



# The Uniting Church in Wyndham News

10 September  
2023  
Pentecost 14

**We acknowledge the people of the Kulin alliance, the original custodians of the land which was never ceded and on which our buildings for worship stand and on which we gather.**



## OUR COMMUNITY NEWS FOR TODAY AND THE COMING WEEK

### Our lands and climate change: Anina L

Anina L (an 18 y.o.) in her own words is a daughter of Samoa, and last Saturday she spoke to a gathering as part of the Wyndham Learning Festival. Here is an extract, and the whole speech will be available at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/621987747878234>.

“... the voices of our Pacific diaspora to be heard on a platform for an issue that is ever so prevalent for our Pacific region ... a schism exists between the Pacific and the rest of the world’s attitude towards climate change.

... Sea levels continue to rise, forcing villages, families, elders, to relocate their homes to high ground. Temperatures have increased, placing pressure on already stressed food plantations and farms.

... Whilst our people are naturally resilient, where we take such events in our stride, none of these stories are normal; not the cyclones of increased frequency and severity, not the king tides that turn playgrounds into rivers, not the rising sea levels that render entire islands uninhabitable due to erosion or salinity in the water that stops us growing crops, and definitely not the terrible choice so many Pacific people are having to face of leaving the land that we were born into and hoped to be buried on.

... There is a Samoan proverb that goes “E afua mai mauga, le manula o nu’u” (From the mountains flow the blessings to the villages). As a secure and developed nation Australia, and the communities within, including the Wyndham community and our Pacific diaspora, possess the capabilities and leadership to advance the prospects of our Pacific islands. We are the mountains for the villages of the Pacific.

... In Samoa ‘fanua’ is the word for both placenta and land. In our tradition, the placenta or the umbilical cord is buried on your land. ... This is something that I adore about Pacific people—being a part of the islands we come from. You are born to land, to the same land of your ancestors, and that is where you die. And this is something that our Pacific Islands cannot lose; for when we lose our homes, our land, our islands, we lose ourselves.”

### A conversation: Sharon Hollis, Noel P and Shireen M: 20/8/23

The Rev. Sharon Hollis is President of the UCA Assembly. Shireen M is a constitutional lawyer. and Noel P is Director of the Cape York Institute.

**Noel:** We, the First Nations people, declare our support for the call for a First Nations Voice in the Constitution of Australia.

**Shireen:** Not one single indigenous person was included in the decade of planning by the Australian colonies leading up to the 1901 constitution. Aboriginal powerlessness has its source in the exclusion of indigenous people from the constitution. If we vote YES that will be a national commitment, a partnership of mutual respect. Religious communities could be the difference between failure and success of the Voice.

**Noel:** John Howard, political conservative in 2007 kicked off this movement for a new settlement. The Voice will be unifying for the country when we put the last pieces of the jigsaw together. The key to reconciliation is justice, when we put the wrong things right.

**Shireen:** When Parliament makes laws, indigenous people should be able to give advice. A Yes vote will be a constitutional commitment to dialogue.

**Noel:** The Parliament’s role is to legislate matters relating to the Voice. It’s the parliament’s job to supply the detail. When we First Nations have a Voice in our affairs, we will have responsibility and agency.

**Shireen:** Yes, is a vote for hope, unity, dialogue and a national commitment. All that’s being asked is an advisory voice in indigenous affairs.

**Noel:** It’s up to us to formalise the vision of a future Australia. I give my best wishes to the Uniting Church in Australia.

*These notes were taken by Neil T.*

## NEWS AND NOTES

**Bible Discussion Group**

You are invited to join us on Tuesdays from 11.30 am to 1 pm for a discussion about the gospel reading for the next Sunday. BYO lunch and share coffee and chat. Contact Neil T.

**Boys' Brigade**

Boys' Brigade – Monday night—7:00pm to 9:00pm at Dreambuilders Church, 37-43 Graham Court, Hoppers Crossing, contact Scott W or [boysbrigadewyndham@gmail.com](mailto:boysbrigadewyndham@gmail.com) for details.

**Pacific Elders call for Australia to End Fossil Fuel Approvals and Subsidies**

Last week, Climate and Energy Minister Chris Bowen made a last minute trip to Fiji to convene a Pacific Climate Change Ministers Roundtable, with the agenda of trying to secure a partnership with a Pacific country to host UN Climate Conference COP31. But as Australia Institute research has pointed out, the Australian governments, continued expansion of the fossil fuel industry is in conflict with its desire to host COP31.

Pacific Elders appear to agree.

On the day of Minister Bowen's visit, the Pacific Elders' Voice - an independent group of former Pacific leaders who provide guidance on future environmental, security and human rights threats - published an ad in the Fiji Times, calling Australia out for continuing to approve and subsidise the fossil fuel industry in Australia, despite calls (including the Port Vila call, just a week prior!) for a fossil fuel free Pacific.

The Pacific Islands Climate Action Network (PICAN) has also expressed concern about Australia's bid to host COP31 in light of Australia's continued expansion of the fossil fuel industry. (*The Australia Institute*, 30 August 2023)



## TODAY AND NEXT WEEK

**Worship services**

10 & 17 September: Justice Task Group: Season of Creation

**What's On This Week**

**Monday:** 9.30am Playgroup

**Tuesday:** 11.30am Bible Discussion

**Wednesday:** 9.30am Crossroads Property C'tee;

**Thursday:** 9.30am Gardening Group

**Friday:** 1pm Sew 'n' Sow

**Bible Readings –10 & 17 September**

**10 September:** Exodus 12:1–14; Romans 13:8–14; Matthew 18:15–20; Psalm 149

**17 September:** Exodus 14:19–31; Romans 14:1–12; Matthew 18:21–35; Exodus 15:1b–11, 20–21

**Rosters for 10 Sept. & (17 September)**

**Greetings:** Margaret B (Sandra S)

**AV:** Paul K (Christian R-K)

**Morning Tea:** Jan B & Julie H (Judith O'K & Dorothy R)

**Flowers:** Bev C (Lorna H)

**Music:** Gina L (Elliott S)

**Prayers:** Emily M (Ken S)

**Reader:** Leitu F (Sandra S)

**Pastoral Care**

Audrey Kateena (0435 064 088)

[pastoral.carer@gmail.com](mailto:pastoral.carer@gmail.com)

**The Uniting Church in Wyndham online**

Our Facebook page can be found at

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/621987747878234/> <https://crossroadsunitingchurch.org.au>. HX is [secretary@hoppersuniting.church](mailto:secretary@hoppersuniting.church).

**Church Office**

Church office is open Monday to Friday, 9.30–12 noon. Phone 9741 1084. Email [office@crossroadsunitingchurch.org.au](mailto:office@crossroadsunitingchurch.org.au).

**TUCIW News:** For any inclusions, please contact the editors **by Tuesday** (ph. 0427 812 606) or email [robert.renton@bigpond.com](mailto:robert.renton@bigpond.com).

**Bank Accounts:** Crossroads BSB 083-909 A/c 516109795. Hoppers Crossing BSB 013-915 A/c 354439707 Reference: Your surname.

**Boom gate** Remember the code: 0459# **To book for an event at Crossroads**, please email [bookings@crossroadsunitingchurch.org.au](mailto:bookings@crossroadsunitingchurch.org.au).