




# 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](mailto:unitingqueenscliff@iinet.net.au)

### Sacrededge Festival: 1- 3 May 2026


Step into The Cradle of Life — a weekend festival of music, creativity, and connection. From powerful performances and thought-provoking conversations to hands-on workshops, movement, and art-making, Sacrededge invites you to explore our deep interconnection with each other, the earth, and the stories that shape us. Featuring artists and facilitators including Radical Son (presented by Queenscliff Music Festival), Kirsten Penzes, and Archie Beetle, the program includes everything from singing circles and mandala making to embodied movement, storytelling, and community choir. Find out more on the next page or online on our website.



Radical Son,  
Singer Songwriter



Kirsten Penzes,  
Artist & Qi Gong Instructor



Archie Beetle,  
Founder of  
Queetown

### Upcoming Events & Concerts

**May 1-3, Sacrededge Festival:**  
Art, Music, Poetry, Workshops,  
Presentations...

**May 21 National Volunteer Week:**  
Afternoon Tea

**May 22<sup>nd</sup> Indie Folk Concert:**  
Dan Cully & Maddy Serong

**May 26<sup>th</sup> The Bookshop + UCQ:**  
UNICEF Fundraiser

**June 6-7, Knit in Public Day:**  
Open knitting Circle for Charity &  
Cafe, cosy knits for sale

**June 21, Indie Folk Rock  
Concert:** Alright Sista

**July 5, Jazz, Raggea, Indie Folk:**  
Victoriana Gaye Trio

More information and tickets at:  
[unitingqueenscliff.org.au/concerts-events/](http://unitingqueenscliff.org.au/concerts-events/)



### National Volunteer Week

What would be without our volunteers? We know UCQ wouldn't be the vibrant, welcoming and colourful space that it is.

Save the date, UCQ VOLLIES: **Thursday, 21 of May, Afternoon Tea** at Uniting Queenscliff. We would like to celebrate and acknowledge the valuable contributions of our volunteers during National Volunteer Week 2026.

# Archie Roach's 'Cradle of Life' celebrated in Queenscliff

Bundjalung/Lama Lama actor and writer Tamala Shelton will breathe life into Archie Roach's 'Cradle of Life' at the 2026 Sacrededge Festival. Tamala will be joined across the weekend by Kamilaroi musician Radical Son, yidaki/didgeridoo player Lionel Lauch and visual artist/youth activist Jessi Rebel.

The annual diversity and inclusion festival features the singing, artistic and storytelling talents of First Nations, refugee, LGBTQIA+ and the opening night will feature the local all-abilities With One Voice Choir.

The Cradle of Life theme will be further explored through an extraordinary exhibition and presentation by artist Kirsten Penzes, as she delves into the story of Hildegard of Bingen.

Across the weekend we will hear from Archie Beetle whose organisation Queer Town provides training for institutions to improve the experiences of LGBTQIA+ communities, while Emma Chandler will regale us with queer folk tales.

Those seeking poetry, movement and dance will have plenty of choices, and a heartwarming singing circle and community choir will be led by renowned folk musician Kavisha Mazzella.

Local refugee, environment and climate action groups will have information booths, and those seeking insight into Wadawurrung culture can join Corrina Eccles for a Walk on Country, followed by kelp art.

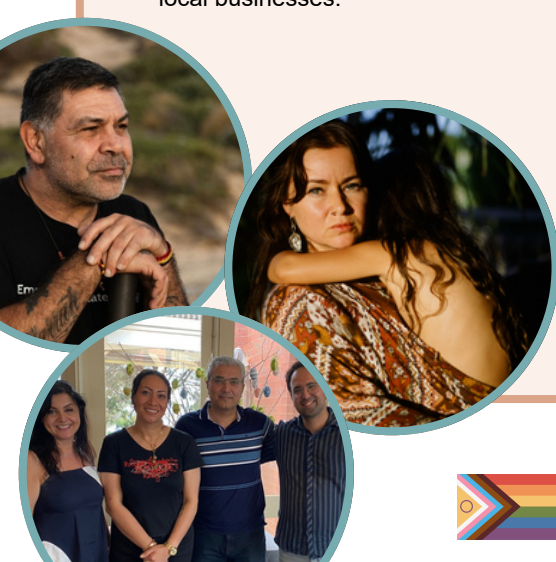
Piping hot paella will take any chill out of the air on Friday night, and a delicious Persian meal will be offered on the Saturday night by a local Iranian community, with other refreshments available across the weekend.

For program or presenter information, and festival tickets, go to [unitingqueenscliff.org.au](http://unitingqueenscliff.org.au)

Sacrededge Festival is supported by the Borough of Queenscliff, Queenscliff Music Festival, the Humanists Society, Presbytery of Port Phillip West, Progressive Christian Network Vic, and many local businesses.



get your  
tickets here



# The grass is gone - Garden transformation underway

We are thrilled to share the incredible journey of transformation that has unfolded over the past few months, thanks to the dedication and collaboration of our community.

A small, committed group first came together with a shared vision during the SBEA Gardens for Wildlife consultation held two years ago. Their goal was to enhance and nurture our local environment, and now, that vision is coming to life.

After extensive discussions, planning, and grant applications, we embarked on this transformative project.

In March, local company Redwood Landscapes began work on the hard landscaping, drawing inspiration from the church's artwork. The design features informal pathways that connect to the existing yarning circle, symbolizing our commitment to listening, learning, and walking together with First Nations peoples. This special outdoor space will not only enhance the area's beauty and biodiversity but also support local wildlife and provide a serene environment for everyone to enjoy.

Community feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, highlighting the impact of our efforts. As we approach late autumn, we eagerly anticipate the community planting event, supported by a generous donation of plants from the Swan Bay Environment Association. This will mark the completion of the current stage of our project. Looking ahead, we are actively seeking further grants to introduce seating and additional features to this cherished space.

Our heartfelt gratitude goes out to Libby Coker for the Stronger Communities Program Grant and the Mary Mackillop Highways and Byways Small Grants Program for their invaluable support. Together, we are creating a lasting legacy for our community and its natural surroundings.

Stay tuned for more updates as we continue to cultivate a vibrant, thriving space for all to enjoy.



The inspirational Artwork in the Chapel



Before



After

## 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.

### Mauren H's Apple Slice

- 1 packet vanilla cake mix
- 1 cup desiccated coconut
- 75 g butter, melted
- 1 small can pie apples (approx. 400 g)
- 200 ml sour cream
- Ground cinnamon, to sprinkle



Preheat oven to 180°C. Grease or line a small slice tray (approx. 20 x 30 cm).

Combine cake mix, coconut, and melted butter in a bowl. Mix until crumbly, then press evenly into the tray.

Bake the base for 15 minutes, until lightly golden.

Pie apple and sour cream are mixed before spreading on base. Mash / break up the pie apple a bit in a bowl to make it easier to spread. Mix sour cream into pie apple and spread.

Sprinkle with cinnamon.

Return to oven and bake for another 15 minutes.

Enjoy!



UnitingQueenscliff

CONTEMPLATION · CREATIVITY · COMPASSION

# Concerts and events at UCQ create sense of community

With 5 events in April alone it has been a busy few weeks at UCQ. Minister Greg Crowe, Community Engagement Coordinator Lisa Quinney, and a team of dedicated and generous volunteers have been hosting a series of concerts and other events at the Chapel in Queenscliff and New Hall in Point Lonsdale.

The focus for the UCQ team is always to create an inviting, inclusive and joyful time for community to gather around music or the arts.

*"In a world where we tend to isolate and seem to forget how to be in contact with each other in the real world, creating these opportunities for new connections is vital",* says Lisa.

Listening concerts are creating a sacred space where the artist and their work can be held in reverence - something very rare and special on the Bellarine. This is not just 'entertainment', it is intentionally showing respect for the musicianship and art being shared with the audience. During intervals guests have a dedicated time to mingle, chat and connect. Enjoy refreshments and a drink.

If you would like to be part of these special events, please refer to the events page online and book early as events do sell out from time to time.



Images from a concert at Kirks Place, Point Lonsdale on the 9<sup>th</sup> of April



## High Tea at Kirks Place in Pt Lonsdale

Volunteer Anne Denham created a beautiful high tea experience for our older community folk at Kirks Place in Point Lonsdale. She put love into every detail and surprised participants with her creativity. Classic tea cups and saucers, as well as vibrant dahlias and colour matched serviettes decorated the table for our Friday lunch and service.

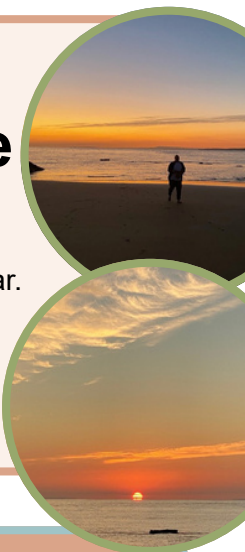
Our guests from Arcare had a lovely time and enjoyed the delicious sandwiches, good company and yummy treats. A truly special gathering that is meaningful for all involved, volunteers, guests, and UCQ staff.



Berris and Betty enjoying their High Tea

## Magical Easter Service

The ecumenical Dawn Service at the beach in Queenscliff was beautiful this year. The sun and the ocean played along and created a spectacular backdrop for this meaningful community gathering.



## 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!





Amanda Myring and Chris Wood

## Counselling available at Kirks Place

Amanda Myring and Chris Wood are qualified counsellors with the Australian Counselling Association (ACA), and are located at Kirk's Place, Corner Kirks Road and Winterly Road, Point Lonsdale. They provide private and confidential sessions in a warm and inviting Japanese inspired Zen decor, with natural light and ocean sounds filling the room.

For further information and bookings please contact  
Chris <https://listenandcarecounselling.com.au/>  
Amanda: <https://mgacounselling.com.au/amanda-myring/>



Kim Sargent-Wishart

## 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.

## Dance!

Swan Bay Dance Collective is a new project creating opportunities for enjoying dance on the Bellarine. Their first offering, Community Dance Class, is an open class on Saturday mornings, for adults at any level of experience.

These classes:

- share the foundational practices of dance: playing with weight, space & rhythm
- meet you where you are, with movement invitations you can adapt to your body's needs
- create a friendly space to explore the elements of dance improvisation & composition
- are based in embodied anatomy for more easeful, expressive movement

Saturday mornings 10:30-12  
Term 2: May 9th - June 20th  
(no class June 6th holiday weekend)  
Introductory special:  
7 classes \$140  
Drop-in single classes (if space allows) \$25  
Book online at: [events.humanitix.com/sbdc-community-dance-class-may-june-2026](https://events.humanitix.com/sbdc-community-dance-class-may-june-2026)



# 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](mailto:hello@unitingqueenscliff.com)



## Meet Anne, one of our dedicated volunteers at Uniting Queenscliff



Anne Derbyshire-Clarke

Hi everyone, my name is Anne Derbyshire-Clarke. I have been a member of this church for over 35 years. During this time, I have served as a Sunday school teacher, created quirky sayings for the notice board outside the church, been an elder of the Church, and constructed the newsletter for several years. I also volunteer in the op shop once a month. A vacancy for a church council member recently opened up, and I would love to fill it. I hope to become a worthy member.

I have also been a member of QAL Arts for the past 18 years, which has been set up in the church hall for the past 22 years. My interest is in "up-cycling" old and new beaded jewelry. I enjoy collecting and designing pieces for sale, which our group usually displays on the last weekend of most months. We have brochures with the dates on the table in the church foyer. We will be closed over the winter months of June, July, and August but will reopen on the last weekend of September.

I started this journey of beaded jewelry with my daughter to create something we could enjoy together during our family holidays in the caravan. I have been fortunate that people who know what I make often give me old beaded jewelry to restyle and sell. I hope you come to visit and see not only my beaded jewelry but also the work of our other talented artists. We have felted clothes and other items, basket weaving, artwork, glassware, mosaics, quilting, and design sewing, all for sale.

## 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

