



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

Winter at UCQ: A Season of Community



Winter Solstice Gathering at The Chapel

As winter envelops the Bellarine, our community spaces remain lively with warmth and creativity. This edition highlights milestones like Sacrededge's success, fundraising efforts, the growth of the Walking Together Garden, and new creative opportunities at Kirks Place. It also features ways to engage, upcoming events, and stories from our welcoming community. Thank you for being part of it; we hope to see you soon.

Fundraising Success

We are excited to announce the success of our recent fundraising events, made possible by your generous support.

- On May 24, we collaborated with the Queenscliff Bookshop to raise \$2,300 for UNICEF, aiding children in Gaza with essential resources like safe water and medical care.
- On June 17, our Refugee Week dinner raised \$1,790 for the Refugee Council of Australia, supporting advocacy for refugees and asylum seekers.

Thank you for making a difference!

Upcoming Events & Concerts

July 25, Fundraiser: Sing Out against Domestic Violence

July 26 , Album Launch Concert: Cheryl Hann-Woodlock

August 9, Live Concert: Alright Sista

August 20, Workshop: First Nations Weaving

September 4, Concert: Van Walker Trio & Sarah Carroll

September 13, Viewing: St Kilda Film Festival

September 26, Concert: Maxon

October 10, Album Launch Concert: ZOJ

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

Charting a Course - The Future of UCQ

30 people met over morning tea Sunday 28th June for a General meeting to appoint the new Church Council members and discuss the Charting a Course document. A special moment was recognising and being grateful for Doug Imrie's 9+ years of service to our community in the office of treasurer. We are so thankful for you Doug.

The Charting a Course document picks up on the great work done in the Mission Study and Parish Profile and seeks to clarify any ambiguity that leads to diverse interpretation that might cause confusion.

The invitation in the Mission Study and the Profile is for a new language and terminology, prioritising hospitality and inclusion over traditional language and religious doctrines. The goal is to live our core values alongside our neighbours as an authentic "community with community." While rooted in Christian tradition, we explicitly recognise that conventional church jargon alienates the modern, non-religious public. Our new course outlines a deliberate transition away from traditional dogmatic terminology toward a universal language of shared human values.

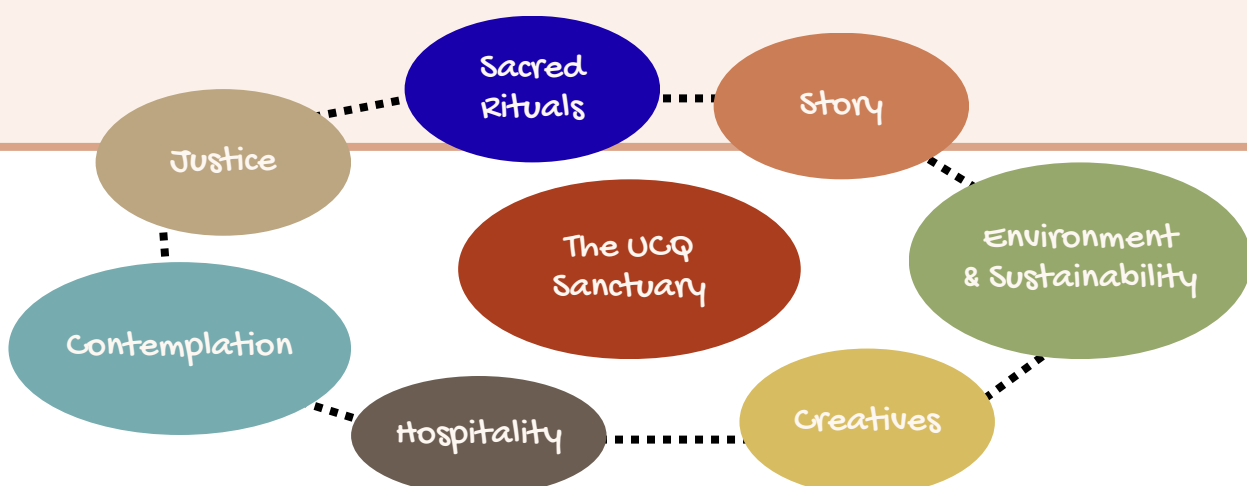
The gathering affirmed the aspirations and directions within the document and supported the new framework for our way of being going forward

- Accessible language
- A circular community ecosystem (see Diagram)
- Localised partnerships
- Democratised governance

Our new course is about living our life in relationship with each other, and our purpose as a sanctuary space for community is to be intentional about curating spaces and opportunities for us to share in a plurality of community gatherings around things that matter, and a deepened awareness of the spiritual, the sacred, the Divine, or the "sacred heart of all things," allowing individuals to experience and express this presence in whatever unique way is right for them. And we renewed our commitment to our core values with some slight editing. We seek to embody these in everything we are and do at UCQ

Deepening an intentionally sacred spirituality through

- Making deeper connections in community
- Living an intentional ethic of compassion, kindness, hospitality, generosity and inclusivity.
- Intentional acknowledgement of Wadawurrung country, and opening our hearts and minds to the voices of First Nations people.
- Intentional response to climate change and environmental degradation as a core spiritual issue.
- Intentional support for Refugees through partnerships and shared events.
- Awareness of mental health challenges within our community and building resilience and wellbeing.
- Intentional safe and inclusive spaces for the LGBTIQA+ community, welcoming and enriching our community wellbeing
- Intentional exploration of meaning and relationships through creative arts



Walking Together Garden Update - Planting complete

Winter is a quiet time for our new garden. After we completed the planting we are now happy about the plentiful rain for about 400 plants - grasses, wildflowers, ground cover, shrubs and several trees - coastal plants indigenous to the area and propagated by Swan Bay Environment Association.

See the
progress in
pictures



The area
covered in grass.

Grass removed,
mulch applied,
footpaths added.



Planting day,
lots of volunteers
getting their
hands dirty.



May

Native plants
are growing roots in
their new home.



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.

- **Open Studio** – Cosy Mornings in Creative Company. A fortnightly group of makers meeting from 10.30am -12.30pm at Kirks

Place on Wednesdays.

- **Tides of Welcome Choir** - meet every Thursday night during school terms from 7.30pm - 9 pm at Kirks Place.

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



New Term, New Swell, New Members

New Swell Choir rehearses every Monday night during the term. We welcome all voices with no experience needed. Our choir is around 80 people strong with new and returning members throughout the year. Each term is a stand alone term where we work on 2-4 songs over the weeks, all whilst having a cuppa and a biccie and a catch up. It's a warm, inviting and beautifully musical environment. Led by locals Ben and Tess they bring unique pop/indie/folk songs to you, and absolutely love the community that has been built. Now in its fourth year Term 4 culminates in a celebration concert at Queenscliffe Town. A recording from last year's concert can be seen [here](#). Booking can be made [here](#). And feel free to come along and have a look/listen. Term 3 starts Mon July 13 and runs for 10 weeks.

Tess & Ben
Choir Directors
New Swell Choir



Threshold Choir Milestone Celebration

Jenny Batten, a community choir leader, established the Bellarine Threshold Choir over a year ago, gathering singers to join her in this initiative. In May 2025, twenty singers came together to learn about the Threshold Choir network and began regular singing sessions at Kirk's Place. This welcoming space fosters harmony in their a cappella performances.

The choir has developed skills in bedside singing, using a gravity chair to enhance the calming experience for listeners. In the past year, they have performed at a funeral and participated in Palliative Care Week. Now officially the Bellarine Threshold Singers, they will celebrate their launch with a Song Bath on **Friday, 31st of July from 1:15 to 2 PM at Kirk's Place**. Everyone is invited to experience the comfort their music offers. Please RSVP to Jenny Batten at batjen54@gmail.com or call 0438 213 382.

Threshold Choirs provide songs of comfort to those at significant life transitions, singing in small groups with lullaby voices in three-part harmony. Their repertoire aims to convey comfort and presence, with chapters available to visit bedsides in various settings.

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.

This time our Minister, Greg Crowe, is sharing his special glutenfree bread recipe.

Preparing the bread for Still Point is a practice for me of deep attentiveness and awareness. I sort of follow a recipe, but it is more about the mindful practice of handling the ingredients, each one not measured precisely, but felt and thought about. And while I am preparing the dough mix, I am mindful of the gathering that will take place, and the people in the community who may be there or may not. I am mindful of the various things people are navigating in their lives; the joys and concerns.

So the making of bread is more than just bread making. It is an act of prayerfulness you could say. And it is also about inclusion. Making Gluten Free bread fresh before each gathering, for Sundays and Wednesdays is about making sure everyone can share in the one loaf. There is also something nice about making the bread, kneading the dough, waiting for it to gently rise in the fridge and then rise in my makeshift warming oven. The smell of it baking.

So here is the recipe and the practice for a Wednesday. Sunday is the same, but I make the dough on Saturday night.

9am: make the dough in a mixing bowl

1.5 cups of Gluten Free Flour

2 tsp of Xanthan Gum

2 tbsp of Tapioca Starch

1 tbsp of white sugar

2 tsp of Yeast

1/2 tsp of baking soda

Mix together

1 tsp of cooking salt

800mls warm water

1 tbsp Olive Oil

1 tsp Apple Cider vinegar

1 egg white

Mix in a mixer... beat until cake mix texture: 4 - 5 minutes

Pour into sealed container and place in fridge for 3 hours or more to slowly rise

12pm: Kneading

Knead the dough with added Gluten Free Flour

Form into what ever shape you want... finish off kneading with a little olive oil

Place on oven tray and cover with large metal bowl to create a form of dutch over

Pre heat electric heated throw rug. Wrap dutch oven in heated throw

Allow to rise for 1 hour or so - just when you feel it is ready

2pm (or whenever I remember)

Preheat oven to 200deg

Spray Dough with Olive Oil

Place in pre heated oven for 20 - 25 minutes

Remove and allow to rest.

Share with community in love.

Greg and Anouk



This was Sacrededge 2026

This year's festival theme was 'The Cradle of Life' based on the title of Archie Roach's poem and song of the same name. The idea is that this theme embraces all our intersections, with the earth and our eco-system nurturing our life. This year's festival program involved over 25 artists, musicians, and presenters, plus the With One Voice choir of over 30 people. Our spaces were curated with works of art from young local indigenous artists as well as an amazing and perhaps confronting exhibition of women in labour and birth in the chapel. These works of art were related specifically to the theme.

One welcome aspect of this year's group of guest artists and presenters was the number of younger people as well as the number of people identifying as LGBTIQ+. This recognises our intentional commitment to diversity and inclusion.

We utilised the Church labyrinth this year, and created a gathering space on the south side of the church. A tent was set up as a quiet space, decorated with soft furnishings and rugs.

The Art space was set up in the Atrium and curated beautifully by Mel O'Toole. This made a great use of the space for retreat and creativity, as well as the space for weaving with Corrina Eccles.

We were blessed and grateful to have Wadawurrung Traditional Owner Corrina Eccles – O'Toole to Welcome us to country on the Friday evening and conduct a cultural awareness and kelp weaving session on Sunday morning. First Nations voices were also heard through Lionel Lauch's Yidaki meditation and his sharing with Tamala Shelton in a confronting and soul-searching performance of Cradle of Life on the Saturday night. Radical Son was another headline performer on the Saturday evening and his deep raw voice and storytelling was emotional and moving. Following a brief conversation with Jill Shelton, Tamala and Lionel on the Sunday afternoon about Archie's poem and song, the Festival concluded with the singing of the song as a community which was the perfect end to a diverse and deep dive into the 'Cradle of Life'.

There is another wonderful aspect of the festival I want to share. We had such a great involvement of local artists and creatives. Carole Poustie ran a creative writing workshop, Kirsten Penzes lead a Key session on Hildegard Von Bingen and the Cosmic Egg and led a Qi Gong Session, local singer Maddie Serong performed and led a creative rituals workshop, and Mel Osborn created the Art Space, along with Sue Beeton facilitating the Labyrinth with Jennifer Kurtz providing a sound bath with her singing bowls. Along with our amazing Volunteers, this is an amazing local event, run by locals, affirming the richness of the sacred spirit in our local community and shared with a wide audience.

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



Calling all Creatives: come and play with us!



Images of the new creative group
at Kirks Place,
Point Lonsdale

Every fortnight Kirks Place in Point Lonsdale opens its art studio doors.

Paintbrushes swirl, knitting needles click, journals fill with colour, and half-finished projects finally get a little more attention. Some people create, some people chat, some do a bit of both—and that's exactly how we like it.

There are no lessons, no pressure and no expectations. Just a warm, welcoming space where you can bring whatever you're working on (or simply yourself) and enjoy creating alongside others.

Whether you're painting, sketching, sewing, collaging, knitting, writing, mending or trying something completely new, you'll find a cuppa, friendly conversation and plenty of encouragement waiting for you.

We believe creativity isn't about being "good at art"—it's about slowing down, expressing yourself, and finding joy in making something with your own hands.

So, if you've got an unfinished project tucked away in a cupboard, a sketchbook gathering dust, or you've simply been looking for a cosy way to spend a Wednesday morning, we'd love to welcome you.

Remaining dates for 2026: July 29th, August 12th, 26th, Sept 9th, 23rd, Oct 7th, 21st, Nov 4th, 18th, Dec 2nd. From 10.30 am until 12.30 pm. Donations welcome.



Ali Mayor, Artist,
in her studio booth
at Kirks Place

Acrylic inks and intricate patterns - Meet Ali, artist at Kirks Place

Hi... I'm Ali.

I've recently moved into the artspace at Kirk's Place where I paint two to three days a week. My partner John and I moved from Bendigo to Point Lonsdale in 2024 and now live in Ocean Grove. I have a background in art having studied fine art, photography, printmaking, ceramics and Art history.

Over the past 40 years I have worked in Advertising and Marketing in both Melbourne and Bendigo, edited two magazines from home while raising my two sons, cared for my mum until her passing, painted and exhibited at The Drying Shed Artspace in Castlemaine. In 2018 I opened a pre-loved clothing boutique which I ran for four years.

In 2022, I closed my store following the fatigue of Covid Lockdowns and after a much needed break, I picked up my paintbrush and began creating again.

Painting, drawing and creating is my meditation. When I'm painting, I lose all sense of time. Playing with colour and shape brings me peace.

I would describe my work as whimsical with a bold and vibrant colour palette. My favourite mediums are acrylic ink, acrylic paint and watercolour on watercolour paper and canvas.

As I paint, the rhythm of each brush stroke helps to regulate my nervous system and quiet my mind. I become immersed in the process watching colours blend and dance across the page.

I have always dreamed of living by the beach and spending my days painting. My favourite quote is "Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you've imagined" - Henry David Thoreau and now, I'm doing just that!

You can follow me on Facebook or Instagram @alimayorartist, feel free to contact me on 0417595677 or come and visit me and see my work at Kirk's Place. Oh... and I'm looking forward to running some art workshops in the coming months too!

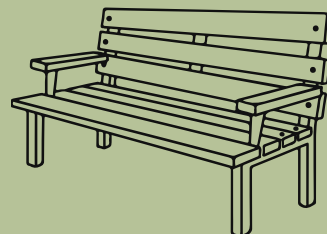
Could You Help Bring an Idea to Life?

At UCQ, there are always new ideas taking shape—and we're looking for people who enjoy rolling up their sleeves and being part of something meaningful.

Perhaps you're handy with tools, enjoy problem-solving, or simply love contributing to your community. Right now, we're looking for people who might like to get involved in projects such as:

The Walking Together Garden

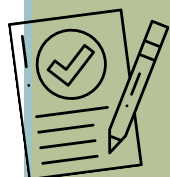
Our new community garden is beginning to flourish, and we'd love to add a beautiful place to sit and reflect. Are you a keen woodworker, upcycler or DIY enthusiast? Perhaps you'd enjoy restoring an old bench or even building something unique for the space.



Grant Writing

Many of the wonderful programs and events at UCQ are made possible through grants.

If you enjoy research, writing, or crafting a compelling application, we'd love to hear from you. Your skills could help bring exciting community projects to life.



Building Maintenance

We're looking for someone (or a small team) who's happy tackling the occasional maintenance job—changing light bulbs, replacing smoke detector batteries, fixing little things before they become bigger ones, and helping keep our beautiful buildings safe and welcoming. This role requires someone who is comfortable using a step ladder and able to carry out light maintenance tasks.



And of course, there are still plenty of opportunities to volunteer at our events, in the Vestry Shop, or behind the scenes helping create the warm and welcoming community UCQ is known for. Whether you can help once, once a month, or on an ongoing basis, we'd love to find a role that suits your interests and skills.

If something here sparks your interest—or you have another skill you'd love

to share—we'd love to hear from you: hello@unitingqueenscliff.com

When we gather:

Every Wednesday 5.30pm @ The Chapel (followed by a communal dinner)
Contemplation and Mindfulness circle

First Sunday each month 10am @ The Chapel (followed by morning tea)
Blend of Traditional with Progressive Christian and Interfaith Spirituality

Third Sunday each month 10am @ The Chapel
For the Spiritual but Not Religious - Music, Story, Conversations, Q&A, shared over morning tea

Third Friday each month 12pm @ Kirks Place
Singing well known hymns and contemporary folk songs, sacred readings, prayerfulness and shared community lunch.

