



# A word from Chris



I feel privileged indeed to welcome you to issue 1 of volume 1 of the newsletter with no name!

Saying this, tongue in cheek, hides the fact that I'm very excited and proud of this newsletter. Our new Administrative Officer (and editor?) has done a great job in creating the layout and format of this new venture in the life of Mary Burnett Presbytery. Thank you, Linda!

Why am I excited? Because I believe this is another way for us as a Presbytery to be better connected and to share our ministry (did you know we now have a Facebook page you join too?)

This is a newsletter where anyone in our Presbytery can contribute. It is a newsletter where opinions can be expressed, where we will learn more about each other and our "heartbursts", and to generally have a place where we find the contacts and other bits of information we need to enhance our ministry.

I want to invite you to embrace this new initiative. Please share it. Please print copies for those who don't have access to electronic means. Please contribute even before Linda can ask you to. Is there anyone in our midst that can draw a monthly cartoon? Do you maybe want a platform to tell others about an exciting example of God's grace breaking through? Want others to pray for ministry initiatives happening in your patch, or for you to pray for others? This is our platform!

I don't think we need a name for this newsletter. It is what it is. It is our place to share and be informed.

So, in closing, allow me to leave you with a thought from Desmond Tutu: "Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world."

May God bless us all, doing our little bit. Hooroo.

*Chris Crause*



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Presbytery [Webpage](#)



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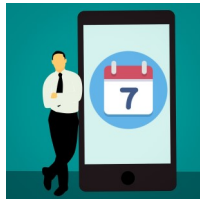


UCA Qld Synod [Webpage](#)

Please submit newsletter articles to Linda at [admin@maryburnettpres.org.au](mailto:admin@maryburnettpres.org.au)

### MARCH

- 12 - Mary Burnett Presbytery Adult Fellowship Area Day in Murgon (Guest Speaker).
- 13 - Retired Ministers & Spouses Luncheon in Kingaroy
- 14 - Special Standing Committee Meeting in Gympie
- 16 - Discussion trip to Newlife UCA Robina
- 18 - Preaching in Bundaberg at the morning service, Delma Lovell's commissioning & farewell service in the afternoon
- 20 - Meeting of representatives to Assembly - BNE
- 21 - Placements in BNE
- 22 - PSI (Presbytery Synod Interface) & induction of Rev Dr Adam McIntosh, Associate Director of Mission – Pastoral Care in BNE
- 26 - Formation Day intensive on conflict management led by Rev Bruce Moore in BNE
- 27 - Alex Park Advisory Board in BNE



### APRIL

- 5 - Standing Com & Pastoral Relations Com Gympie
- 12 - Board of Christian Formation in BNE
- 14 - Induction of Rev Stathakis Glasshouse Country
- 18 - Placements in BNE
- 19 - Presbytery Synod Interface in BNE
- 22 - 5.30pm dinner then preaching @Alex Park worship service
- 28 - Synod Selection Panel in BNE
- 30 - Leading the Trinity Formation Day intensive in BNE (SWOT analysis of the Revised Common Lectionary)

### MAY

- 16 - Placements & PSI in BNE
- 18-20 Partners in Ministry Retreat
- 21-25 Possible Walk on Country with PSI

*Please pray for Chris' ministry amongst us and for the crisis in Cape Town, South Africa caused by prolonged drought. Chris & Henriette's family are among the millions being affected there.*

### MARY BURNETT PRESBYTERY

*WHO ARE WE? The Presbytery (as a council of representatives of congregations) are called to be salt, yeast and light to the congregations within the Presbytery*

*WHERE ARE WE GOING? A prayerful listening church, being organised for mission*

The Qld Synod, in responding to the Royal Commission and new legislation, requires all Ministry Agents to understand safety issues and to be able to action [mandatory reporting](#). The new training is required yearly. It includes:

- 1) two online modules
- 2) a face to face group discussion of scenarios
- 3) a final online assessment

Online modules are to be completed before steps 2 & 3. A competency certificate will be issued on completion.

Rev David Ferguson, Rev Dave Thomas and Mrs Sue Mulcahy have been trained to deliver the face to face component and to support you through online modules if required.

Online modules are on the Synod [website](#) as well as toolkits for Ministry Agents and Church Councils so that everyone is equipped to respond to any incidents.

Your dedication to the spiritual, physical, emotional and social welfare of children is acknowledged, valued and supported by the Uniting Church in Australia.

From our Moderator:

"We've been reviewing our policy and practices to do with safe ministry and this new policy has been developed and refined in order to build better practices in our lives that will enhance our capacity to show the sacredness of every person among us in concrete ways. It will help ensure that in our ministry with children we are strongly aware of what we need to do to keep them safe, and set an environment in which they can experience the love of God toward them. I encourage you to embrace this policy in the spirit of our call as the church to build communities of faith, hope and love that bear witness to the life of the promised Kingdom of God." *David Baker*

*Read the Policy [here](#)*



## Did you know?

Bundaberg is an odd mixture of the local Aboriginal language and an ancient European term. 'Bunda' was the name of the local Aboriginal group and 'burg' is an ancient Saxon word meaning 'town'. Thus 'town of the Bunda tribe'. (According to [aussietowns.com.au](#))

## Retired Rev's & Spouses - Rev Allan Kuchler



Over the life of the Presbytery there have been meetings for retired ministers and their spouses. They have taken many formats and have been organised in a variety of ways. The meetings have not been continuous. There were breaks in meetings often caused by the lack of someone to accept responsibility to bring the ministers and their spouses together. Retirement is a busy time for many and it has been said by some "I am not sure how I managed to work with all the things I have to do".

After a break of about 2 years, in 2017 a meeting was called to gauge if there was any interest or need for such gatherings. The meeting was held at Alex Park Conference Centre and 29 people attended while 32 people tendered their apology. The outcome of the meeting was that the gathering be held twice a year in various locations and that the focus of the gatherings be fellowship and sharing.

A second meeting was held on Tuesday 13 March 2018 at Kingaroy and 21 people attended and 50 people tendered their apology. The next meeting is planned to be held at Maryborough in either September or October. Arrangements are being made about the exact date and place and these will be advised when finalised.

I have accepted responsibility for organising the gatherings and each time am assisted by someone from the location where the gathering is held. One of the biggest issues that face us at the moment is the compilation of a complete and accurate list of retired ministers and their spouses and spouses of retired ministers who have died.

If you know of a retired minister and spouse or the spouse of a retired minister who has died who has not heard about the gatherings please ask them to contact me: Rev. Allan Kuchler, 6 Caitlin Place, Bli Bli Qld. 4560 or phone me on 07 5414 9115 or 0458 765 782 or by email [pastrycook@iinet.net.au](mailto:pastrycook@iinet.net.au) so that they can be included on the list and be informed of what is happening and hopefully be able share in fellowship with other retired ministers and spouses.

*Rev Allan Kuchler*

## Ministry trip to India with the Dostana Group

For almost a decade, Maleny, Caloundra and Toowoomba Congregations with the "Dostana Group" have had a close relationship with the Church of North India. In fact over \$350,000 was raised by the Dostana Group to fund a girls hostel in the village of Kangra, Himachal Pradesh. In April 2017 the hostel was shifted to Alexandra School Campus in Amritsar, Punjab enabling the 22 girls to receive a good education and be more accessible to their homes. The main focus of the Dostana Group is relationship building through exchange trips. On July 9, 2016 the Mary Burnett Presbytery agreed to adopt the Dostana Group to develop these relationships. At Easter 2017 a group of 11 people across the Presbytery (and Toowoomba) including the Moderator, Rev David Baker visited the Amritsar Diocese to learn more about the Girls Hostel and the amazing organisation of the Church of North India.

In November 2017 a group of 6 people representing the Diocese were scheduled to visit us however, 5 of the 6 visas were declined. A team is working on rectifying this miscommunication with the immigration department so that a group can visit in July this year. The timing is scheduled to coincide with the next Presbytery Meeting. In October this year another trip is being organised to visit the Girls Hostel in Amritsar to meet our girls and to see some of the other ministries they offer in their region. If you or know of someone who could be interested in joining this trip please contact Andrew Solomon 0438 557 657 [sols@solidarchitecture.com.au](mailto:sols@solidarchitecture.com.au) The details are still being formulated but the trip is expected to be about 2 weeks duration.

*Rev Catherine Solomon*



Map by Uwe Dederig at German Wikipedia, CC BY-SA 3.0, [commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=9639349](https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=9639349)

## Getting to know Rev Hedley WA Fihaki



Q. Hedley, at which shop would you like to max-out your credit card?

**Mooloolaba Music**

Q. Can you play any instruments?

**Guitar & Keyboard**

Q. What would be a movie title for the story of your life?

**The Fihaki Dismissal: Trouble in Paradise**

Q. What are three things still left on your bucket list?

**Take my family to see Western Australia where I grew up, particularly Esperance and Narrogin**

**Go to Israel**

**Do some renovations to our family home in Tonga**

Q. What's the strangest talent you have?

**Eating**

Q. What keeps your passion for Jesus alive?

**Being part of our local congregation at Mooloolaba, family and being part of the Assembly of Confessing Congregations within the UCA**

Q. What is the worst pet you have ever had?

**I've only ever had one pet, a sausage dog, but it ran away. Says more about how bad I am rather than the dog.**

Q. What are you known for?

**Depends on who you are talking to**

Q. What is the worst way you've been injured?

**Broke my arm when I was in grade 1 falling backwards sitting on a fence. Still feel the pain now.**

Q. What's the most interesting thing about you that we wouldn't learn from your resume alone?

**I come from a village in Tonga called 'Nukunuku' known for the fact that people from there can't swim. I didn't really think it was true, until I took my family in Tonga to the beach.**

*Hedley and Amelia Fihaki started their ministry at Mooloolaba Uniting Church in 2013. Their son, Kotoni is at University studying Nursing. Please pray for Hedley, Amelia and Kotoni.*

## Need a Cross?

Wally & Bessie Smith from Nanango have a unique ministry making beautiful wooden crosses, with Jesus' name wood-burned on them. Since 2008, they have made over 600 crosses, most of which have been given away. The first one Wal made was for a local hospital chaplain. 100 were made for West Moreton RE teachers last year.

A recent order was from the Lutheran school in Kingaroy where 65 crosses were distributed to grade 12 girls. Wal & Bessie were invited to be guests of honor at the ceremony, but Wal's main concern was that they wanted all the glory to go to Jesus.

The crosses have found their way all over Australia (and some to Bali). They come in different sizes. Small crosses measure approx 11x7cm. Prices start from \$3 (+ postage).

Please contact Wal: [smith.walter@bigpond.com](mailto:smith.walter@bigpond.com) or phone 0741710330 if you would like to place an order.



# Worship @ Alex - Rev Hedley WA Fihaki

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## Worship @ Alex and prayers for the future of the Conference Centre!

The combined worship services @ Alex have been running for over 3 years now. We meet about 2-3 times a year. This year we are committed to running services each month in order to further develop this service. It began with weekly prayer meetings with James Stevenson, Brian Nagel, Ian Edgar, Andrew Fox and myself, meeting to pray for Alex Park, Ian and his staff as well as praying for the future of the conference centre.

One of the major reasons for praying for Alex Park was the fear that the centre, our last camp site, might be sold. "In 2012, the Sunshine Coast Regional Council announced its proposed new planning scheme which included the 'down-zoning' of the Alex Park site from 'mixed housing' to 'community facilities', the effect of which was expected to be a dramatic decrease in the value of the property".

In response, we were advised, that the FIP (Finance, Investment & Property) Board was given permission to lodge a full Development Application (DA) under the old town planning scheme to protect the value of the property. The DA proposed a medium density residential development of 338 units replacing the conference centre. The time frame given to commence development was four years from the time the DA is approved, otherwise, the DA will lapse.

The DA has been the critical stimuli for the current review of the Church's use of the Alex Park site, and the invitation to the wider church to consider its missional options in the context of a rapidly growing Sunshine Coast City.

In 2016, Mary Burnett Presbytery formally entered into this process by consulting with local UC stakeholders in order to explore future missional strategies. Rev. Ian Stehbens was employed to lead our Presbytery through this process.

We were advised that "the current process, endorsed by the FIP Board, is that the (possibly) several strategies/business plans for the future of the site will converge at the end of 2016/early 2017, for submission to and decision by the Synod Standing Committee".

The result of our Presbytery consultation was that six priorities, by average response, were determined.

(1) Regional Congregation (2) Parish Mission (3) Faith Community/Order of St. Stephens plus Alex Park continues (4) Alex Park Continues (5) Residential Development (to enable Regional/Parish model) (6) Sell (to another church).

In terms of where we were up to in the process, it is my understanding that Presbytery would be submitting a proposal to the Synod Standing Committee along the lines of option number one, to "develop a regional church or parish mission on the site, with an 'order of St. Stephens' faith community at its heart and alongside (and complementing) the existing work of Alex Park Conference Centre".

## To help them find their feet

The following statement from the book "To help them find their feet" by Norman Nelson, a must read, outlines the context in terms of the nature of the problem that led to the establishment of Alex Park which also provides the rationale and impetus, I believe, for why our ministry at Alex Park must continue:

In a world that has been shaken to its foundations, people, and in particular young people, need all the strength and guidance that the Christian Church can give them. The old landmarks have been removed, the fences that guarded them have been broken down, the standards accepted through the centuries as of God, and therefore absolute, have been derided, with the result that character is the one remaining bulwark against spiritual decadence.

Norman Nelson provided a way to bring the Christian message into everyday life situations, and, in a way that sought to develop the Christian character of every human person. He did it "through his obvious sincerity, concreated leadership, fertile imagination and humour".

Nelson makes the important point that our financial concerns 'are not to be compared with the problems of establishing a "house of character" that is acknowledged and respected by all who come within its precincts and, indeed, by all who look upon it as they pass by. Its building and grounds must show love and care, its programmes must have a worthy aim, not just a holiday purpose, and its leaders must be of high resolve for those

## Worship @ Alex...

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who attend camps are important folk. For their sake there must be built into the structure of all activity a sense of fellowship, purpose, adventure and dignity'.

### Program for first half of 2018

Our first worship & fellowship event @ Alex this year was on the 25<sup>th</sup> of February. Phil Smith spoke on the theme "Take up your cross and... something has to die before resurrection". We were challenged to reflect on what that might mean for us in terms of "what might have to die?" (a) The way we've always been (b) Structures we have to have (c) Buildings we call churches (d) How we consume Sunday (e) Full-time paid ministers.

On Friday 23 March 2018, Rev. James Stevenson will lead us in a conversation on "*Good Friday: The end of human faith*" and "*Holy Saturday: waiting in the Dark*".

Rev. Chris Crause will preach on Sunday evening 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2018 and on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> May Rev. Brian Nagel will share something of the vision for their building project at Buderim as well as share the Word for that evening. All services will include a sharing together in a meal as well as a time of praise and worship. Meals are \$10 and are prepared by Alex Park.

*Please note: April and May are tentative bookings and dates could change depending on the availability of Alex*

## Don't miss this!

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### @Alex Park

**Friday 23 March**  
**5.30pm dinner**  
**6.30pm service**

Rev James Stevenson will lead us in a conversation:  
*"Good Friday: The end of human faith"*  
*"Holy Saturday: waiting in the Dark"*.



*Park on that month.*

22-24 June 2018 has been booked for a Church Camp. We are still working on details and program, but thought it important to book a date so that we can work towards it.

The 22<sup>nd</sup> June is the anniversary of the UCA. Perhaps we could consider all UCA congregations on the Coast worshipping together @ Alex on that day or the Sunday? It would definitely help bring us together as a church!

### Pray and commit to being involved

Please continue to pray for our regular monthly worship and fellowship evenings at Alex Park, as well as praying for the future of the Conference Centre as a whole.

If you are available, please come along to these events; invite your friends, family and neighbours as well.

May God our Father be honoured and glorified through all that we do!

*Hedley Fihaki*

15 March 2018

In a world that has been shaken to its foundations, people, and in particular young people, need all the strength and guidance that the Christian Church can give them. The old landmarks have been removed, the fences that guarded them have been broken down, the standards accepted through the centuries as of God, and therefore absolute, have been derided, with the result that character is the one remaining bulwark against spiritual decadence.

## Presbytery Administration Officer - Linda Watt



G'day

As I've prayed about what to do post-study, my heart has been to serve Jesus in the place that would bring Him most glory. When the Presbytery Admin job became available, there was an excitement in my spirit that this was the place. I'm grateful to Jesus and look forward to working in our Presbytery.

This position allows me the flexibility to visit family and grandchildren and to keep riding my horses. Here's a sample of a day in the life of my horse adventures:

*This was our first big muster since the floods. Creek crossings were unrecognizable – blocked with debris piled to amazing heights. My horse and I had to find new places to cross, and quickly. Another rider had cattle on the other side and needed help. Rejecting one spot after another, uppermost in mind was THE rule – only cross where the cattle have crossed. Why? "Because you know it's gotta be safe." Third spot we looked at, there was the telltale sight – cattle tracks on either side of the creek. About five seconds into the water, I realised the cattle had been approaching from either side, but they weren't going all the way through. My horse was swallowed up to her chest into an air pocket. Water and sand overflowed my boots. Some thrashing and mighty leaps later, my lion-hearted horse (with me still atop) was standing shaken and soaked on the other side. Wet and sandy, we joined up with the cattle. Now I knew first-hand why my mate warned me to only cross creeks where the cattle cross! (The same thing had happened to him).*

My less adventurous interests include woodworking and card making.

Back to the Presbytery, after spending a little time with Chris, it was clear that his heart is to encourage collegiality through our Presbytery.

**"Collegiality** is the relationship between colleagues. Colleagues are those explicitly united in a common purpose and respecting each other's abilities to work toward that purpose." Wikipedia

As we work towards our common purpose in Christ, please contact me – if there's anything I can support you with - to include articles in this newsletter - if you see I've made a blunder – if you need something changed on the webpage. I look forward to getting to know you.

As we say in the bush, "Cowboy up and keep the brands hot" – which basically means, when you get knocked down, get right back up again and always be ready to give it your best shot!

*Linda Watt*



We must long for people to say **"WHAT A GREAT SAVIOUR"** after every sermon,  
not "What a great sermon." *Christine Caine*

∞

*"Heaven is a fairy story for those afraid of the dark" Stephen Hawking*

*"Atheism is a fairytale for people afraid of the light" John Lennox*

*Please send your favourite quotes for publication in future newsletters*

# Dates for your Diary

## 2018 PRESBYTERY MEETINGS

- 10 March at Pomona UCA
- 21 July at Murgon UCA
- 10 November at Gympie UCA

Start time: 9am

## 2018 STANDING COMMITTEE COMBINED & PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETINGS

(First Thursday every second month  
at Gympie UCA, Red Hill Rd)

- 1 February
- 5 April
- 7 June
- 2 August
- 4 October
- 6 December

Start time: 9.30am

## ASSEMBLY

- July 8-14, 2018 Melbourne

## ZONE MEETINGS

### Inland Zone Meeting

- 9 June Murgon UCA  
8.30 cuppa. 9am meeting

### Northern Zone Meeting

- 12 July 6.30pm  
West Maryborough UCA Hall

## SAFE MINISTRY WITH CHILDREN TRAINING

- 9 June Murgon UCA 12.30pm

## CODE OF ETHICS TRAINING

- 26 May Caloundra UCA 9am-12noon

## INDUCTIONS

Rev Costa Stathakis at Glasshouse  
Country & Peachester Community UC

- Saturday 14 April 10.30am

## MINISTERS RETREAT

Kingfisher Resort, Fraser Island 🇵🇸

- 3-6 September

## PARTNERS IN MINISTRY RETREAT

- 18-20 May Alex Park

## FINANCE, INVESTMENT & PROPERTY (FIP) MEETINGS

- 27 April
- 25 May
- 22 June
- 27 July
- 24 August
- 28 Sept
- 26 Oct
- 23 Nov

Submission deadlines are 10 days  
before meeting dates. See Synod

[Website](#) for more details

## RETIRED MINISTERS LUNCH

Watch this space

## TRINITY COLLEGE EVENTS

([trinity.qld.edu.au](http://trinity.qld.edu.au))

- Monday 23 April 7-8.30pm  
Trinity Open Evening
- Friday 23 March 7-9pm  
Lion, Donkey, Prophets

## HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH RALLY

- Friday 27 April 4pm-8pm  
'Activating Joy' Youth Rally at St  
Johns College, Nambour

## ALEX PARK

- Friday 23 March - 5.30pm din-  
ner, 6.30pm service
- Sunday 22 April - to be con-  
firmed
- Sunday 27 May - to be con-  
firmed
- 22-24 June Church Camp  
(Dates subject to site availability)



## Open Evening

7:00 - 8:30pm  
Monday 23 April

Trinity College Queensland  
Level 1, 60 Bayliss Street, Auchenflower, QLD, 4066

For more information, visit  
[trinity.qld.edu.au](http://trinity.qld.edu.au) | Ph: 07 3377 9950

People undertaking Period of Discernment are particularly  
encouraged to attend the Trinity College Open Evening.



# Presbytery Contacts

**Rev Chris Crause** (Presbytery Minister)  
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**Rev Dr David Ferguson** (Secretary)  
secretary@maryburnettpres.org.au  
0417 790 330

**Rev Dave Thomas** (Chairperson)  
davet@gruc.org  
0432 304 474

**Rollo Nicholson** (Treasurer)  
rollon@bigpond.com  
Home 4121 3141 M: 0448 813 141

**Rev James Stevenson** (Property)  
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0427 106 531

**Linda Watt** (Admin Officer)  
admin@maryburnettpres.org.au  
0417 509 433

**Sue Mulcahy** (Safe Ministry with Children)  
sue@gmp.net.au  
0403 052 123

**Rev Allan Kuchler** (Retired Ministers)  
pastrycook@inet.net.au  
Home: 5414 9115 M: 0458 765 782

**Code of Ethics Coordinator**

**Supervision Coordinator**

**Inland Zone Coordinator**  
Rev David Ferguson  
Secretary: Mrs Pat Van Kempen  
patrish53@gmail.com

**Northern Zone Coordinator**  
Rev Dave Thomas

## STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Rev Chris Crause  
Rev David Ferguson  
Rev Dave Thomas  
Rev Stuart Bosch  
Rev James Stevenson  
Mr Rollo Nicholson  
Mrs Linda Watt  
Mrs Susan Mortimer

## PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Rev Chris Crause  
Rev David Ferguson  
Rev Dave Thomas  
Rev Robyn Osborne  
Rev Stuart Bosch  
Mrs Sue Mulcahy  
Mrs Linda Watt  
Mrs Susan Mortimer

## POSTAL ADDRESS OF THE PRESBYTERY

Mary Burnett Presbytery Admin Officer  
114 Drayton Street, NANANGO Qld 4615



06-26-2015

NOAH KNEW THERE WOULDN'T BE ANOTHER  
FLOOD, YET HIS ARK REFLEX REMAINED  
HEIGHTENED FOR YEARS TO COME

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### WORK DAYS

Chris' day off is Friday. David Ferguson's is Tuesday. Dave Thomas' is Wednesday. James Stevenson's is Friday

*Whilst Chris, David, Dave & James may check messages and respond to urgent requests, please leave non-urgent matters for their work days. Thank you.*