



Crookwell Uniting Church

“To Know Christ and Make Christ Known”



*Witnessing to God’s love for the world
From the main street to the paddock.*

August 2023

Clearing Up Confusion About the Childcare

Over the last few months, I have heard some questions and comments about the upcoming childcare project that have led me to believe it might be helpful to do a bit of a Frequently Asked Questions article on the project.

1. Why are we doing it?

In late 2021, in response to reading Jesus’ invitation to let the children come to him, we began an intentional period of praying for the children in the Crookwell community. About six weeks into this period of prayer, we were approached by Upper Lachlan Council who advised us of a need for childcare in Crookwell. At the time, they estimated Crookwell was short some 70 childcare places – with huge

waitlists at existing facilities. This was before new housing goes in around the Tait Street and Graham Crescent developments.

Somewhat naïve to the size and scope of what we were agreeing to, the Church Council began to explore the possibility of converting our hall and Kindergarten Room into a childcare facility – both as a way of meeting community need and generating revenue for the Church. This direction was affirmed by congregational meetings in December 2021 and December 2022.

2. Are we running it ourselves?

No! Should we convert the hall into a childcare facility, it will be on the condition that a lease agreement has already been

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signed by a private provider who will run the facility and bear the operational risks.

Currently, a Heads of Agreement has been signed between the Church and a provider, as negotiations move towards a formal lease.

3. How much will it cost? Can we afford it?

Quotes for construction of the project currently sit at around \$400,000. Currently we have approximately \$150,000 already available for the project from the sale of Bigga, and another \$50,000 from the provider (the provider will then have to pay for the fit out when the external construction works are done). That means at this stage approximately \$200,000 further is still required for Church Council to sign off on the project. The intention is that this money will be generated by the sale of Kialla, which the congregation approved several years ago. This sale had been held up while we gained clarity about the status of the crown land at the back of the paddock, but the sale should now progress in the Spring. Applications will also be made for appropriate grant funding to further the project.

It should be noted that under Uniting Church policy, 'Proceeds of Sales' from Bigga and Kialla cannot be used for operational costs, but only for property or missional projects. The completed childcare should then generate between \$50,000 and \$75,000 in rent per annum for the next 10-15 years (or about half the cost

of a fulltime ministry placement). That is, the project is a way to turn fixed property assets which were fast becoming liabilities into a sustainable source of revenue.

4. What are the works to be undertaken? I've heard it will destroy the kitchen!

The Development Application (which currently has conditional approval from Council) outlines the following pieces of work:

- A) A new entrance to the building will be constructed on the north side of the building (facing the carpark) where the storeroom next to the men's bathroom currently is. The existing men's bathroom will become an office.
- B) The existing entrance to the hall on the south side of the building will be enclosed, and that foyer converted into an accessible toilet.
- C) A new children's bathroom will be constructed between the current hall and kindergarten rooms (with some associated demolition of the wall between the two spaces) so that it is accessible for both age groups.
- D) A partition wall between the Church and the Childcare will be built at the top of the step between the current men's and women's bathrooms.

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- E) The current front office of the Church will be turned into an accessible toilet, and the existing women's toilet next to the vestry will be changed to unisex.
- F) A small kitchenette will be installed in the current hallway outside the women's bathroom/vestry that can be used for morning teas and communion preparation for the congregation.
- G) The current kitchen meets commercial standards and will be left unchanged.

5. What about Morning Teas and catering?

This is the biggest difference the project will make to the congregation. In the short to medium term, Morning Tea will be served in the sanctuary during the winter (as we do at Jerrara or Wheeo), serviced out of the new kitchenette. During the warmer months, we can have morning team outside in the front courtyard and north facing yard. Long term, we would like to explore converting the northern yard into a space that could be used in winter as well.

The hall would also cease to be available also for funeral catering – but the reality is that since COVID, we are receiving less and less requests for this service.

6. What if I have questions and concerns?

Then I encourage you to please speak to myself or a member of Church Council (Denise Moorby, Kira Moorby, Louise Stokes, Barry Jamieson, Phyllis Laverty and Barbara Doyle). Rumours only destroy the body of Christ – and there is nothing secret about this project. At every stage it has and will come to meetings of the congregation for further discussion – so please don't be afraid to ask.

Yours in Christ,
Daniel

Save The Date

The August service in Jerrara has been cancelled.

In September, Sunday Service at Jerrara will be held on the second Sunday of the month; September 10.

We hope to see you there.



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Meeting the Uniting Church Again for the First Time

Giving a Voice to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples is in the news. Recently we learnt that a referendum about this matter will be held (the talk is that mid-October is the preferred time). The Uniting Church Assembly has already indicated its strong support for a YES vote in this referendum, and our Presbytery decided this earlier this year at the March meeting at Melba.

But did you know that, within the Uniting Church, we have been giving a Voice to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples for almost four decades? That Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are guaranteed places as members of Synods and Assemblies whenever they meet? That an Aboriginal or Islander person will often sit beside the Moderator of a Synod or President of the Assembly, and serve as co-chair of that meeting? That Aboriginal and Islander voices have a permanent pathway to speak to the whole church, through the *Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Conference* (Congress)?

Statement to the nation

In 1988—the year that Australia celebrated the Bicentenary of white settlement—the Assembly published a *Statement to the Nation*, which focussed on Aboriginal people, who had lived on and cared for the country we know as Australia for many thousands of years. That *Statement* noted that “the movements of history have brought together here in one nation ... people of many cultures and races, both Aboriginal and migrant”, and affirmed that within the Uniting Church,

“Aboriginal and newer Australians have determined to stand together”. The Church was committing to a co-operative partnership with First Peoples—in 1988.

Before that Statement, in 1985, the Uniting Church had formed the *Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Conference* (UAICC). The logo of the UAICC is depicted here. The Congress (as it is usually known) gave Aboriginal and Islander people a voice within the structures of the church—they are consulted about decisions and have a guaranteed number of members in the Synods and Assembly meetings of the church. The vision of the UAICC, in their own words, is:

- We determine our own goals and objectives and decide policies and priorities;
- We run our own programs and institutions;
- We aim, in collaboration with other people, to bring to an end the injustices which hold Aboriginal and Islander people at the fringes of Australian society and to help Aboriginal and Islander people achieve spiritual, economic, social and cultural independence.

A decade later, in 1994, the President of the Uniting Church, Dr Jill Tabart, signed a *Covenant Agreement* with the Chairperson of the UAICC, Pastor Bill Hollingworth (pictured above). The Covenant expressed “our desire to work in solidarity ... for the advancement of God’s kingdom of justice and righteousness in this land”. Since then, the church has really worked hard at putting this

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into practice. Then, in 2014, people from all over Australia travelled to Canberra to hold a prayer vigil for *Our Destiny Together* in front of Parliament House. Rev. Ronang Garrawurra, Chairperson of the *Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress* (UAICC) and Assembly President, Rev. Prof. Andrew Dutney, led a service of worship. From remote communities in places like Arnhem Land and the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands and from the centres of our big cities, people gathered to pray, pass the peace, and share in Holy Communion.

“It is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher”, Jesus says as he instructs his disciples about their mission (Matt 10:25). These developments within the Uniting Church show how we are striving to be like Jesus, sharing together with all people—especially the First Peoples of this continent (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people).

And we know that it is possible—and, indeed, that it brings good value—for First Peoples to have a place in the councils of the church, discussing and deciding policy, and for their Voice, through the Congress, to be heard and responded to in appropriate ways.

Your Invitation to Respond to the Act2 Report

On 13 July the Uniting Church formally launched the latest Act2 report, which emerged from the last six months of our engagement across the Church and brings together:

- A summary of what we did during the Exploration phase
- A summary of what we heard through our engagement
- Theological reflections
- Four future directions related to our local communities of faith
- Four future options related to our governance and resourcing

The report is now available to read in full. Sections of the report can also be downloaded, along with an Executive Summary in plain language. There is now a collection of videos to help you engage, visual illustrations of the four directions and four options, and a recording of the report's live launch. There is also a simple webform you can use to submit questions of the report.

Every person, council, committee and board in the Uniting Church is now invited to respond.

A copy of the report can be read at <https://www.act2uca.com/act2report>

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Call For Leaders

We would like to put a call out for some more lay worship leaders for weeks when Daniel is not available. For this coming quarter, that means we are looking for volunteers to lead services on 17 September, 1 October, 8 October and 26 November. Resources and training are available, including prayers, sermon preparation, video sermons and music. Please contact Daniel if you are interested.

August Roster

Please find below the roster for August services. If you would like to volunteer for future services, please contact Daniel.

AUGUST 2023	WORSHIP LEADER	ELDER/PRAVERS	BIBLE READER	STEWARDS
6/08/2023	Daniel	Phyllis	Gill	Gill & Allan
13/08/2023	Daniel	Barry	Allan	Gill
20/06/2023	Daniel	TBA	TBA	TBA
27/08/2023	The Harpers	TBA	TBA	TBA

Church Volunteers



Worship & Readings

Sunday 6 August

9:30am Crookwell and
crookwelluniting.org

Readings: Genesis 22:1-14; Psalm 13;
Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42

Sunday 13 August

9:30am Crookwell and
crookwelluniting.org

Readings: Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28; Psalm
105:1-6, 16-22, 45; Romans 10:5-15;
Matthew 14:22-33

Sunday 20 August

9:30am Crookwell and
crookwelluniting.org

Readings: Genesis 45:1-15; Psalm 133;
Romans 11:1-2, 29-32; Matthew 15:21-28

Sunday 27 August

9:30 Crookwell and
crookwelluniting.org

Readings: Exodus 1:8-2:10; Psalm 124;
Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20

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