

NORTHERN SYNOD E-NEWS

Verse of the Week

And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

Colossians 3: 15

Dates & Events

- Reconciliation Week 26 May -3 June
- Sorry Day 26 May
- Godly Play 24 - 26 June
- Assembly 17 - 18 July
- Synod 4 - 9 October

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." **Acts 1:8**

The task of this mission is getting harder. There are many challenges, but we need not be afraid, anxious, and doubtful. Because when Jesus sends you out to carry his mission, it is always a guarantee. He is with us to the end of time. We need to have the faith and militant zeal to love Jesus, which manifest itself in carrying out our mission.

Of course, we need to have the spirit of Christ, as people who live in truth and love, consistently not seasonally. Be courageous and do not hesitate! Instead, consistently express faith starting in the simplest ways as well as continuing to communicate personally with Jesus who sent us. We must dare to get away from our own comfort zones. But we are required to be missionaries today in the world. Even as sheep among wolves. It is full of challenges, difficulties, rejection, and suffering, but we must trust and believe.

Our only guarantee is Christ Himself. He is with us always to the end of time.

Rev Thresi Mauboy
Moderator



Assembly News

Uniting Church National History Society Conference - "Growing Up Uniting"

You are welcome to attend the 3rd Biennial History Conference with guest speakers, Dr Deidre Palmer, "Roundtable Conversations with Uniting Church Young People", Associate Professor Ruth Powell, "Growing up Uniting: an inside out perspective and Rev. Dr William Emilsen and Dr Elizabeth Watson, "Growing up Uniting: Insights to ponder; lessons to heed" along with other speakers and events organised over the three day conference.

More information can be found here: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/growing-up-uniting-tickets-138188825497>

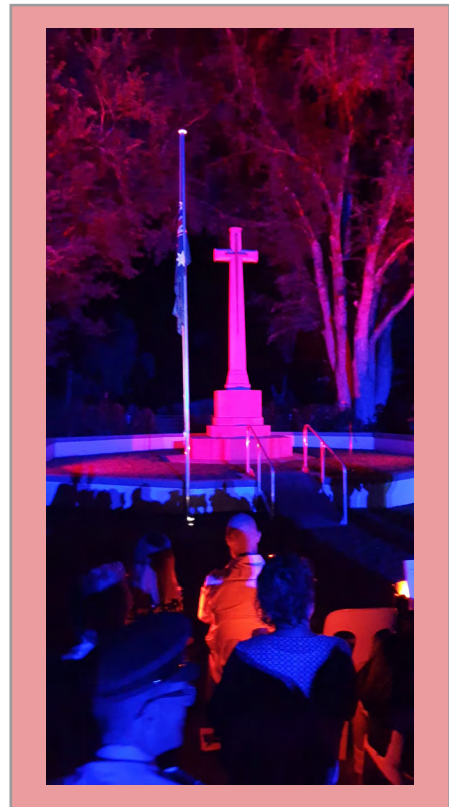
Feature Story

The cool, pre-dawn air was a delightful change from the oppressive, hot and humid April weather. Maybe the Dry Season was on its way, or was it just that I was 100km inland at Adelaide River?

I turned my car into Memorial Drive and headed towards the War Memorial Cemetery; arriving for my first official function as Moderator-elect.

Still dark, I became aware of people walking along the roadside; two people, three, four, . . oh, lots of people; in fact a growing number of men, women and children heading to the dawn service. As the trickle of walkers became a steady flow and then a moving crowd, I pulled over, parked and joined the silent stream of walkers heading to pay their respects. I was glad that I chose to walk the last 600 metres rather than use my official car park pass. There was something very moving about being a part of the human procession. Where did so many people come from?

A few minutes later I was seated. The bagpipes played. Goose pimples; or was it just that it was cold? An official made a comment about switching off phones and social distancing. A murmur, a half-laugh, ran through the crowd. The ceremony began. Military personnel attended to the protocols. It was very moving. The most moving thing for me was how many ordinary Territorians were there. We were all together in our ordinariness; and in our gratitude for the sacrifice of those young people in the 1940s who lost their lives defending Darwin. Even dignitaries were down to earth in their ordinary, common touch; political Leaders, Ted Egan, the NT Administrator, people with impressive titles . . . I do love this aspect of living in the Top End.



Of course, on ANZAC Day, we contemplate the horrors of war and the sheer ugliness of people taking human life with guns and bombs. The ceremonial swords and military drums speak of yesteryear and remind us that wars and fighting have been a part of the human dilemma for millennia. What is it that possesses people to violently attack other people; other nations? Nobody in their right mind glorifies war, least of all our service men and women who pay the highest price before, during and after military conflict. It is sobering indeed to remember that Darwin was attacked unprovoked; that it was also an unprovoked attack on Pearl Harbor; that the Holocaust was a sustained and unspeakable evil; that in later years people like Pol Pot and Idi Amin oversaw bloodthirsty, murderous regimes; and that many other horrors of the past century could be named in this space. Defending one's family, friends and nation from violent aggression appears to be an ongoing necessity in a world where fear and hatred, greed and power-over-others continue.

This morning, I paid my respects to our men and women who serve and keep us all safe.

The soft light of pre-dawn began to reveal silhouetted trees. Chaplain Mitchell Herps spoke briefly and succinctly, "Greater love hath no-one than that they lay down their life for others." Poignant, among the head-stones of that hallowed place. Jesus too, that man of non-violence was named in that gathering; and acknowledged for his sacrifice of love, laying down his life for others, for all of us. Well said Chaplain Mitchell. Thank you.

As the haunting notes of a bugler sounded Reveille across the gathering, a kookaburra joined in chortling his happy contribution onto the breeze of the new day. How fitting. Wreathes were laid; books were laid; poppies were laid. Songs were sung; prayers were prayed; and a minute's silence was observed. Well it was almost silent. Our kookaburra friend added his own song of joy for all to hear. Lovely!

The Grace was shared; Military protocols enacted; and we were done.

The crowd slowly and respectfully began to dissolve, throughout the cemetery, out the gates and off down the footpaths and roadways towards the events of the coming day and our future. What sort of future will it be, I wonder? Do we still value mateship and courage? Will we reclaim our identity as a nation committed to a fair go and cheering for the underdog? Do we care about the vulnerable and the marginalised? What will our future hold?

On a day like today, it is good to reflect on things like this.

Thank you to all who helped make the dawn service so meaningful and moving. Thank you to all who paid the price for defending our country. Thank you to those who continue to put your bodies on the line for our safety. Thank you God for a beautiful day and the possibilities of a future marked by peace, compassion, creativity and kindness.

Grace and Peace to all.
The best is yet to come,

Tony Goodluck
(Moderator-elect, Northern Synod, Uniting Church in Australia,)

A short story from Galiwin'ku

Micky Wunurjmurra, chairperson of the NRCC Presbytery, and I visited members of the Galiwin'ku Uniting Church at Galiwinku on the 6th of May. [Photo 1]

Before leaving Darwin, I told one of the residents at Galiwin'ku, Kalusi Vu, that I would like to meet Pastor Timothy Buthiman Dhurrkay.

In our meeting Kalusi brought few old photos he has of Pastor Timothy when he was a young man, working in a farm under the leadership of a Fijian Agriculturalist. In our conversation Kalusi mentioned how successful Pastor Timothy was, as a farmer. We had some good laughs when we saw those old photos.

It was later on Saturday evening that a good friend asked, "You heard of the revival here in Galiwin'ku in 1979?" I said, "Yes I have heard of the revival story". He asked again, "You heard about the stone map of Australia?" I said, "Yes I have seen photos of the stone that is in the shape of the Australian map". My friend continued to say, "That old man, you met yesterday, Pastor Timothy, he wanted to have a map of Australia so that he could pray over it. But we could not find a map.

Then one day Pastor Timothy had a vision of a map of Australia located out into the sea at Airstrip Beach. So, he told a diver to go out and to retrieve the map. The diver went out diving, but he could not see a thing, so he came back. He was told to go back and to dive again. This time the diver was attracted by a light, like shining from a torch at the bottom of the seabed. He dived and brought out a stone in a shape of Australia. [photo 2]

The vision reminded me of the words in Joel 2:28, "I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions".

The stone map of Australia reminded me of what the Lord said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain and stay here, and I will give you the tablets of stone". Exodus 24:12.

There I was at Galiwin'ku meeting and hearing a story of how Pastor Timothy through the Holy Spirit, had a vision and of his determination to search for that vision.

In pursuing his vision, Pastor Timothy was rewarded with a stone 'tablet' map, of Australia. Let us be like Pastor Timothy, not to hesitate in pursuing our visions.

Jo Mar (Rev)





Northern Regional Council of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress & The Uniting Church in Australia, Northern Synod

**STATEMENT ON THE NT GOVERNMENT'S
YOUTH JUSTICE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2021**

We, the Northern Regional Council of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (NRCC), together with the Northern Synod of the Uniting Church in Australia (NS), representing communities and churches throughout the Northern Territory, make this statement to express our grave concerns regarding the NT government's *Youth Justice Legislation Amendment Bill 2021*. We wish to voice our strong objections to this legislation on the basis that it has not been subjected to a proper process of community consultations and scrutiny, given the inevitable and extensive adverse impacts it will have on Aboriginal children and youth, and on Aboriginal communities in general in the NT. We know this to be true because we count ourselves amongst the many key NT organisations that have not been consulted on this law or invited to give feedback. We also know that our constituencies including communities have not been provided with opportunities to give input.

We reject the underlying rationale that youth crime in the Territory is out of control which is behind the NT government's youth legislative reforms. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, youth crime in the Territory has reduced by 9%. We reject the assumption that the best way to address youth crime is to make it incredibly difficult for children to get bail, minimise their access to diversion programs, increase police powers to target and arrest them and implement electronic monitoring bracelets. We are appalled at this reactive approach which treat such punitive measures as solutions when evidence from around the world and within the country show that such measures only push young people further into the criminal justice system, and do not add value to the safety and social cohesion of communities. We especially object to this law because we know that it will disproportionately target and affect Indigenous children. Every single child locked up in the Territory is Indigenous, and that number will continue to rise under this legislation.

We all need answers, we all need to find solutions to youth social alienation, and we all need to live in safe communities. But locking children up is no solution for any society and it is no way to build a future for our country and for the Territory. Prison is no place for children! We therefore urge the NT government to seriously consider evidence-based community and grassroot solutions that address root causes, promote youth diversion from detention and the criminal justice system, and that appropriately support Aboriginal children and families.

Signed Micky Wunungmurra..... Date 14-5-21
NRCC Chair, Micky Wunungmurra

Signed Thresi Mauboy..... Date 14-5-21
NS Moderator, Rev Thresi Mauboy Wohangara

For enquiries:
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Social Justice Consultant
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Synod Prayer Meetings

The Synod Prayer Network meets weekly each Wednesday at 10am at the Northern Synod office and via zoom. Our group in the office is not large, but earnest prayers are offered by those present (and via zoom), including regulars like our Moderator Rev Thresi Mauboy, NRCC Presbytery Minister Rev Jo Mar, Rev Maratja Dhamarrandji, Mel Quilliam, Jemma Whittaker and Stuart McMillan. Our prayers are sometimes in language – what a joy!

We have planned a prayer calendar to focus on different aspects of UCA life in the Northern Synod, to fulfill the vision of building connections between individuals, congregations and agencies across our vast Synod. So far this year we have had prayers via zoom from Broome, Mowanjum and Alice Springs, and on different weeks we've had prayer points offered for Darwin, West Kimberley, UAICC and chaplaincy. Our focus next week is West Arnhem.

We are endeavouring to have a wider reach and participation by inviting different leaders for each week, and each week having a different focus. That is our goal. The zoom meeting link will remain the same, regardless of where the leader is.

The link is:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83256549908?pwd=TzhQTmp1UkZMbUNTeHh3SEk3Vk1Ldz09>

Meeting ID: 832 5654 9908

Passcode: 346227

One tap mobile

+61731853730,,83256549908#,,,,*346227# Australia

+61861193900,,83256549908#,,,,*346227# Australia

The four main areas that will focus our prayers are:

- Northern Synod (usually the first Wednesday of each month)
- Congregations and Faith Communities by Region (East Arnhem, West Arnhem, Darwin, Kimberley and Centre/APY). In the spirit of covenanting, we have not divided into PPNA and NRCC, but rather, regions that incorporate both. "Congregations and Faith Communities" will be our focus on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday each month.
- Life Stages i.e. children, youth, young adults, parents, grandparents, singles (usually the 3rd Wednesday each month).
- UCA Assembly (when there's a 5th Wednesday in the month; there are 3 in 2021).

The 2021 prayer calendar is on a separate page. We are really keen for people throughout our Synod to participate directly in the prayer meetings (in person or via zoom), or to suggest prayer points for their region/agency. Please phone or email to let me know if you'd like to be involved.

Also, if you or someone in your congregation is unsure how to participate in a prayer group, I can forward you some "Prayer Bites" on video that explain what prayer is and how to pray.

Yours in Christ,

Ros

Roslyn McMillan 0438 831 016

E: s_rmcmillan@bigpond.com

2021 Synod Prayer Calendar

	Synod & Agencies	Congregations & Faith Communities	Life Stages	Congregations & Faith Communities
February 13-14 SSC	3 Synod	10 Darwin	17	24 West Arnhem
March	3 NRCC	10 Kimberley	17	24 Centre 31 UAICC National
April [2-5 Easter]	7 Chaplaincy	14 East Arnhem	21	28
May	5 PPNA	12 Darwin	19	26 West Arnhem
June	2 Nungalinya	9 Kimberley	16	23 Centre 30 National Assembly
July 15-19 Assembly	7 Coordinate	14 East Arnhem	21	28 Darwin
August	4 Post-Assembly	11 West Arnhem	18	25 Kimberley
September	1 ARDS	8 Centre	15	22 East Arnhem 29 Northern Synod
October NS dates tbc	6 Somerville	13 Darwin	20	27 West Arnhem
November	3 Social Justice	10 Kimberley	17	24 Centre
December	1	8 East Arnhem	15	22 29

#Shaded area is school holidays.

Ministry Opportunities

Wider Church

- *Uniting Care Campaign Engagement Officer*

(More information may be found on the Northern Synod website in Vacancies.)

“We are seeking a highly motivated individual with appropriate skills to take the campaign to the Uniting Church community and ensure this campaign is successful.”

- *General Secretary, Synod of WA*

The Synod now wishes to appoint a new General Secretary who will be accountable to the Church in Western Australia through its Synod Standing Committee.

This position is the Secretary of the Synod and the Chief Executive Officer of the Uniting Church Centre.

More information can be found on their website:
<https://unitingchurchwa.org.au/jobs/gensec2021/>

- *Nungalinga College, Dean of UCA/NRCC Students*

Position description and applications can be found here:

<https://www.ns.uca.org.au/vacancies/>

Contact

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From the Media team

Greetings everyone in the name of Christ!

Hope you are doing well!

As a reminder, this e-news is all shaped by you! If there is anything you want to see or read, please email me. This can be anything from pictures, stories or advertisements.

I wish you all the best for the year, and may God be with you in all that you do!

Cheers,
Loui

Liusem Mauboy
Media & Communications

Darwin Community Legal Service



Free Legal Advice Service

Do you require help with:

- Tenancy Rentals
- Bond Returns
- Centrelink
- NDIS
- Discrimination
- Human Rights
- Employment Rights
- Unfair Dismissal
- Contracts
- Credit & Debts
- Consumer Rights
- Adult guardianship

Free Legal Advice Session

Every Tuesday

Darwin -75 Wood St

5.30pm – 7.30pm

Booking required

Every Thursday

Darwin - 75 Wood St

5.30pm – 7.30pm

Walk ins welcome

4th Monday of Every Month

Palmerston Library

6.00pm – 7.00pm

Walk ins welcome

2nd Saturday of each month

Casuarina Library

10.00am – 11.45am

Walk ins welcome

www.dcls.org.au
1800 812 953