

August 2025

PYY NEWS



News for the Presbytery of Yarra Yarra Congregations and Institutions

Calendar of Events - 2025

Date	Time	Event
Sun 24 Aug	2:30pm	<i>John Wesley's Clock: a Methodist mystery tour!</i> , Queens Collage Chapel, Parkville
Fri 29 Aug	10:30am	Frontier Services Morning Tea, Scots Heidelberg
Fri 29 Aug	7:30pm	Café of Dangerous Ideas – Neurodivergence, Banyule
Sat 30 Aug	10am	Installation of New Moderator Rev Salesi Faupula, Kingswood College, Box Hill South
Sat30Aug-Tue2Sep		Synod 2025, Box Hill Town Hall
Sat 13 Sep	9:15am	Presbytery In Council Meeting, Whitehorse UC Mitcham
Fri 19-Sun 21 Sep		CALD Young Leaders Weekend Retreat
3-5 October		UC National History Conference, Canberra City Church
17-18 October		Intergen: <i>Belonging By Design</i> , Crossway Baptist Church
Sat 25 October	9am-4pm	Discernment Day
26 Oct	2pm	Celebrate the Centenary of Worship at Ivanhoe UC

Presbytery Chair's Message

Greetings to all members of Yarra Yarra Presbytery,

By the time you read this the Synod meeting will be just around the corner. My thanks to members of Presbytery who have put their hands up to attend. I invite us all to keep this meeting and its attendees in your prayers, as together we seek to listen to the call of the Spirit and discern the way forward for the Uniting Church in the Synod of Vic & Tasmania.

At our November Presbytery meeting we will elect people to positions within the Presbytery Team and various Committees, so it is also the time to begin thinking and praying about how you might serve the Presbytery in 2026. Do you have a little time to spare? Are you curious about what the various Committee's do? Have you recognised a gift in someone who might need a little encouragement? If any of this applies to you, please reach out and have a chat. Blessings - Rev Heather Hon (she/her).

Presbytery News

Synod 2025 will commence on **Saturday, August 30** with an Opening Worship service, which this year will include the installation of a new Moderator, **Rev Salesi Faupula**.

Opening Worship will be held at Kingswood College 355 Station St, Box Hill South commencing at **10am** and will be followed by morning tea.

Presbytery in Council will be meeting on **Saturday 13th September** at **Whitehorse Uniting Church, Mitcham**. Details of the agenda and reports will be sent out to Presbytery Members in due course.



The first gathering of conversations about Missional Things took place on Thursday 24 July at Koonung Heights-Surrey Hills, with 42 people attending. While most participants came from across Yarra Yarra Presbytery, we also had people join us from the Gippsland and Port Phillip East presbyteries, eLM and Uniting.

Lively discussion highlighted the diversity, creativity and passion evident across our congregations, as well as a strong collective desire to grow in mission together. People reflected on being open to change, shared stories about a variety of local missional activities and voiced a shared commitment to engaging with local communities.

There was value in the opportunity to connect with others across the church, to hear stories and share experiences. Feedback after the event indicates that participants found the discussion inspiring and energising, and there is good interest in holding future gatherings that focus more deeply on particular topics and missional practices. Future topics of interest include discussions on social enterprise, discipleship, faith-sharing in everyday conversations, worship as mission and practical insights into community engagement and compliance. There is also interest in bold thinking around new expressions of church and making better use of missional grants.

So stay tuned for news about future gatherings of conversations about Missional Things!

Peace, Nadine

John Wesley's Clock: a Methodist mystery tour!

Presented by the VicTas Uniting Church Historical Society

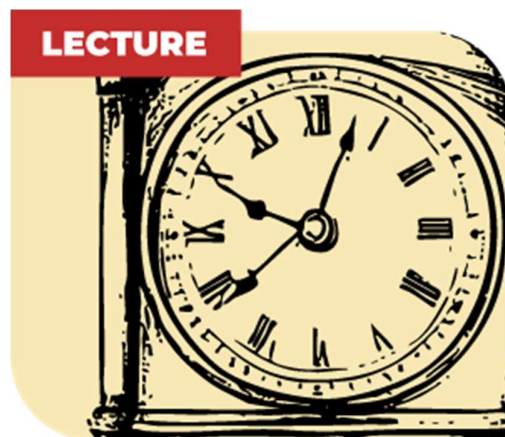
Talk by Prof Graem Davison AO.

FREE EVENT

Sunday 24 August 2025 at 2:30pm

Queens College Chapel, University of Melbourne, 1-17 College Crescent Parkville.

Or for a zoom link email: ken.barelli@bigpond.com Enquires: call Ken on 0418 317 942



Frontier Services Morning Tea - 29th August 10:30am

James Nevein of Frontier Services invites you to a morning tea at Banyule on the 29th August.

You'll hear from Director of Frontier Services Rob Floyd about Frontier Services vision to expand care and provide support to those living in remote parts of Australia.

Date: Friday, August 29

Time: 10.30 am (for an 11 am start) to noon

Location: Scots Uniting Church, 185 Burgundy St., Heidelberg. (The church is part of the Banyule Network of Uniting Churches).

Some parking will be available at the church and it is only a five-minute walk from the Heidelberg Railway Station.

RSVP: By Thursday, August 21 to James Nevein at:

E: jamesn@frontierservices.org

T: 0457 211 450

(When replying, please advise if you have any special dietary requirements.)

Café of Dangerous Ideas – 29th August 7:30pm



Neurodivergence is an umbrella term that encompasses any variation of brain wiring that significantly differs from what is typical brain functioning.

Dyslexia, dyspraxia, dyscalculia, tic disorders, obsessive-compulsive disorder, sensory processing disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder and many more brain-based differences all fall under the

neurodiversity banner, but ADHD and autism seem to be getting much of the airtime. What difference does it make? How do we engage with, learn from and enjoy the variety that neurodiversity offers us in the way we think and act?

The Rev. Glen Wesley (from St Aidans Anglican in Strathmore) has done some work on how we integrate neurodiversity into Church life and will speak about his learnings at the Cafe of Dangerous Ideas - part of the Banyule Network of Uniting Churches - on **Friday the 29th August at 7.30pm**. All welcome. Contact David Landis-Morse if you'd like more details on 0409 180 176.

The newsletter is sent to Church Council Secretaries and Presbytery members. If you should not be receiving it, please contact myself at ann.williamson@victas.uca.org.au with the name of your congregation and the name of the correct person to receive PYY News.

Feast of Faith: CALD Young Leaders Weekend Retreat

Our 2nd Gen CALD Leaders Retreat is happening again in **September**. Please find the flyer with the details attached with this email for you to view.

Given the success of last year, I strongly encourage you to nominate and send through any of your leaders to be part of this year's opportunity. This weekend we will continue to empower and enrich our leaders.

When: Friday 19th of September – Sunday 21st of September 2025

Where: Peninsula Outdoors (Merrick)

Who's it for: UCA CALD members aged 18–35

Costs: \$100 per person

Register online at <https://events.humanitix.com/feastoffaith>

If you require further information or a copy of the flyer, please contact Virginia Lavaki, Younger Generations Multicultural Communities, eLM, virginia.lavaki@victas.uca.org.au; ph 9340 8882



All who have an interest in the heritage of our churches are invited to register for the UC National History Conference to be held at Canberra City Church on **3-5 October**.

The theme is about our church offering a 'prophetic voice' having spoken up on issues affecting Australia. Speakers will look at the impact of the church's influence in the past and give a focus to the present and offer inspiration for the future.

Please visit our website (below) for information and registration options.

www.uniting.church/uca-national-history-society/

Enquiries: Rev Ivan Roberts – mobile 0422 648 191

Discernment Day - in person and online 25 Oct 2025

Are you wondering "where to from here" in terms of your discipleship? Ever thought about what God might be calling you to? And how do you know it's a call from God?

The Synod equipping Leadership for Mission team warmly invites you to attend a Discernment Day on **Saturday 25 October**.

We will offer an opportunity to learn about discernment, lay and ordained ministries, UCA processes, and educational pathways. This event will be held in person in Parkville and online. All are welcome. Come and see!

Register online at <https://events.humanitix.com/discernment-day>

Where: Centre For Theology and Ministry, 29 College Crescent Parkville

When: 9am-4pm Saturday 25 October

Cost: \$40 per person (in-person); Free (online via Zoom).

Centenary of Worship Ivanhoe UC – October 2025

The Ivanhoe congregation was established in 1890, with the current building erected in 1925, and the first service held on October 24 of that year.

Members at Ivanhoe are excited about the up and coming 100 years of worship in this building and extend a warm invitation to representatives of Presbytery to join in for what should be a wonderful celebration.

To commemorate the centenary of worship in this building, a day of celebrations will be held on **October 26 2025**.

10am Network Service followed by a light lunch.

There will be a display of **memorabilia** and at 2.00pm there will be a **music event**.

Craft items from Camberwell UC “Messy Church”

Camberwell Uniting Church has been running Messy Church for 13 years but have decided to end it as of Christmas. If you know of any other Messy Churches or other groups (kinder, playgroups etc) in Yarra Yarra Presbytery or beyond, that would like craft items please contact Fiona Ensor (0433 340 116) or call Camberwell UC Office and leave a message.

August Newsletter Deadline: 14th September

Please forward articles and other information you wish to share with the Presbytery of Yarra Yarra (in Word or image format, not PDF) to

ann.williamson@victas.uca.org.au by 14th of the month.



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DIOCESE OF
MELBOURNE



Belonging by Design

Embracing Neurodiverse
Children, Youth & Families in Ministry

SAVE THE DATE!

17 October, 2025

Pastors, children &
youth staff & key
leaders

18 October, 2025

Pastors, leaders and
church volunteers

Crossway Baptist Church
2 Vision Drive, Burwood

Keynote Speaker
Kirstyn Oliver



Keynote Speaker
Louise Gosbell



more details to come
intergen.org.au