



NEWSLETTER

30 May – 5 June 2022

Revive
Restore
Reach Out

NRCC News and Notices

▪ **Celebrating Pentecost**

This Sunday we are celebrating the coming of the Holy Spirit & the birthday of the Christian church. Please invite your family members and friends to join us for the day of joyful celebration.

▪ **From Bill and Sandra Callister**

Thank you so much for your prayers. ALL Bill's travels (so far!) have gone as planned. He has accomplished a lot of what he aimed to do: set up new computers and programs for the Saisai and Misima translators; finalised the book of Leviticus and transferred it onto the Misima Bible app for phones; completed a good second draft of the book of John (Saisai); worked with Misima translation teams on Isaiah and some Psalms; and visited with sons and grandchildren resident in Alotau.

In addition he has been feted and feasted, and welcomed and farewelled at each village he has stayed at in the two language areas!

He is now in Alotau on the mainland, staying with our youngest son, and doing last minute preparation (including filling in paperwork for entry into Australia and saying his goodbyes to grandchildren) before his flight to Cairns tomorrow. And then on Sunday 5 June, I will pick him up from Gold Coast airport - and home, after 5 1/2 weeks away. There will be all sorts of adjustments (not the least being to the cold weather we are having as winter begins with a vengeance!)

But we are so grateful for good health for both of us, and the Lord's protection and help, especially for Bill in all his travels and interactions with people in PNG. And so thankful to you as part of our team of prayers, as well as to our family members, the local community and church here in Wollongbar etc. etc.

There will be more in due course ...
In his grip,

Sandra and for Bill-



Dates for your Diary

▪ Equip 22

Our church will be hosting Equip 22 again this year. **Please email enquiry@northrocks.org.au for more information or to register as part of the group.**

Date: 18 June 2022

Time: 10am – 3pm. Please arrive early so we are ready to start at 10am. Tea and coffee will be served on arrival.

Cost: \$25 per person includes morning tea and a light lunch, teens free.



Community News and Notices

▪ Safe Church Awareness Training

Auburn Uniting Church, 18 June 2022, 9.30 AM-4 PM. Auburn Uniting Church Hall, 31 Helena St, Auburn.

Who needs to attend?

Church Council and Elders, Pastoral leaders, Ministers, Ministry program leaders and helpers, including with children/youth and SRE/Scripture in schools,

Workshop Topics:

Safe Church Foundations, Duty of Care, Child Protection, Protecting Vulnerable People, Understanding and Responding to Abuse, Safe Leadership, Recruitment & Supervision, Safety in Programs and Environments, Uniting Church Policy and Procedures.

Cost:

Full: \$25 pp. Light refreshments provided. Please arrange/**bring own lunch. MASKS are Required**

Registration at:

<https://nswact.uca.org.au/safe-church-unit/safe-church-training/>

▪ Out of the Box Mission Conference 2022 29-30 July.

The Mission Enablement Team would love to **extend an invitation** to attend Out of the Box Missional Conference 2022 “Equipping disciples for a growing, contemporary, and courageous church”, coming this July 29th-30th.

Our Speakers...

This year we are thrilled to welcome Rev. Tim Costello AO and Rev. Ellie Elia as our Keynote Speakers. What’s more, be a part of Missional Masterclasses: bespoke electives focussing on a range of subjects such as: intercultural ministry, music, digital, storytelling, pioneering, and more, lead by Rev Dr Grace Ji-sun Kim, Dr Byron Smith, Natasha Holmes, Rev Dr Karina Kreminski and Dr Armen Gakavian, and Josh Wyatt.

For more information: <https://ume.nswact.uca.org.au/calendar/out-of-the-box-missional-conference/>

▪ Uniting Church Assembly and Synod News Links

Uniting Church Assembly: <https://uniting.church/news/>

NSW & ACT Synod: <https://nswact.uca.org.au/communications/newsroom/>

▪ Moderator's Flood Appeal to help devastated communities

The Uniting Church NSW/ACT has launched a special appeal to help those communities devastated by record-breaking floods.

<https://nswact.uca.org.au/communications/newsroom/media-release-moderator-s-flood-appeal-to-help-devastated-communities/>

Reflection of the Week

For the child of God, joy does not mean the absence of sadness, trials, or disappointment. In fact, many times it is just the opposite. Joy dwells right there next to sorrow. This was true of the apostle Paul's life. He faced beatings, stoning, and imprisonment, yet he had a tremendous sense of joy.

During moments of great difficulty, we can experience the joy of the Lord in a far greater way than at any other time. For some, this may be hard to believe. Many times, when difficulty comes, we immediately look for a way out. A sudden trial leaves us feeling hopeless and wondering if we have done something wrong. But we must remember that adversity is a part of the Christian life.

When he wrote about joy, Paul was in prison. He knew how it felt to be discouraged and abandoned, but he also experienced a tremendous joy—one the Lord had given him. It is the same joy we can experience today.

Paul wrote, "I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want" (Philippians 4:12).

Contentment for Paul was reflective of the deep sense of joy he felt within his heart. He had a promise from God—and we do, too. One day, like Paul, we will see our Saviour face to face. Therefore, no matter what this world tosses at us, we can experience a true sense of joy right now.

Do you feel as though you have lost your joy? Are you longing to experience it again? The joy of the Lord is one of God's greatest gifts. Take a moment to be silent before Him. Worship Him and praise Him for His faithfulness to you. When we dwell on the precious gift of the Gospel, we can't help but be lifted up in joy. The more fully we experience and grasp the grace of God, the greater will be our joy.

Prayer: Father, restore my joy to overflowing, that it may bubble up and infuse my life. May this overflowing joy testify to others of Your love. As I sit before You now in silence, speak to me. I am listening. I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

"Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: . . . sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything" (2 Corinthians 6:4, 10).

E - give (Direct Electronic Giving)

Account Name: North Rocks Community Church
(BSB): 634634 **Account Number:** 100025906

Prayers

If you have any prayer requests or would like to know of those with particular pastoral needs to pray for, please contact Robyn, Steve or Pastoral Care Team.
Robyn: 0424791916

Ministry Leaders

Minister: Rev. Steve Lee / minister@northrocks.org.au / 0433 698 690

Church Council

Chairperson: Cathy Nelson Secretary: Jenny Keyte Treasurer: Anne Crabb

Team Leaders

Worship: Steve Lee Discipleship: Alex Chow Pastoral Care: Robyn Pike Fellowship: Sue Vasilevska
Intergen: Fiona & Cathy Mission: Steve Turner

North Rocks Community Church

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Uniting Church in Australia <https://uniting.church/>

NSW & ACT Synod <https://nswact.uca.org.au/>

Parramatta Nepean Presbytery <https://parramattanepean.uca.org.au/>