



UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA
Northern Synod

NORTHERN SYNOD NEWS

MARCH 2025

YIRRKALA SERVICE WELCOMING PEOPLE FROM BIRRITJIMI BEACH



Our NRCC staff visited Gove to support Yolngu leaders from Yirrkala, in the East Arnhem region, as they invited members of the Birritjimi Beach faith community to fellowship, and to learn more about the Uniting Church.



On Sunday morning we gathered for worship, and Pastor Marrpalawuy Marika (inset) preached an inspiring sermon.

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

THE NAMES OF GOD

- an experienced translator workshop



The Names of God was the theme for our experienced translator workshop at Nungalinga in February. This was the first workshop for this group since 2019 when we gathered in Gove. Twenty-four translators flew in from eleven language groups. Ten of these languages are spoken in NRCC communities from Waruwi Goulburn Island and Maningrida in West Arnhem, to Milngimbi, Ramingining, Elcho and Yirrkala in North-East Arnhem.

The workshop was a collaborative effort between Coordinate, Bible Society Australia and AuSIL. Each morning after devotions training was given on numerous names of God from the Old Testament in the first week to the New Testament in the second week and each session included much group discussion as translators discussed the topics in relation to their own languages. After morning tea, the rest of each day was devoted to translators continuing with their own projects.

We held a planning session on the final day with everyone wanting to see a workshop like this happen every year and then smaller workshops happening in community.



The encouragement of gathering together was a blessing to everyone who attended.

Louise Macdonald

Coordinate Project Officer



THE COMMENCEMENT SERVICE AT NUNGALINYA COLLEGE

Nungalinga College held a Commencement Service on 21st February. It was a time to gather to pray for the year ahead and commit the work of both staff (pictured above) and students to God.



As part of the service Dr Yane Damanik (pictured below) was commissioned as principal. The new Art Centre and new Laundry were also officially opened.

Staff, students, friends and supporters gathered in prayer to thank God for a new year and for his many provisions as the College seeks to equip Aboriginal men and women for leadership roles in their churches and communities.



Faith Revival Service



Karama Indonesian Uniting Church invited renowned minister from Kupang, Indonesia, Rev. Yandi Manobe, to visit Darwin and lead a revival service.

The service was held in the evening at Darwin Memorial Uniting Church on 15th February 2025. With a theme, The Impact of Secularism on Believers, the service was primarily conducted in the Indonesian language, with English translation provided on-screen. The service was well-attended, and a time of spiritual renewal, worship and encouragement, particularly for the Indonesian Christian Community in Darwin.

The following Sunday, Rev Yandi Manobe preached at Karama Indonesian Uniting Church and also met with our General Secretary during his visit.

Thank you, Rev Yandi. We pray God will bless your ministry and that there will be ongoing fruitfulness in Darwin as a result of your time here.





47th Meeting of the Northern Synod 3 – 6 April 2025



I want you woven into a tapestry of love - Colossians 2:2-3

MAR

- Tuesday **18th** Language and Culture 9am-10am followed by Uniting House Devotions.
- Wednesday **19th** FAPS meeting
- Tuesday **25th** Language and Culture 9am-10am at Uniting House

APR

- 2nd-3rd NRCC Full Council
- 3rd PPNA Meeting 9am-1pm at DMUC
- 3rd Opening of Synod 7pm Nungalinga Chapel.
- 4th-6th Synod Gathering at Casuarina UC
- Combined worship service on Sunday from 9am at Casuarina UC - all welcome to come and worship with Synod members.
- Tuesday **8th** 10am Tony leads Uniting House devotions for the final time - all welcome.

Language and Culture

As part of our commitment to learning language and culture, we are starting a class every Tuesday morning at Uniting House 9am-10am. Howard Amery will be guiding us through the learning. If you would like to join in, please contact Heidi. Anyone with a passion for learning is welcome.

Invitation



Invitation

**Br Merric from the Taizé Community in France
is visiting Darwin**

You are invited to share in a series of activities planned for his visit

7pm - Thursday 20th March

Taizé Service at St Pauls Catholic Church

Pilgrims of Hope – praying for peace

Please bring a light supper to share

Friday 21st March

Nungalinya College - for Chapel, meeting students & staff

10am - Saturday 22nd March

'meet and greet' - Frillys Café - Nightcliff Uniting Church

Enjoy a coffee/tea and cake and informal chat with Br Merric

2pm Saturday 22nd March

Workshop at Nightcliff Uniting Church

Br Merric will share on the culture and practice of Taizé
silence, prayer, music and scripture

10am Sunday 23rd March

Taizé Service at Nightcliff Uniting Church

Inclusion – Simon helps carry the cross & Jesus speaks to the women
The service will be followed by morning tea

For more information, please contact

Rev Felicity Amery 0412575635 or Fr John Kelliher 0402850084