



FEBRUARY 2021 ISSUE 2

PRESBYTERY OF THE RIVERINA

Discipleship and Education Committee

Removing the stops and roadblocks to learning. Like a roundabout, D&E strives to allow for the continuous journey forward in your faith through engagement and learning.



INTRODUCING REV ANNETTE (NET) HAWKEN

What a wonderful place to be serving God in our great state of NSW. I have always loved the rural areas of our nation both coastal and inland, and finally God has given me the opportunity to engage in ministry with you all in the beautiful Riverina Presbytery.

For those who I have not met, my name is Rev Annette Hawken (most people call me Net, you may call me either Net or Annette). I am married to Nigel and together we have four adult sons and one daughter in law. We have left them all behind in our family home in the Illawarra including our beautiful dog Bella (I miss our walks together) and my budgie Gracie (I miss our morning talks).

I was ordained as a Minister of the Word in 2009 after three years as a Candidate at the United Theological College in North Parramatta and a year as an Intern Minister. My first placement was ministering at Gladesville- Boronia Park (Hunter's Hill, Sydney 2008-2013) and then at Keiraview Uniting Church, (West Wollongong 2014-2020). I thoroughly enjoyed both placements; the ministry, mission into the community and especially the people. Ministry in both of these places presented opportunities of blessing and challenge. In these placements I was able to grow in faith and engage with courses to educate myself further that would enable me to assist others to grow in faith and ministry, using their gifts and talents for the glory of Jesus Christ. It has been a real privilege to be in ministry, one that I have already begun to experience in this Presbytery.

What a joy it is to serve Jesus and worship together. Wouldn't you agree?

At present the title of my role is, Riverina Central Region Presbytery Minister Supply (part-time, 21 hours per week). My focus is to encourage congregations, support members, undertake pastoral work, meet with Presbytery leaders and other personnel and assist in encouraging further education for members. I am also tasked with drawing together churches in the Central Region to create a new common mission and ministry, utilising the diversity of the Central Regions congregations. I believe this is an exciting opportunity for each congregation to rediscover their own congregational ministry/mission as well as supporting other congregations in the region with their gifts and talents. I am available to lead worship/preach twice a month. I am seeking to do this by indicating to churches my availability. What a privilege it has been to lead worship in the churches I have already visited. The other task is to re-create a profile for the Central Region Joint Nominating Committee, in the hope of calling a full-time minister for this region, another wonderful opportunity for seeking Jesus' call for the central region.

Thank you to the Riverina Central Region and Riverina Presbytery for giving me the opportunity to serve in this role, I am having a ball getting to know you all and enjoying living in Narrandera serving God.

I would also encourage you to have a look at the opportunities for personal growth with the courses on offer through Uniting Mission and Education. Jesus wants us to be equipped so that we can serve to the fullest of our potential. With Jesus all things are possible.

Blessings to all,

Net (aka- Rev Annette Hawken)

Check out :

Veggie Tales - The Water Buffalo Song—Silly Songs with Larry

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bqri-f5cERk>



Net meets "Frankie" a Riverina favourite

INTRODUCING THE PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE (PRC)

Hello from PRC, the Pastoral Relations Committee of the Riverina Presbytery. We meet approximately monthly, and as the photo shows, our meetings have been online via Zoom.

PRC assists congregations and Presbytery with pastoral oversight and governance of all congregations in Riverina Presbytery. Some of what PRC does includes....

- *helping congregations and Ministers think about their mission and ministry (eg: 'Life and Witness' and 'Vitality of Call' processes)
- *recruiting ministry agents, including getting suggestions of names from Synod (via ACOMP)
- *assisting with the process of registering Lay Preachers and Lay Presiders
- *helping people who feel a call to ministry and with their 'Period of Discernment'
- *dealing with various pastoral issues across the Presbytery, including child protection matters
- *helping congregations be healthy & flourishing churches that manage difficulties well
- *helping congregations to work within the governance and regulations of the Uniting Church.

PRC is made up of both lay and ordained people from across our Presbytery. Members in photo from L to R and clockwise direction: Rev Keith Robinson (Cootamundra), Cindy James (Wagga), Dorothy Creek (Lockhart, Presbytery Chairperson), Rev Matthew Stuart (ADF Chaplain, Wagga, PRC Chairperson), Ruth Kerr (Wagga), Natasha He (Student Minister who is not normally part of PRC but was, on the day photo was taken), Rev Nigel Hawken (Presbytery Minister), Kay Thomas (Wagga, PRC Correspondence Secretary), and middle person is Stephen Trickett (Henty).

Additional members - "Paul Creek (Observer), and all Ministers from the Riverina Presbytery (Observers)."

If you have anything to raise with PRC or wish to discuss a matter you can telephone any member, or make contact via prc.chair@riverina.unitingchurch.org.au



RIVERINA RETREAT—WATCH THIS SPACE!

We are very hopeful that the Retreat will be able to be held this year and be led by the Saltbush Team. Unfortunately with the uncertainty of COVID it is too early to commit but hopefully more info will be available soon.



SAFE CHURCH FACE to FACE TRAINING

Refresher \$20 | Full \$25

The Uniting Church provides Safe Church training to all Uniting Church Ministry leaders and Church Council representatives so they can maintain safe places and programs, and to congregation Safe Church Persons

Face to Face training returns to the Riverina Presbytery. Many of our members are now due or overdue to update their Safe Church training and are encouraged to book into one of the below venues via <https://nswact.uca.org.au/safe-church-unit/safe-church-training/> or follow the link on the Riverina Presbytery Website Presbytery website <https://riverina.unitingchurch.org.au/>

Each session is approximately 1 1/2—2 hrs with the day due to finish by 4pm
 Course participants are invited to bring or buy their own lunch and morning tea. Tea and coffee will be provided. **Refresher Course** - 1/2 day **Full Course** - Whole day

Saturday 6 March	Griffith Uniting Church	34 Beal St, Griffith	9.15am for 9.30am
*Payment required by 28 February 2021, handbook will be provided on the day			
Saturday 27 March	St Andrew's Uniting Church	21 Jerilderie St, Jerilderie	9.15am for 9.30am
*Payment required by 21 March 2021, handbook will be provided on the day			
Saturday 1 May	Pilgrim Uniting Church	10 Tanda Place Glenfield Park (Wagga Wagga)	9.15am for 9.30am
*Payment required by 25 April 2021, handbook will be provided on the day			
Saturday 22 May	Cootamundra Uniting Church OR Ross Memorial Uniting Church	26 Cooper St Cootamundra Corner Binalong St & Derby St Harden (TBA)	9.15am for 9.30am
*Payment required by 16 May 2021, handbook will be provided on the day			
Saturday 26 June	Leeton Uniting Church	42 Church St, Leeton	9.15am for 9.30am
*Payment required by 20 June 2021, handbook will be provided on the day			



EXPLORING THE OLD TESTAMENT

Exploring the Old Testament will be presented over 14 weekly sessions (excluding a 2-week break at Easter) via Zoom:

Start date 11th February

- morning group - 10 am to 11:30 am,; and also an
- evening group - 7 pm to 8:30 pm



Note:- Participants need only register for one or the other of the two sessions being offered.

For more information and to register go to <https://ume.nswact.uca.org.au/>

Email: umeinfo@nswact.uca.org.au Phone: 02 8838 8912

LIVING OUR VALUES

This course is for:

- All those who attend a Uniting Church
- All those in local leadership positions in the Uniting Church

Living Our Values is an orientation to the: history, polity and ethos of the Uniting Church. You'll learn about how the Uniting Church came to be, its journey so far, how we make decisions together, how we understand and nurture leadership as a 'Pilgrim People on the Way'.



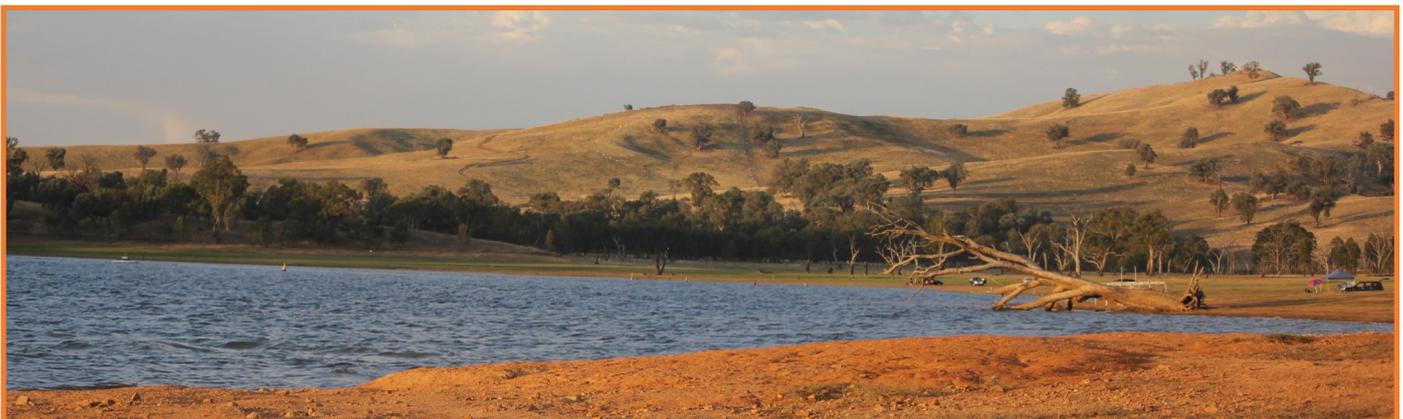
The Living Our Values course is about having a clearer understanding of who you are, who we are, and how we journey together as the Uniting Church in Australia, and the way all of that influences how effectively we engage with the issues of our time. You will learn how we make decisions together, and how effectively we communicate and nurture one another in our shared Christian discipleship.

Session 1 of 2: Thursday, 11 February 2021, 1pm to 5pm

Session 2 of 2: Friday, 12 February 2021 1 pm to 5 p.m

For more information and to register go to <https://ume.nswact.uca.org.au/>

Email: umeinfo@nswact.uca.org.au Phone: 02 8838 8912



GRIEF AND LOSS COURSE

Big or small, sudden or expected, loss is a part of our every day lives. Over the past twelve months, we have become increasingly aware of the tremendous impact of grief in our lives as we have dealt with lockdowns, restrictions, the inability to spend time with friends and family on important days, and massive changes to our church and community life etc.

The Grief & Loss course allows us to reflect on the losses we've experienced (throughout our lives), to share our struggle, to make sense of it all, to access resources to help us with the journey, and to learn valuable strategies for processing and working through our grief in helpful ways.

Join us for a healing journey on Friday, 26th March (7:30 to 9p.m.) and Saturday, 27th March (9a.m. to 4p.m.) with optional attendance at a service for healing and wholeness at Pilgrim Uniting Church (10 Tanda Place, Glenfield Park, Wagga Wagga) on Sunday, 28th March at 10a.m.

This is a Presbytery-wide initiative and all are welcome to attend. Contact Lorraine Hoffman (0427 204 051) or Yvonne Ghavalas (0419 594 633) with any questions or to register your interest. Donations towards the cost of materials are welcome.



Save the Date—KCO 2021 MARCH 20-21

As we cannot gather as a large community for Kids Camp Out in Narrandera like we normally do, we are exploring the possibility of linking in with Sydney KCO for a version where we attend KCO at home or in our church hall to create “OUR BIODOMES FOR JESUS”. This will be a hybrid version of KCO where kids do activities in their own space or church community as well as zooming in to connect with others throughout the day. The Pulse Team will provide resources required and connect the groups together where possible through zoom and pre-recordings. Resources will also be included for Integrating the whole church for the Sunday worship as an ‘Inviting the Adults into the KCO Bio dome.’

If your congregation or family would like to be involved please contact Neena Evans via camping@riverina.unitingchurch.org.au
Ph 0427 562179



“ESSENTIALS” - SRE TRAINING

All people engaged in SRE need to undergo training that covers the context of SRE, Child Protection and Classroom Management. Some of the training requirements are dependent on the role a person has within SRE. All SRE roles involve some kind of initial and ongoing training and can be completed in a couple of different modes of delivery.

SRE Essential training is the initial training required for people involved in SRE. It includes seven modules in total including Module 6 which is an observation lesson. This course follows the ICCOREIS Framework and is run and approved by: ACC, Baptist, UCA and Presbyterian providers.

D& E have resolved to pay the \$70 full course or \$20 per module for anyone wanting to train or refresh their training as an SRE teacher.

Online Course registration available here - <https://nswactbaptists.org.au/sre-training/>

Please contact Wendy Frazier to organise payment/reimbursement.

For further information reach out to essentialsretraining@gmail.com.



PRESBYTERY LIBRARY UPDATE

There are a large number of books available to borrow from the Presbytery Library located in the back room at Wesley Uniting Wagga Wagga. Please contact Betty Loiterton Ph 6931 1219 email: betty.loiterton@bigpond.com

The Presbytery Library is currently under assessment in the hope of making it more available across the Presbytery. However, the D&E Committee would also like to hear from any church communities who may also have libraries. Or maybe your church has some books and/or resources that are not being used and may be of benefit to another congregation. On the other hand you may have some church resources such as small communion sets, or special tablecloths, or resources for special events in the church's year. We are just wondering if there are some resources out there that are not currently being used, but may be helpful for another centre. If you want to get in touch and have a chat, please give me a ring on 0269206233 or 0427204051 or email me at lahoffman@bigpond.com

Larraine Hoffman
D& E Chairperson



PRESBYTERY WEBSITE

New resources available for service leaders and lay Preachers. For all the latest on upcoming events check often to keep up to date. <https://riverina.unitingchurch.org.au/>

D & E CONTACT INFO

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