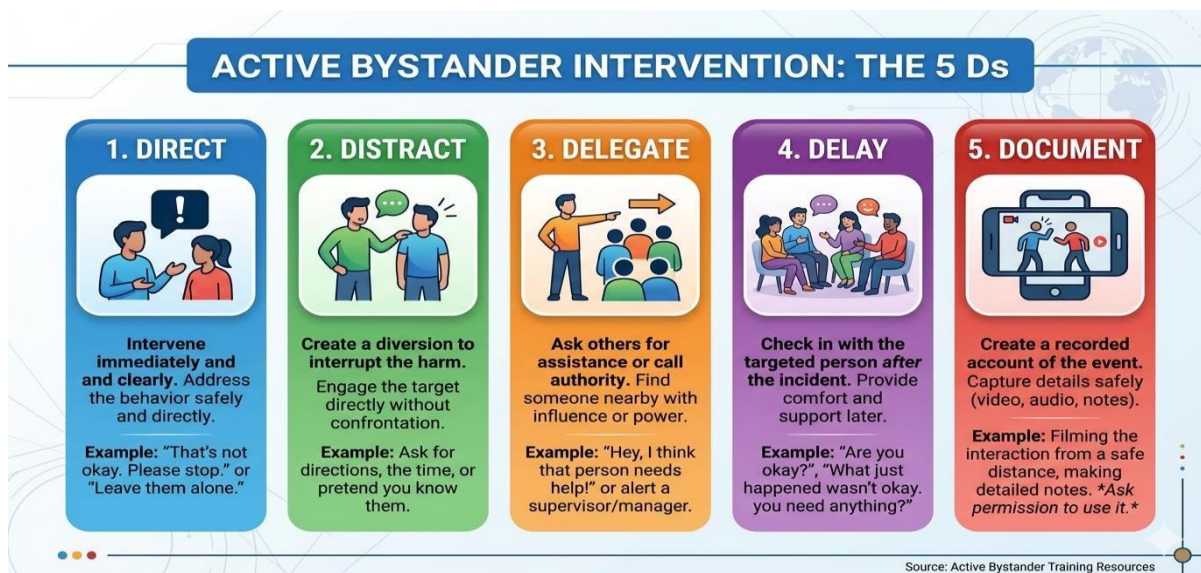
Since **26 May 2025**, coercive control has been a criminal offence in Queensland. It involves a pattern of behaviour used to dominate, isolate or control another person.

Support is available:

- 1800RESPECT – <https://www.1800respect.org.au>
- Broken to Brilliant – <https://brokentobrilliant.org>

Be an Active Bystander

An active bystander notices concerning behaviour, checks in safely, listens without judgement, encourages support and contacts police if someone is in immediate danger. Speaking up can make a significant difference. We can all utilize the 5 D's to assist those in trouble.



Learn more: <https://www.ourwatch.org.au>

Together We Can Make a Difference. Protecting children and vulnerable people is more than a legal responsibility—it reflects our commitment to caring for one another. Let's have a culture of safety and care.

Kathy Payne BA (Soc Wel), B Soc Wk, AMHSW
Southern Downs Wellbeing Support Service

Email: kathy@sdws.com.au Web: sdws.com.au

AMHSW (Accredited Mental Health Social Worker)

Medicare provider number: 4875461K



Where are you standing?



***Thank you Genny
a very special volunteer***



Editor: Angela Lester

Newsletter: Articles and News always welcome

Please leave at Church Office or email to lesterwm@activ8.net.au