



Uniting Queenscliff & Pt Lonsdale newsletter

Welcome to our quarterly Newsletter!

This newsletter contains current information about our vibrant life at Uniting Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale. If you have feedback or comments, please contact Lisa Quinney at unitingqueenscliff@iinet.net.au

Yarn and walk on country with Corrina Eccles

In January we gathered on Wadawurrung Country with Traditional Owner Corrina Eccles. After a yarning circle around the fire pit and a reflective beach walk, participants returned for morning tea and a chat to the atrium. Conversations focused on creating a welcoming community garden space that honours the area's ancient and living stories. Noting shared responsibility as custodians of Country and the importance of truth-telling, relationships, and hope for the future. We are grateful to Libby Coker for the *Stronger Communities Program Grant* and to the *The Mary Mackillop Highways and Byways Small Grants Program* helping us to fund this consultation.



Upcoming Events & Concerts

February 12th: Concert at Queenscliff Chapel with Rod Coote & Flora Falls
6.30 pm - \$ 25

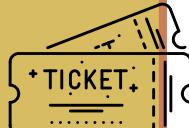
March 6th: Concert at Queenscliff Chapel with Riley Catherall
6.30pm - \$ 25

March 12th: Concert at Queenscliff Chapel with JC & The Tree
6.30 pm - \$ 30

March 18th: Unveiling of Sacrededge Festival
5.30 pm

April 12th: Singing Workshop and Concert with "Men in Suits"
10 am Workshop - 4 pm Concert

April 17th: Concert at Queenscliff Chapel with Michael Fix and Christine Collister
6.30 pm - \$ 35



Easter Sunday 2026

Join us this **Easter Sunday, April 5th**, for two special gatherings that promise to be memorable and spiritually enriching. We will start the day with a serene **Dawn Service at Point Lonsdale Beach, beginning at 6:30 AM**. If this is too early for you, you are welcome to join us at **10:00 AM, in Queenscliff**, where we will continue to celebrate the joy and hope of Easter. We look forward to celebrating Easter with you.

More information and tickets at: unitingqueenscliff.org.au/concerts-events/

2026 sacrededge

Planning is underway for Sacrededge Festival 2026, taking place 1–3 May, and tickets are now on sale. This year's theme, **The Cradle of Life**, inspired by Archie Roach's poem, invites us to reflect on the deep interconnectedness of all living things. It speaks to the urgent need to care for our environment while also honouring diversity in all its forms — cultural, ecological and human. Sacrededge 2026 will be a space to celebrate life, connection and belonging, reminding us that all life is precious and that we are all connected.

Together we'll explore voices of the edges — through talks, workshops, poetry, dance, song, art and conversation.

Recipe Corner

At UCQ we are known for our hospitality. We would like to share popular recipes with you of the yummy treats, our talented volunteers so generously offer to our events and concerts.

Jenny Shaw's glutenfree Pear and Almond Flan

- 1 tabs brown sugar
- 2 tabs blanched flaked almond
- 3 pears halved, skin on
- 150 gr caster sugar
- 150 gr butter
- 2 large eggs
- 150 gr almond meal
- 2 tabs gluten free self raising flour

Line tin with baking paper.

Sprinkle brown sugar over paper.

Cut pears vertically place on sugared paper.

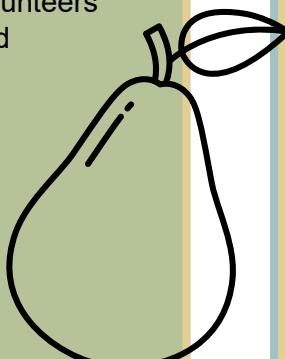
Fill gaps with slivered almonds.

Cream butter and sugar. Lightly beat eggs and add to the mix. Add almond meal and flour.

Place cake mix over pears. Bake at 190 C for 45 minutes. Cool in tin.

Serve with greek yogurt, ice cream or cream.

Enjoy!



Join us in making a difference!

If you wish, please donate to support the Uniting Church Queenscliff-Point Lonsdale. Your contributions aid in providing care and maintaining community centers, helping us connect with diverse individuals while fostering kindness and inclusion.

Bank Details

NAB

BSB: 083825

A/c No.: 515966867



Threshold Choir looking for singers

Threshold Choir is a small group of volunteers who sing gentle, comforting songs for people who are dying or in times of deep transition.

It's not about performance — it's about presence, care and connection through music. If you can hold a tune and feel drawn to offering compassion in this quiet, meaningful way, you're warmly invited to learn more or join on the 2nd and 4th Friday in Point Lonsdale at Kirks Place at 2.15 pm.

Please contact Anne Dylan or Jenny Batten
anned777@yahoo.com.au
batjen54@gmail.com



Jenny Batten,
Musical Leader

Anyone can join: Community Meal

Join us on Wednesday nights in Queenscliff for a casual community dinner starting at 6:15 p.m.! It's the perfect opportunity to unwind, enjoy food, and connect with wonderful people. We hope to see you there!



Gardening Group keeps Kirks Place looking schmick

The garden around the building at Kirks Place is lovingly tended to by a group of avid gardeners. The women meet every first Thursday of the month, equipped with shovels, secretaires, buckets, hat and gumboots. And then it is time to get to work; weeding, pruning, new planting, watering and mulching depending of the time of year. Members of the friendly group describe it as “*fun and very satisfying*”.

“We would warmly welcome anyone who would like to be involved in the maintenance of the garden.” says Jane Morrow, gardening gloves in hand.



Gardening Group members at Kirks Place in Point Lonsdale,

December '25 was filled with community, food & music

December was a beautiful month of gathering at Uniting Queenscliff. From our Remembering Gathering to Christmas Dinner and Concert, Carols at the Esplanade, Nine Lessons and Carols, and our Christmas Day Gathering, we shared moments of reflection, joy and community throughout the season.

A heartfelt thank you to our volunteers, musicians and helpers — your time, care and generosity made these meaningful gatherings possible.



UCQ Musos at Carols at the Espy



Jill & Anne, Volunteers



Christmas Concert with David van Elst

Find your creative voice through movement



Creaky Dance Theatre is a creative dance company for women aged 55+ who want to explore movement, expression and connection in a relaxed, inclusive environment. Led by Wendy Erickson, sessions are gently guided, welcoming all abilities, with no dance experience needed. Classes run Fridays, 10.00am–12.00pm in the Uniting Church Hall, Queenscliff, offering a beautiful space to move, create and connect together.

Bookings:

https://app.classfit.com/Studio/Wendy_Erickson_Dance

Enquiries: Wendy Erickson – 0439 168 250

 creakydancetheatre@gmail.com



Inspiring yarn with Uncle Vince in the lead-up to Australia Day



In the lead-up to Australia Day, our community gathered at Uniting Queenscliff for a powerful and reflective conversation with Uncle Vince Ross and Minister Greg Crowe. Uncle Vince shared stories from his life growing up with an Aboriginal mother and a white father, and spoke movingly about the importance of deep listening, genuine relationship and compassion. Rather than focusing on division or the past, he encouraged us — particularly those of us who are white — to reflect on privilege, move beyond token gestures, and commit to real understanding and togetherness. The conversation that followed, and the shared morning tea afterwards, left many feeling hopeful, uplifted and reminded of our shared humanity.

Join our Groups

- **Book Group** – Meets on the fourth Friday of the month (11 am–1 pm at Kirks Place). A welcoming space to read and explore diverse books together.
- **Film Club** – Monthly film screenings on the fourth Tuesday (2 pm) with tea, coffee and shared discussion; a relaxed and social gathering.
- **Friday Luncheon & Communion** – On the third Friday each month at 12 noon at Kirks Place
- **Feel Good, Sing!** – An inclusive singing group on Mondays during school terms (10.30–11.45 am) with warm-ups, breath work and song — followed by optional coffee and conversations.
- **Knitting Group** – Meet up on the second Tuesday and fourth Thursday of each month (1–3 pm) for knitting, crafting and community connection.
- **Just for Chaps** – A monthly get-together for coffee or chai and conversation, held on the second Monday of the month at 10 am.
- **Gardening Group** – An informal group working together on the gardens at Kirks Place and the church, typically meeting Thursday afternoons — all are welcome.
- **InterPlay Workshops** – Creative movement and storytelling sessions that explore body wisdom, play and community through simple movement, song and shared conversation.



Paint with Ryan Brearley

We're delighted to host Tonal Perception painting classes with Geelong-based artist Ryan Brearley at the Queenscliff Uniting Church Hall. Held on Wednesdays during term time (9.30am–4.30pm), these classes explore the methods of artists such as Max Meldrum and Clarice Beckett, focusing on tone, perception and creating visually accurate, evocative paintings. The cost is \$70 per class, with half-day positions available. Bookings and enquiries can be made by contacting Ryan at ryanbrearleyart@gmail.com.

“Community happens when two or more people sit together, seeing the other just as they are, and the humanity of each is enhanced”



Interested in becoming a volunteer?

We're always on the lookout for friendly faces to join our wonderful volunteer community at Uniting Queenscliff. Whether you're keen to help out once-off at events like the Sacred Edge Festival, or you're looking for something more regular such as volunteering in the Vestry Shop, there are lots of ways to get involved. You might enjoy being part of our event teams — helping at the bar (RSA required), lending a hand in the kitchen with food prep, washing dishes, or helping tidy up after a busy, joyful gathering. Volunteering is a great way to meet people, support community events, and be part of something meaningful. All volunteers need a current Working With Children Check. If you're curious or would like to chat about what might suit you, we'd love to hear from you — email hello@unitingqueenscliff.com

A reflection on symbols, safety and belonging at Uniting Queenscliff

“Why do you include the Aboriginal, the Torres Strait Islander, and the LGBTQIA+ flag in your spaces and communications, but not the Australian flag?”

It's an important question we have been asked several times in the past few months, and one I would love to answer here.

For people who belong to marginalised communities, seeing these flags can be very meaningful. For some First Nations people, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags say: *you are recognised here; your history and presence matter*. For LGBTQIA+ people, the rainbow flag can quietly communicate something similar: *you don't need to explain yourself, defend yourself, or brace yourself — you are safe here*. These symbols can bring relief, softening, a sense of being able to let your guard down a little more than in other spaces.

For many of these same people, the Australian flag does not always carry that feeling. For some, it is tied to histories of exclusion, erasure, or harm. For others, it represents systems and institutions that have not yet made room for them. This doesn't mean the flag is bad in any way, it means that symbols land differently depending on lived experience, and that difference matters when we are trying to create spaces of genuine welcome.

If we were to include the Australian flag alongside the others, it would inevitably change the message. For some people from marginalised groups, its presence could dilute the sense of safety the other flags offer, or introduce uncertainty: *Is this space still centred on inclusion, or is it returning to the dominant story where my belonging is conditional?* Even when intentions are good, the Australian flag can be a symbol of the dominant culture and majority identity in ways that ask marginalised people to do the work of interpretation and self-protection. Our choice not to include it is about being attentive to that emotional and historical weight.

This decision is not about being unpatriotic or anti-Australian. Wanting people to feel safe, respected and fully included is not at odds with being Australian — in fact, it reflects the values many of us hope Australia continues to grow into. Our national anthem speaks of “*For those who've come across the seas, we've boundless plains to share*” words that point toward generosity, diversity and shared belonging. To *advance Australia fair* is not to stand still, but to listen, to learn, and to grow.

For me, the flags we choose to display are a values-based statement. They are a way of saying that inclusion is active, that safety is intentional, and that belonging should never be uncertain. They help create spaces where people don't have to wonder if they are welcome — they can see it, clearly and immediately.

— Lisa Quinney



Lisa Quinney, Community Engagement Coordinator



QAL Arts Exhibition in Queenscliff Hall

QAL Arts is a local co-operative of artists from Queenscliff, Point Lonsdale and the Bellarine Peninsula. QAL members exhibit a wide range of art and craft work, including paintings, mixed media, ceramics, textiles and fibres, mosaic and jewellery.

All items are beautifully crafted and reasonably priced. The next exhibitions are February 21 & 22, April 4, 5 & 6 (Easter) 25 & 26 and May 30 & 31.

QAL is just the place to find that special gift or a treasure for your own home. Entry is free. Opening times are 10 am until 4.30 pm.



Uniting Church Queenscliff - A Sacred Space for a Secular People



Greg Crowe, Minister

Our society, Christian, other religion or no religion, is a Secular society. We usually understand the word 'Secular' to mean non-Christian or anti-religious.

But the original word in its Latin form simply means "of the world". In other words, to be secular is to be human in the world. In the European

Enlightenment it came to distinguish those who were 'non- Religious', but this was not a reference to a persons beliefs, but rather practice. Simply put, it described the difference between those who lived in the 'World' or the 'State' and those who lived in the cloister of a religious order.

Within the Christian Church there were those known as 'Secular Priests' because they served the community who lived in 'the World' and didn't practice their religion in a Cloister or Monastery. Secularism as I understand it is in favour of

- Freedom from Institutional Authority
- Freedom from Discrimination
- Freedom of Religions and Beliefs

To be secular is not to be anti-religion or anti-Christian, but is opposed to the imposing of religion and beliefs on people within the public space.

Given we live in a 'secular' society, and by definition we are all secular including those of us in the church, my human vocation in the church is to seek to nurture and curate 'Sacred Spaces for a Secular People, with Spiritual Imagination and Intellectual Integrity'. I guess I could say this is my personal mission statement.

Being a Minister of Sacred Spaces for me is like being a curator of a Gallery. Different rooms and different styles and modes of art invite and evoke different experiences and responses. Not all works of art speak to all people. The purpose of Sacred Spaces is to provide safe opportunities for any who seek, to find ways of navigating the splendour and tragedies of life with honest spiritual imagination and intellectual integrity.

For me, the essence of our Sacred Space on the Main Street of Queenscliff is to be a safe space to navigate life, to remind each person of the sacred heart in all life, and to enhance our humanity.

- Greg Crowe

