

CARPENTARIA PRESBYTERY

Link



Presbytery Office Postal Address

PO Box 201,
Mission Beach 4852
(07) 4068 8131

Office Hours

Mon Tues Wed & Friday
8.30am-4.30pm

Executive Assistant

Marie Dewar
(07) 4068 8131

office@ucacarpentaria.com.au

Presbytery Minister Rural & Chairperson

Rev Garry Hardingham

0409 276 940
presminrural@ucacarpentaria.com.au

Presbytery Minister Pastoral & Coastal

Rev Christy Allen

0418 184 834
presmincoastal@ucacarpentaria.com.au

Collaborative Administration Officer

Robyn Cooley

0429 195 506
admin@ucacarpentaria.com.au

UCA Queensland Synod Corona-virus Update

For the latest COVID-19 updates and
resources, visit the [Synod website](#).

Pastoral Notes Celebrations & Prayer Points

Please Pray For:

1. Garry & Teresa Hardingham for wisdom, discernment, easy solutions to difficult issues & safety as he travels around our Presbytery.
2. Christy & Peter Allen & family, for wisdom, discernment, easy solutions to difficult issues & safety as she travels around our Presbytery.
3. Robyn & Gavin Cooley
4. Ps Gewa & Cynthia as she faces surgery on Feb 3rd

Monday Prayer:

God of new birth we give thanks for this New Year & the Hope that it brings with it. Amen

Moderator Rev Andrew Gunton

Closing Service

Mareeba Uniting Church building

Sunday 31st January 2021 @ 9am

The Uniting Church in Australia Presbytery of Carpentaria announce the closure service of the Mareeba Uniting Church building (formally the Methodist Memorial Church)

Please Note: Due to Covid-19 restrictions, numbers are limited

Registrations Closed!

We will try and stream the service on our Carpentaria Presbytery facebook page, depends on internet connection.

For Sale

Carpentaria Presbytery is looking to sell the old Calvary office Photocopier/Printer/Scanner.

It is a Toshiba E-Studio 2550C; ID 11938 and is free standing. It was purchased from Delta in Townsville. It was under a service agreement until March 2020, until it was moved to TCCM,

The machine is functional and available for purchase.

Interested buyers to contact Presbytery office. \$300 Price to be negotiated.

If no response within the next 3 weeks, it will be advertised on Gumtree.



Induction Services

Presbytery Meetings 2021

May 14-16th

November 5th-7th

Friday 19th Feb- Rev Viliami Mila -Mossman

Saturday 20th Feb Rev Michelle Cullen –Mt Louisa

Due to COVID restrictions- Booking essential more info soon.

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PRESBYTERY

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Triples - 1-#LOL Hubba Bubba, chocolate, musk
2-Tropical (Pineapple, coconut, strawberry)
3-Tutti Frutti (Strawberry, Apple, Orange)

Can be ordered via contacting Robyn Cooley (Presbytery Admin) 0429 195 506

Pay via Direct deposit:

Bank: ANZ; **Account Name:** UCA Carpentaria Presbytery; **BSB:** 014-676; **Account #:** 4749 06 525



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**HANDMADE IN
MACKAY**

Garry's Thoughts

Go to the ant, you slacker! Observe its ways and become wise. Although it has no overseer, officer, or ruler, it stores its food in summer. It gathers its provisions at harvest time.

Proverbs 6:6-8

The Bible says a lot about budgeting and preparing. But, I particularly like this warning against laziness found in Proverbs. Particularly when it comes to planning and preparing the budget for the Presbytery; a task that rates up there with a visit to the dentist of having to sit through a (Insert name here) sermon.

But, it is a necessary part of the job. But thank God...oh amen...thank God!! for Robyn Cooley and Christy Allen, both of whom for whatever crazy psychological (or psychotic) reasons seem to enjoy doing the budget. Robyn, because that's her job and training. And Christy...well....mmm... not sure really.

Anyway, last week was Presbytery Budget time as we prepare for the submissions we make to the CPMP (Combined Presbytery Ministry Pool) in order to fund not just what we do in the Presbytery, but getting the monies to provide support for some congregations and fund others.

One of the reasons I really dislike budget time is because of the "drain" our Presbytery is upon the the whole system. You see, the CPMP is basically the money that each of your congregations give every month, combined with the same contributions from every other congregation right across the state. This money goes into a fund from which the seven Presbyteries seek both operational funding as well as any money available to fund new projects or support existing ones. And by and far the Carpentaria Presbytery has the biggest call upon these funds. In 2019/20 our contributions across all the congregations of the then North Queensland and Calvary congregations into this fund was just under \$200,000. However, our call these funds (that is, what the NQ and Calvary Presbyteries received from the CPMP was a whopping \$1.4million!! That's around \$1.2million that was raised in other Presbyteries for OUR ministry. Compare this to Moreton Rivers Presbytery that gave just over \$900,000 and received under \$300,000 from the fund.

Now, its true that we have the lion's share of most of the remote ministry and just about all of the Indigenous ministry, but its still a very sobering set of numbers.

The problem is is that the current process is probably not sustainable into the future. More and more the Presbyteries giving most to the CPMP are wanting to get more in return to plant new churches or provide a wider range of ministry. And thanks to Covid, there is increasing doubt that there will be the bucket of money in the CPMP we need to do the stuff we believe God is calling us to do across the whole Church.

This was one of the drivers, but not the only one, behind the formation of the Carpentaria Presbytery. With just that one act alone, we were able to make around \$100,000 of savings in the 2020/20201 budget alone. But we know more needs to be done.

So, it was with the threat of a shrinking CPMP funding bucket and our strong commitment to support the needs of our congregations, particularly in the Calvary Zone that Christy, Robyn and I gathered to go line by line through our budget in order to find the savings we believe we will need to make to the core funding of the Presbytery in order maintain ministry in our our most vulnerable communities.

And it was tough. By 2pm on the first day, I was starting to zone in and out. By lunchtime on day two, I was contemplating ringing Lifeline. But we got there.

We are bringing a budget to the table of the Presbytery Synod Interface (PSI) with a further almost \$120,000 in savings across the Presbytery. This mostly comes from Marie moving back the halftime and savage cuts to our travel and meeting costs. (Presbytery meetings and retreats are a costly expense when you have to fly so many people in for them and provide accommodation etc.)

And it will mean that we will need to make some changes. Firstly, we are joining our minister's retreat to the May Presbytery in order to cut travel costs. And while we know this is not ideal, we feel it is important to lay out the reasons for doing this.

We don't know yet what Covid has really done to the budgets of the other Presbyteries, but Robyn, Christy and I know that despite Covid, the congregations in our Presbytery have risen to the challenge of these times and we've seen some generous increases in CPMP contributions across the Presbytery. But we also recognise that we, as a church, at Synod, Presbytery and Congregational levels are going to have to change a number of things we have taken for granted for so many years.

Hence our support Project Plenty that is tackling some of the fundamental issues at the core of our church in order to sustain and grow ministry into the future.

Please pray for Christy and I as we argue our budget at the meetings leading up to June this year. And give thanks to the skill and commitment of Robyn who works tirelessly (and I mean this) to make sense of where God is leading our Presbytery into the future through her gifts in administration.

And please pray as we continue to make hard decisions in order to give every ministry we have in our Presbytery the best chance to grow and be fruitful for the Kingdom of God.

Blessings
Garry

Synod News & Info.

Warm greetings everyone

This week we celebrate the public recognition of nine members of our church community. Seven people have been awarded Moderator's Medals and two have received Medals of the Order of Australia in today's Australia Day Honours List.



We know there are usually more people within the church community who do receive honours, so please do not hesitate to let us know. Congratulations to all those who have received the recognition of your commitment and dedication to church and community.

I would like to thank everyone who has participated in Project Plenty including those who shared in our first *Shared Life. Flourishing communities* online workshop. I was inspired by the energy and ideas so generously shared. These will greatly influence next steps in planning our Plenty work together.

However you are spending today, in celebration of the nation or observing a time of mourning, I hope the day brings the chance to reflect and connect with family and friends.

Stay safe and well.

Blessings,

Rev Heather den Houting

General Secretary

Presbytery and congregation news



Stan Klan celebrates 50 years as a Lay Preacher

On Sunday 24 January 2021, Stan Klan of Toowoomba celebrated his 50 years of service to the Uniting Church as a Lay Preacher. Read Stan's story on [JourneyOnline](#).

Agency and service provider news

Lent begins in three weeks!

If your congregation is looking for some original studies to use, UnitingWorld have released a new set called "How to be a good global neighbour".

It explores why neighbourliness is central to our identity in Christ, whether we're called to generosity or justice, and why vulnerability is so central to our relationships.

Beenleigh Region Uniting Church who piloted the studies last year said, "We appreciated exploring what being created in the image of God really means for those who call themselves Christians and what a world fully reconciled with God would look like."

Visit [UnitingWorld's Lent Event](#) to find out more, download or order your copies online.