



*We reach up to God, reach in to  
one another and reach out to the  
community*

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## CHURCH COUNCIL

Chair	Ese Enari
Secretary	Alison Dain
Treasurer	Stephen Dain
Elders	Ese Enari Shirley Jackson
Members	Alison Dain Stephen Dain Carolyn Gates

## PASTORAL CARE NEEDS

Ese Enari: [esebuc20@gmail.com](mailto:esebuc20@gmail.com)  
0458 688 404 OR

Complete website contact details form

## BANK DETAILS

BSB 634 634  
A/C 100009085  
Brighton-Le-Sands Uniting Church



# A good place to be

It was a real delight last Sunday to hear Sue de Beuzeville speak about Peter and her having recently moved to a Uniting Church retirement village. “The Uniting Church ethos just pervades the whole place,” or words to that effect, she said with obvious approval.

The Uniting Church often gets a bad press. I’ve heard it described as “a Church without a theology” – and that was by a UCA Minister! More frequently, however, it’s people outside the Church who are ready to cast aspersions. We are often stereotyped as excessively liberal, unbiblical and politically driven. Such allegations come from time to time from the press, for whom the motive is to sell their product; and perhaps more frequently from other denominations, for whom a “whipping boy” can be a convenient means of keeping the flock in line.

Of course those of us *in* the Church know that our Church is not like that. Our theology is traditionally Protestant, but is also proudly inclusive. One of the fundamental underpinnings of the Uniting Church is that we believe that it is more important that we *be* together, than that we always *agree* with each other. Within our ranks, therefore, we have Ministers and lay people who hold differing views concerning matters of the faith. We have healthy debates and discussions, without fear of being shut down by those who speak for the orthodoxy and brook no dissension. The Uniting Church is a safe place for people to be honest about their doubts, and equally, a safe place for them to share their faith stories. We are the richer for it.

I wonder if you’ve ever made use of the Camden Theological Library at United Theological College. Any member of the Uniting Church is entitled to membership of the Library. It has an excellent holding of print materials, but also a vast array of resources available on-line. Unlike too many theological libraries, it does not censor purchases for fear of having something “impure” on its shelves, but purchases widely so that students, and Church members in general, may explore ideas and develop a richer, more mature faith. The Camden Library has been described as probably the best theological library in Australia, and it bespeaks the tradition of biblical scholarship which is vital to the Uniting Church.

Our Church is also inclusive of people. We welcome those who come seeking the Lord, and place no test of faith or doctrine on them. We recognise that each of us is on a journey, and we treasure the opportunity to journey together, hearing each other and

helping each other. We are proud of our Covenant with Australia’s First Peoples, but equally proud that people from so many national backgrounds find their Christian home in the Uniting Church. Our diversity is sometimes challenging, but we would not exchange it for anything. Jesus welcomes all people and so do we.

And yes we can be political. The Church takes no partisan positions, and endorses no political parties or candidates. But it does take seriously its calling to be an advocate for the marginalised, the poor and the disadvantaged. Social justice is in our DNA, and while our members doubtless vote across the political spectrum – indicating that we differ regarding *how* best to help those in need – we are driven by an earnest desire to see inequalities in our society and our world addressed. In fact we watch with dismay when we see some who claim the name of Christian blatantly associating themselves with political movements intent on maintaining the privileges and injustices of social and economic systems which already deliver for the advantaged. These are times when we are happy to be out of step with what is regarded as the “mainstream” Church.

So there is indeed a “Uniting Church ethos”. That ethos had its roots in the three uniting churches – the Methodists, the Presbyterians and the Congregationalists – but it has evolved in the forty-three years since Union. Our ethos is something of which we can all be proud. It was terrific to hear Sue speak about it in her new home. May it be just as evident in all the institutions, all the congregations, and all the undertakings of the Uniting Church. Perhaps we’re not the largest of the Churches in Australia, but those who are our members know that they have found a good place to be.

**Alan Harper OAM**



# Samaritan's Purse

In the recent newsletter the writer told of the 400 or more volunteers who spent from September 2019 to March 2020 helping bushfire victims in Victoria, NSW and Queensland.

They cleared properties, removed debris, shifted ash to salvage personal belongings and gave support to the devastated home owners.

When COVID-19 hit, everyone had to go home and things were at a standstill for a few months.

A person from Bateman's Bay said Samaritan's Purse brought energy and hope with them and found healing in the loving kindness from strangers.

Please continue to keep the bushfire victims in your prayers as well as the children in Fiji, Cambodia, Madagascar and Malawi who will receive Christmas boxes from Australia and New Zealand.

*Alison*

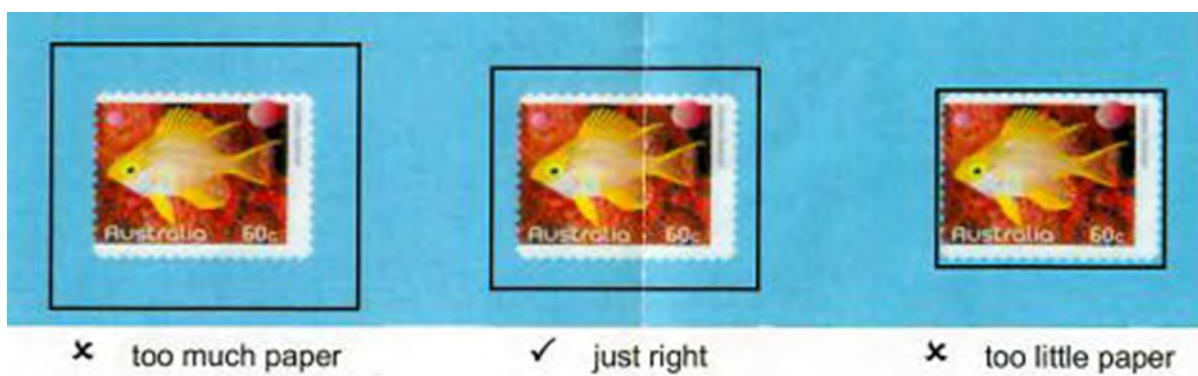
## Stamps

### UCA Synod of NSW & ACT. STAMP COMMITTEE

Since Christmas is coming, you will be receiving lots of cards and letters hopefully. Now is the time to remember the Stamp Committee.

In the vestibule at St Andrew's there is a box where you can leave your stamps.

Stamps are easier to deal with if they are trimmed from the envelope. Do not take them off the paper.



They will also accept donations of stamp collections

The Stamp Committee raises something over \$20,000 each year and distributes the money to community and outreach projects in NSW & ACT and overseas.

They also welcome volunteers at the Stamp Room, Level 2, 262 Pitt Street, Sydney.

<https://nswact.uca.org.au/social-justice/community-engagement/the-stamp-committee/uniting.stamps@gmail.com>



# How the community and the church came together

*The smile before the tears*

## Prior to the Fundraising barbecue

Three weeks earlier, I send an email out to the congregation and the Wells Christian Fellowship group for donations regarding this event. What a positive and encouraging response I received. Donations: 700 butcher handmade sausages (Dain family), 800 bread rolls (Enari family), 400 drinks (Well Christian Fellowship group), condiments (tomato, barbecue & American mustard – Terangi Enoka & Enari family), food handling gloves, foil roll, foil trays, 1500 serviettes, canola oil (Enari family), 15kgs of cut onions (Harry Quay), 10 bags of ice (Enari family), 1x 150l Litre esky on wheels (Sydney Whaanga), 1x65 litre esky (Vueti family).

## Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2pm at St Andrews kitchen.

Harry, Charles, Pamela, and Talafu were starting an emotional onion cutting task. There were tears in their eyes which demonstrated how much this means to them. Terangi and Carolyn joined this teary group a bit later. An hour and 15 minutes later, four sacks of onions were transformed to 15kgs of cut onions, and the tears were worth it.

## Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November at 7am.

The day did not start off well. I had no one to help me lift a 45kg 150 litre esky into the back of my Pajero. The bread rolls arrived 45 minutes late. The Bunnings barbecue sign was nowhere to be found. Customers turned up at 7.45am to ask for a sausage roll. The sausages and the onions were cooked, but no bread rolls.

As I said a small prayer, I convinced myself that things can only get better. The first sign of this was when I went to get ice, Woollies was not opened, so I proceed to the petrol station up the road to fill my car. The petrol was cheaper, and the attendant gave me a 25% discount on the 10 bags of ice. This is indeed a good sign. Stephen arrived to drop off 500 sausages and the \$150.00 float, already broken down in \$10, \$5, 2- and 1-dollar coins, before heading off for the working bee.

We setup up the barbecue. We put the drinks & sausages into their respective eskies together with ice bags. Pamela prepared the tomato and barbecue sauce dispensers. The American mustard was ready to go.

Eventually the **bread rolls** arrived, and the sign turned up. This show was ready to **roll**, with bread this time.



*I think she knows what's coming*



*The Master Chef and the Apprentice*





***Pamela, the hard task master***

Terangi was called up early to make the numbers as Gordon was tasked with taking his younger brothers to their school sports. The customers started turning up, albeit very slowly. Earlier in the week, I contacted friends and relatives about our fundraising barbecue. They were from other churches and denominations.

The day was overcast, another good sign, but it was hot enough so that a reasonable amount of drinks were sold. The customers started turning up in numbers, and their orders were also quite large. Orders of 4, 6, 10, and 12 sausages rolls were coming thick and fast. Compliments were given for the sausages and the bread rolls. People went away then came back saying how great the sausage rolls were.



***Have you got the correct money, Shirley?***

The generosity of people upon learning it was a fundraising for a church was evident in their donations after their purchases. Shirley was doing a commendable job in publicising St Andrews Brighton UC, and inviting people to come and worship with us. One gentleman said, "I can't come to worship, but here is a donation. So please pray for my soul." *We were very much obliged, not so much because of the money, but so that a soul is saved.*

As I have already mentioned in the church announcements on the 22nd November, Carolyn, in the fragile health situation that she is in, went to the working bee at 9am till 12pm. She then came to the Bunnings barbecue after 12pm, helped out, and left at 3.30pm to visit her fragile mum. She turned up again at the barbecue to buy more sausage rolls and donate more money. Seeing this effort by Carolyn, makes me realise the hand of God is at work in our congregation.



***Like a well-oiled machine, the crew in action***



***Crew change: Scots boys to the fore***



The Ramsgate UC youth (GLEE), turned up, and so did our friends from the Bexley/Rockdale Presbyterian church. The minister from the St George Samoan Congregational Christian church also came to offer support. Lynette Maasi, a Brightonian whom I have not seen or heard from since the covid lockdown back in May, not only appeared at the barbecue, but she also came back to church on Sunday. Rev Dr Hawea Jackson and his good lady Janice from the Ramsgate UC came, purchased 6 sausage rolls and stayed around for 30 minutes for a chat. A friend I have not seen for over 14 years appeared.



By 4.40pm, the barbecue stopped working. There was gas, and the automatic ignition worked, but we could not start the barbecue. *Is this a divine intervention, telling us that our work for the day is done and it is time to go home?????*



We sold over 740 sausages, 750 bread rolls and about 280 drinks. After accounting for \$150 for the float, we raise \$2115.40. The public donations totalled over \$322.30. The total raised altogether was **\$2437.60. GO ST ANDREWS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**



To see our church developing a good rapport with the general community, with other churches, with friends and family confirms that God is always here.

My sincere thanks to everyone, especially to Harry whose staying power was an inspiration for all of us. To Charles and Pamela Schofield for being there from dawn to dusk and for picking up the first lot of bread rolls. To my other fellow Brightonians, Terangi Enoka, Shirley Jackson, and Carolyn Gates, your selfless efforts is a great encouragement. I would also like to acknowledge the help from my children, Marques, Gordon, Komiti, and Arinona during the day, especially after their sports in the morning followed by their music lessons in the afternoon, they still feel the need to come and help.



This event confirms the presence of the Holy Spirit and reaffirms that St Andrews will persevere, sustain, and continue to grow for many more years to come.

**ONWARDS CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS. LET'S FINISH THAT CHURCH LED SIGN**

**Ese Enari**

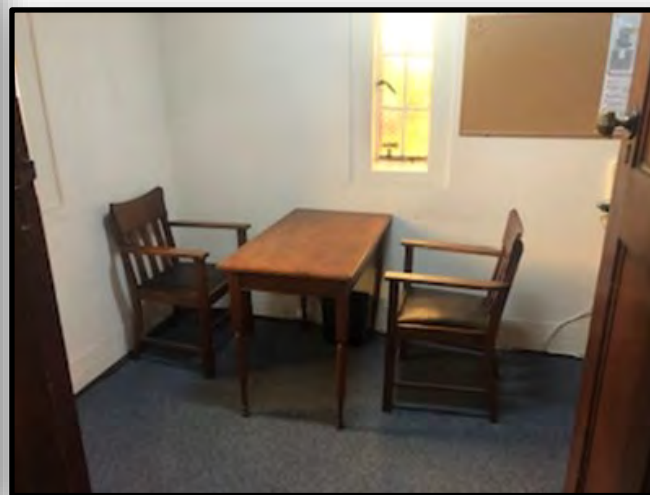
**PHOTOS: Ramsgate friends-Lavinia and mum; Afa & Alisi with their seconds**

**Different schools, different sports, but brought together by the fantastic sausage rolls**

**The Vaha family really love those sausage rolls**

# An historic moment!!

For something like 25-30 years the safe has dominated the vestry. It was originally bought to house a synthesiser, amplifier/speaker and laptop after a theft of a synthesiser and amplifier. The current synthesiser and amplifier speaker are so old that I doubt that they have theft value so they have not been kept in there for a couple of years. I established that the supplier was not interested in buying it back and wondered for a long time how we could get rid of it without incurring significant expense. Then I made my very first ad on Gumtree. The first enquiry was just half an hour after posting. They inspected 4pm the following day but moving it was beyond them. In the next day I had an enquiry and the responder assured me that he was a removalist and had all the right gear, so I promoted him to the top of the waiting list, and less than two days after posting the ad, the safe is GONE! He was as good as his word. It only just fitted through the doorway (door removed) and the space between the wall and the raised platform is less than it was when it was put in, since I extended it when I lowered the pulpit. Two very professional workers were happy to take it away.



There were times when I thought that we would never get rid of it. Next move is to clean and paint.

Need a removalist – highly recommended. Careful, cheerful, polite and efficient.

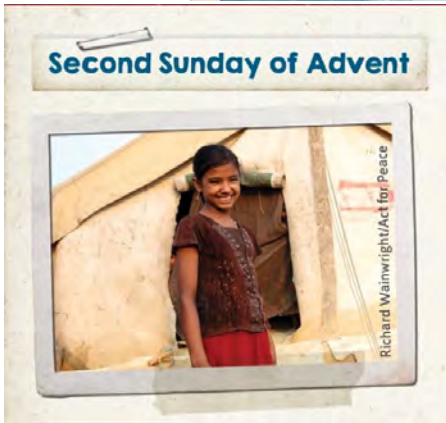
		<p>Sales</p> <p>Tel: (02) 9825 1984 Mob: 0418 234 090 Email: <a href="mailto:info@allareasremovals.com.au">info@allareasremovals.com.au</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.AllAreasRemovals.com.au">www.AllAreasRemovals.com.au</a> Facebook: All Areas Removals</p>
<p><b>CALL US FOR:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Storage</li> <li>Event setups</li> <li>Materials &amp; Packing</li> <li>House &amp; Office moves</li> </ul>		

**ALL AREAS  
ASHFIELD  
REMOVALS**

02 9825 1984  
0418 234 090

**THE DIFFERENCE IS WE CARE!**





# Sharing God's love through the Christmas Bowl

This year, life has changed for all of us. The coronavirus has affected us all, but not equally. For our brothers and sisters in urgent need around the world, the effects of this crisis are catastrophic. Already struggling, vulnerable communities are now being pushed to the brink without the support they need to survive.

As the world battles this pandemic, the legacy of Rev. Frank Byatt, the founder of the Christmas Bowl, has never been more important. Frank believed we have a responsibility to share what we have with others who need it. He saw it as a fundamental part of living out Jesus' call to love our neighbours as ourselves (Mark 12:31).

That's why, in 1949 he called his congregation to "get a bowl to put on your Christmas dinner table as a Bowl of Remembrance and see if you can get everybody round the table to make a generous gift so that you can share your good dinner with hungry children in other lands."

In Zimbabwe, families who had suffered through drought, floods and food shortages have now lost their livelihoods too. Since the pandemic began, Act for Peace's partner – the Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC) – has been distributing food rations, soap, clean water and vital health information. With your kind help, they're now supporting communities to grow their own food so they can get through this crisis – and towards a more secure future.





# Visit to Ashfield UC

## 11/11/20



Horace Wesley Brown 1891-1918 + 1917

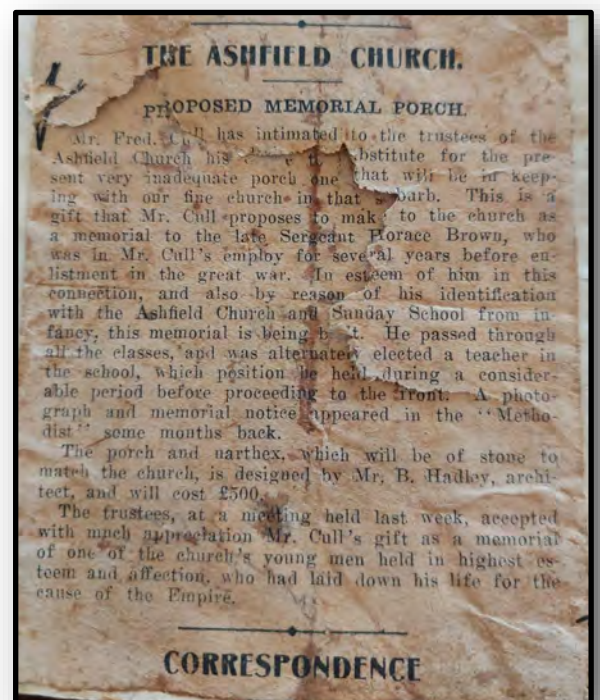
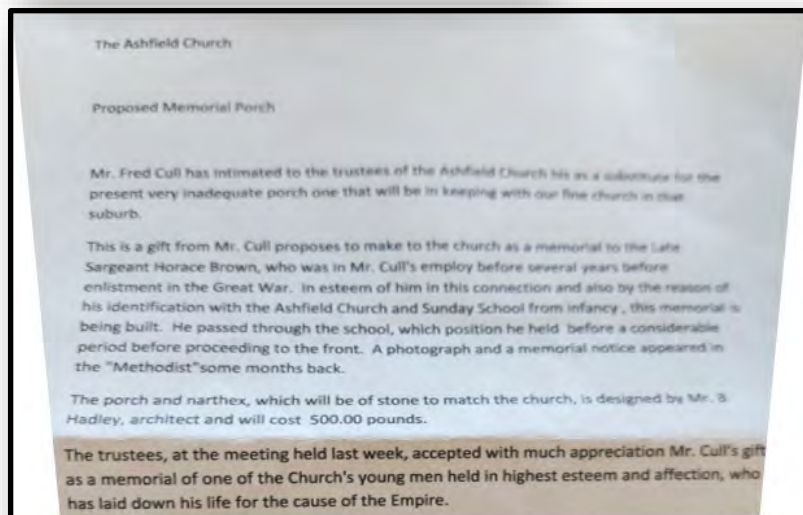
Following an article published in the "Methodist" which we found in amongst our old photos ones which related to Horace Wesley Brown ( Pam's great Uncle) who was a brother to Pam's grandmother Maud Walker (nee Brown). In the article it was mentioned that Horace had a plaque and porch erected in his memory at the Ashfield Uniting Church.

Horace died in WW1 on 5th April 1918 at the age of 26 in the battle of Dernancourt. He and his family lived in the Ashfield area near the church. He was associated with the church since infancy. (see article about the porch and the plaque).

We visited the Ashfield Uniting Church on remembrance day 11.11.20 and spoke to Rev. Bill Crews who showed us the porch and plaque which is all still there. Rev. Crews had a memorial service and we were there to celebrate with him and some members of the church.



**Pam Schofield**



# Our Outreach

**S**t Andrew's supports these activities, in particular

## **COOK MOOREFIELD COMBINED CHURCHES CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BOARD**

Supporting Nick's ministry at these schools. Financial donations (tax deductible) to Alison.

## **NICK'S BREAKFAST CLUB AT JAMES COOK HIGH**

## **THE KOGARAH STOREHOUSE FOOD MINISTRY**

The Storehouse is distributing food parcels on Wednesdays and still needs food donations.

<http://www.kogarahstorehouse.org.au/>

To keep you abreast of what is happening, our Winter edition of the Kogarah Storehouse newsletter, *Storehouse Seasons*, can be found at <https://www.kogarahstorehouse.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Newsletter-Winter-2020.pdf>. Some hard copies are available in the vestry during October.



## **LACLA-LET THE AFRICAN CHILDREN LEARN ASSOCIATION**

Carry on collecting your 5 cent pieces for donation. Or, in these days of contact-less payments, leave a donation.



## **SAMARITAN'S PURSE OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**

<https://www.samaritanspurse.org.au/get-involved/ways-to-give/>



## **ACT FOR PEACE CHRISTMAS BOWL**

<https://www.actforpeace.org.au/Learn/Why-we-are-here>






# December Roster

Please arrange substitutes when you are not able to do your allocated time.

Communion Sundays—someone please bring bread

Date	Colour	Preacher & Worship Leader	Musician	Bible Reader	Welcomers	Projector	Open close + Communion	Morning tea	God's Gang
06		Bruce Hanna	Alison & Komiti	Siunipa	Charles/ Harry/Dennis	Marquis	Dennis & Schofield Family	Pam & Charles	Shirley & Terangi
13		Alan Harper	Alison & Arinona	Marques		Shirley		Alison & Carolyn	Children in church
20		Lawrie Pool	Alison & Marques	Carolyn		Stephen, Dennis		Terangi & Talafu	Shirley & helper



Alan Harper	Alison, Arinona, Marques, Komiti	Alison, Terangi, Pam, Siunipa	Charles/ Harry/ Dennis	Gordon	Dennis & Schofield Family	Children in church
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27	HC	Rev Dr Hawea Jackson	Alison & Arinona	Shirley	Charles/ Harry/Dennis	Gordon	Dennis & Schofield Family	Ese & Shirley	Children in church
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## Holiday Notices

GROUP	LAST MEETING	RESUME MEETING	TIME
Prayer Group	10 December	4 February	9.00am
Craft Group	10 December	4 February	10.00am
Movie afternoon	None in January	4 February	1.30pm
Bible Study	None December/January	11 February	1.00pm