



KENMORE UNITING CHURCH

*Serving our God and community
with Heart, Mind and Soul*



REFLECTIONS

July 2026

Volume 26 Issue 5

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COMMUNITY GATHERINGS

Sunday

9:00 am Service each week.

Communion is celebrated on the First
Sunday of each month.

A recording will be available later in
the week advised by email and on CD for
those members who request it.

The following activities are held regularly.
See the diary at the back for monthly
activities and variations.

Touchstones (Art & Meditation)

Thursdays at 1.30pm in Community Centre
(temporary recess)

Mahjong

Fridays at 10am in Community Centre

Refreshed Shop



Open 9am – 12.30pm weekdays.
(yes - in school holidays!)

BANKING DETAILS:

Kenmore Brookfield (KUC account)

BSB: 034055 **Account for regular giving:**
308980 Reference (Surname + offering),

Account for special donations: 142263
Reference (Surname + purpose e.g.
Women's Refuge or Cool & Classic.)

FROM DAVID'S DESK

Hi all,

Happy birthday to you.

Happy birthday to you.

Happy birthday dear Refreshed Shop.

Happy birthday to you.



Happy 15th birthday to The Refreshed Shop!

15 years – that is a lot of dresses, tops, shirts, shoes, books, and more recently, those cute ceramic teddy bear things. What an amazing ministry this has been. We thank God for giving the foresight and courage to those who established it and supported it. Thanks be to God for the money raised, for the volunteers – past and present, the co-ordinators (including the amazing Jenny), for life-affirming conversations, for the cups of tea and coffee and bikkies, for practical assistance given, and the list goes on and on.

It has asked a lot of many people. There were a lot of adjustments needed, including around the space where it was set up. And we have recently asked some more of you in that regard, expanding the space available which had been an expressed need for some time.

As a birthday present we are giving it a makeover, some renovating, giving it a facelift, a revamp. I believe it will make the space available more usable for both our incredible volunteers but also to those who come to browse, buy, and chat. I think it will also make a positive impact on the worship space more generally.

The income from The Refreshed Shop has enabled much to happen in the name of Christ, locally and much further afield. What has been achieved is no small thing. And for this we give thanks. There are lots of Op Shops around and so many people love Op Shopping. The Refreshed Shop has been more than that and I know that this was the intention from the beginning. That it would be a place where people felt welcomed, where people could step into a space to sit, if needed, and pause.

Over a number of Sundays last year we worked through some passages from Acts in the New Testament. One of those passages in Acts Chapter 9 told the story of Tabitha (also known as Dorcas). She had a ministry of making clothes, especially for widows. This was a deeply valued and cherished ministry amongst those in need. In gathering people around such a practical need she offered physical help and also spiritual help as she shared the Good News of Jesus. I give thanks to God for the way that The Refreshed Shop has done something similar. We hope to see you there soon – there may even be a slice of birthday cake waiting for you!

God's peace go with you. Rev David



MORE BIRTHDAYS - 49th Uniting Church Anniversary – 22 June 2026

President Rev Charissa Suli

Beloved friends in Christ, grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus.

Today we celebrate 49 years of the Uniting Church in Australia, and we give thanks for the faith, courage and vision of those who in 1977 came together to follow Christ and live out the gospel in this land.

When you installed me as your President, I shared with you a fala – a Tongan mat – that my sister-in-law had woven from threads she carried with her from Tonga.

She left it unfinished, and she did so on purpose: an unfinished mat for the beginning of this triennium, with more still to be woven. And what she taught me has stayed with me: a fala is never made in a day. It is woven slowly, across many seasons, and a mat still on the loom is not a lack, but a promise that there is more love still to weave. And that is who we are. Across cities and towns, congregations, agencies, schools and cultures, we are being woven together – not because we are all the same, but because the love of Christ runs through every thread.

And so, I acknowledge the First Peoples of this land and pay my respects to Elders past and present, giving thanks for the covenant we have shared with the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress for more than 30 years.

I know that for many of you this has been a tiring season. Congregations are navigating change, leaders are carrying heavy loads and weaving, as any weaver knows, is costly – at times a thread must be cut or untangled before the mat can hold. But these are not signs of failure.

They are invitations: to draw closer to Christ, to lean again on one another, and to rediscover the prayer, worship and service that have always sustained us.

For we have never been held together by sameness, but by the love of Christ. Across our diversity, Christ is present. Across our differences, Christ is present. Across our grief and our hope, our questions and our joy, Christ is still present. For on the cross he tore down the walls that divide us and became our peace.

This is why, over these past 30 days, from Pentecost to this anniversary, we have gathered as one Church in prayer, asking the Spirit to renew us.

And the Spirit is indeed calling us back to depth, back to prayer, and back to a people shaped not by fear or scarcity, but by trust in the abundance of God. As we celebrate 49 years, we look toward our 50th. In Scripture, the 50th year carries a holy name – Jubilee – the year of release, of return, of all things being made whole. It was the word Jesus took upon his lips in Nazareth when he proclaimed good news to the poor and freedom to the captive. So may our coming year be a true Jubilee: a year to weave Christ's love more boldly across every boundary that still divides us.

For this is the work to which God now calls us – to tell the story of where Christ's love has crossed the boundary among us; to bridge the differences that keep us apart and listen deeply until we understand; and to allow the Spirit to search our own hearts, and to find the courage to heal the wounds among us, naming honestly the racism and division that can take root even in our Church.

And so, beloved Church, let us embrace this moment with courage and hope. Not because the road ahead is easy, but because Christ walks with us. Not because we have all the answers, but because the Spirit continues to guide us. Not because we are without weakness, but because the grace of God is always sufficient.

The threads of God's love are still being woven through our life together – in every act of kindness, every prayer offered, every table set wide enough to welcome a stranger. That fala, woven for this triennium, is still unfinished – as it was always meant to be; for no mat is ever completed by one pair of hands.

We each weave our part, and then we hand it on – to those who come after us, who will take up the threads and add their own.

For we are, as our Basis of Union reminds us, a pilgrim people, still on the way towards the promise of God.

May God weave us together in love. May the risen Christ renew and reconcile us. And may the Holy Spirit give us courage for the journey ahead.

Happy 49th anniversary, Uniting Church.
Ofa lahi atu.

This year I want to be more like Jesus:

- * Hang out with sinners.**
- * Upset religious people.**
- * Tell stories that make people think.**
- * Choose unpopular friends.**
- * Be kind, loving and merciful.**
- * Take naps on boats.**

CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATE – JUNE 2026

Church Council met on 17 June to review ministry, mission and the ongoing life of our congregation. It was encouraging to reflect on the many activities taking place across our church and the opportunities that lie ahead.

Planning for **ArtBurst 2026** continues to gather momentum, with the theme "**Belonging: Earth, Sea, Sky – Connecting Through the Elements.**" New promotional banners are also being prepared to support ArtBurst and other church ministries.

The **Refreshed Shop** continues to flourish. New shelving is being installed, the shop will be refreshed during the school holidays, and a special celebration is planned to mark its 15th birthday. Council is also investigating a more cost-effective electronic payment system and exploring ways to strengthen the shop's support of both mission and the church's ongoing ministry.

Our communications continue to improve thanks to work on the website, Facebook, Mailchimp and online visibility. Plans are also underway to develop a single church database and introduce Connect Cards to help welcome visitors and stay connected with our wider community. Church Council now has access to Sharepoint. This allows us to access the Church Council Folder on the Church Computer. A huge boon.

Council continues to plan responsibly for the future. While finances remain challenging, income has been encouraging, particularly through concerts, the Refreshed Shop and generous donations. A new financial forecasting tool will assist Council as it prayerfully considers future ministry priorities. Several property projects are progressing, including roof inspections, carpet replacement planning, updated signage and renewal of the kindergarten lease. Council also approved this semester's mission support, including contributions to UnitingWorld, Frontier Services, Indigenous Leadership, Destiny Rescue and ongoing support for High School Chaplaincy.

Our Music Lovers concert series remains well attended, with an exciting program continuing through to November, providing a valued outreach to the wider community.

Please continue to pray for our Church Council as it seeks God's wisdom in discerning the future direction of Kenmore Uniting Church and for all those who faithfully serve across our many ministries.

Blessings, Wendy

TREASURER'S REPORT for July 2026

As the month of June has only just finished and Courtney is on holidays, I am unable to present a full account of the situation at June 30.

However I have put together a few figures for your information for activities in June.

Congregational Giving was \$7,546 for the month of June. This includes a large contribution from a member which has been gratefully received.

There were also some extra contributions from a few people.

The Refreshed Shop has taken an estimated \$2,400 and has used that money to upgrade the shop's facilities. New Carpet costing \$1,643 and new shelving for \$500.

The following payments from the Mission Fund were also made during the month of June.

\$500	Destiny Rescue
\$1,000	Frontier Services
\$3,000	Uniting World for the Matching Fund which attracts Federal Government subsidy
\$500	Indigenous Literacy Fund

TOTAL \$5,000.*

These gifts added to the \$7,000 we have already given makes our mission giving \$12,000 for the financial year.

(This does not include the \$1,443 donated for the Christmas Bowl or \$100 for the Lent event. These donations are personally given by members but through the church.)

Funds on Hand 30 June 2026 : Cash at Bank \$94,124

Coralie Ellis Hon Treasurer

**N.B. Matt Whittaker visited us recently to tell us more about Destiny Rescue and we realised that the Bush Chaplains were hit hard by the price rises in fuel, especially diesel, so those donations were easy to choose. The stories of two of the Uniting World projects which draw Government subsidies are on the following pages and show clearly what practical and influential investments they are. (Other stories next month)*

This information has come from the Uniting World website and descriptions of the projects which attract Government funding.

1. UNITING WORLD PROJECT - BALI CHURCH CHOOSES COMPASSION OVER FEAR

Bali is well known as a holiday destination, however, in rural areas away from the tourist spots there is considerable poverty. Local governments receive limited funding to assist poorer people with housing, electricity, water and other basic services, however, the voices of the poorest, especially women, are often not heard.

We support our Bali partners, MBM, with their goal to contribute to the development of healthy, economically secure and resilient communities by providing vulnerable community members with opportunities to increase their income; by advocating for access to health and wellbeing services; and by supporting villages to become more resilient to climate-related hazards and natural disasters.

Since March 2025, **our Bali partners have also been collaborating with the church in neighbouring Sumba Island** to help address root causes of poverty there, which contribute to Sumbanese people fleeing to Bali as economic and climate refugees.

In addition to the ongoing work in Bali, the joint project is now working across three villages in Sumba, bringing kitchen gardens, health education, water access, climate-resilient farming and sustained mentoring to communities there.

When migrants suddenly started turning up in Bali from the nearby island of Sumba, many people assumed the worst. Would they be a strain on housing, jobs and social harmony? One more group of outsiders to be tolerated or pushed aside?

But for Rev Betha and her team at MBM (the development agency of the Protestant Christian Church in Bali), the arrivals weren't a problem to be solved but an opportunity to love their neighbours in need. *"In our outreach to new migrants, they shared that the primary driving factor for leaving Sumba to seek work in Bali was extreme poverty," Rev Betha explained. "Their condition is largely caused by drought, infertile land and limited access to water, which make it difficult for villagers to make a living."*

Climate change sits at the centre of this shared challenge. *"These changes have led to reduced rainfall and prolonged dry seasons, resulting in drought and crop failure,"* Rev Betha says, with ripple effects across health, livelihoods and family safety.

For many years, MBM has worked alongside vulnerable communities in Bali. But when Rev Betha stepped into leadership in 2023, she felt called to respond more deeply to the plight of new migrants.

As well as supporting families who have already migrated, MBM devised a plan to help people still at home in Sumba, before they become stuck in Bali facing hostility and fewer opportunities. MBM has partnered with UnitingWorld and the Sumba Christian Church to make this work possible, building trust through shared faith.

“We hold the conviction that it is God who sends us to accompany the vulnerable and the poor with compassion,” Rev Betha reflects. “We believe that God goes before this good plan and faithfully sustains our work.”

In places like **Sumba, eastern Indonesia**, communities are facing rising poverty, hunger and climate-driven challenges that threaten livelihoods, health and long-term wellbeing. *“My biggest wish is just to work hard in the garden so there is*



something to sell and have enough money for our family.” ~ Marcelina

Marcelina lives in rural Sumba with her husband and four children. Every morning she loads jerry cans onto a motorbike and rides 15km through dirt roads just to collect enough water to cook and wash.

Last year, she used her small savings to plant corn. The rains stopped too soon. The crop failed. With school fees due and no harvest income, she had to borrow from the local cooperative — paying it back every week, with interest.



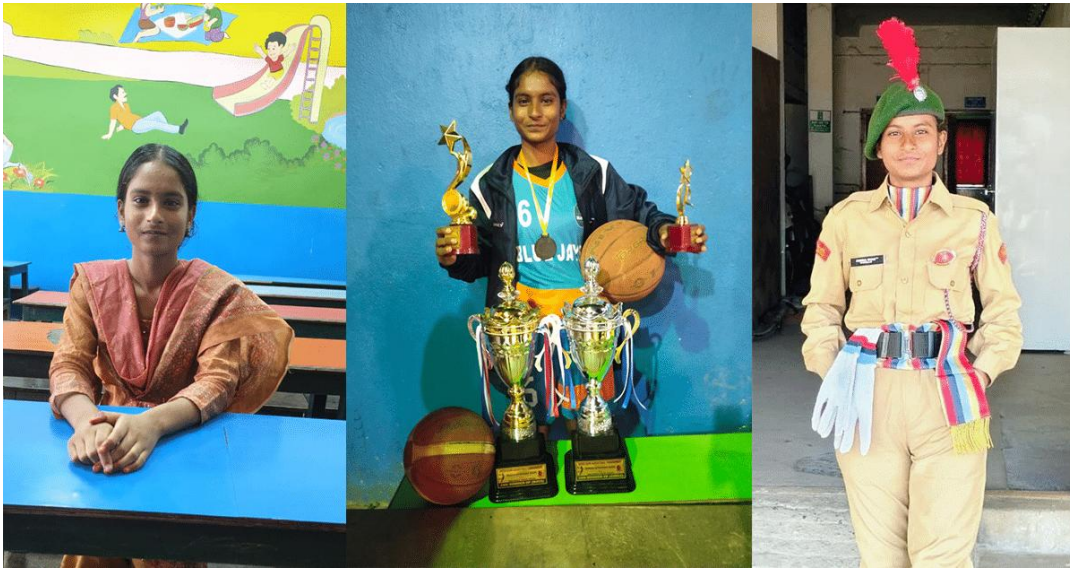
Petrus is 60 years old, and he has been farming Sumba’s soil for most of his life. He’s a member of the Sumba Christian Church, our partner, and what he has spent his life doing is quietly extraordinary.

He runs a demonstration farm: a place where families come to see what their land could actually become. He distributes seedlings. He mentors families in long-term thinking. He has helped communities reforest land once considered permanently barren.

“Change doesn’t always come from many people,” he says. “One person learns, and then brings two more. Knowledge spreads like that.”

2. UNITING WORLD PROJECT - BALANCING THE SCALES: ANYA'S STORY

Uniting World News, Social Empowerment for Excluded Castes (India) March 4. This International Women's Day, the global theme was 'Balance the Scales.' It is a call to address the structural barriers that continue to deny women and girls equal access to justice, opportunity and political power. For Uniting World and our partners, it is a theme we see reflected every day in the communities we work alongside.



Anya grew up in the Mirabai settlement, a low-income community in Durgapur, in northern India. Her father works as a driver and her mother as a housekeeper, together earning

around AUD\$100 a month to cover all household costs for a family of five. From an early age the odds were stacked against her. The life script for girls like Anya is a familiar one: leave school early, contribute to the household, and marry young. Her parents were hoping she would marry quickly, as often happens very young in their community. Poverty and social pressure made that script feel inevitable.

But it was not.

Since 2011, UnitingWorld has supported the Church of North India – Diocese of Durgapur to run an Education and Social Empowerment project in Anya's community. Through study centres, life skills workshops, career counselling and vocational training, the project has transformed lives for many community members, giving young people the tools to write a different story for themselves.

For Anya, that meant access to a study centre and a teacher, Sophia Lakra, who invested in her potential. With that support, Anya completed primary school, went on to further study, joined computer classes and pursued her passion for basketball. She is now enrolled in a college degree and the National Cadet Corps and is preparing for competitive exams she hopes will lead to stable work.

Today, she also volunteers at the same study centre where her own journey began, helping to teach the next generation. ***"I would have drowned in darkness," she reflects, "if the project and Ms Lakra had not guided me to the light of education."***

Anya's story illustrates what balancing the scales can look like in practice: not sweeping policy change alone, but consistent, community-level investment in young women's education, confidence and agency.

There are many more children in her settlement still without access to quality education. The work continues.



This project is supported by the Australian Government through the **Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP)**. Thanks to ANCP, we're making a huge difference together; lifting families out of poverty and helping people improve their lives.

ANOTHER OF THE PROJECTS WORKING THROUGH REFRESHED

Last year we collected winter warm clothes and rugs for Micah – remember the large trunk in the church? Here we go again if you have any left. Quite a lot of donations have already come from Refreshed staff, customers and church members. **3 Ws – WINTER WARMERS WANTED.**



Our Charity Auction at ArtBurst will also be remembering people with health and housing issues through providing activities and holistic help through Uniting Care.



REFRESHED NEWS – JUNE

It has been a very busy month for Refreshed, not so much with income as with output.



My little granddaughter got no end of delight from a \$2 bag of “jewellery” and a \$1 bag of hair accessories I bought for her at the shop earlier this month. Too much adornment is never enough when you are four years old!

I got to meet Possum (Poss), a volunteer at Emmanuel City Mission, who came in to collect the warm clothing we had set aside for the homeless men the

Mission supports. She was very grateful for our donations and identified some specific items that she knew particular clients would love. I found we had a connection in that she had worked as a teacher at Ipswich SHS with a dear friend of mine, Cheryl. After retirement, Cheryl was a volunteer at Refreshed until she and her husband relocated to Cleveland. It's a small world!



The big news of the month, and even the decade, is the refurbishment of our little shop. It started slowly, with lots of ideas put forward by and discussed with the volunteers, as well as with Church Council and interested members of the congregation, over weeks and months, and then it all happened within a few days. Thanks to the proactive initiatives and enthusiasm of Rev David, Wendy and Courtney, the bullet was bitten!

As I write, we are not quite there yet, but by the time you read this we should have a very spruced up/refreshed shop albeit still a “work in progress”. We are having a 15th Anniversary re-opening on Friday 3 July, with birthday cake and coffee/tea for customers and friends, after being closed since Monday 29th June.



MOVERS & SHAKERS

It has been a hectic final week. We could not have achieved this mammoth task without the significant help of Courtney's teenage daughter and two of her friends, who moved all the heavy items out of the shop for us. They did an absolutely marvellous job and with such good humour. I cannot thank them enough.

Once everything was moved out of the shop, there was a lot of accumulated dust on the internal windows, not to mention the floor, and the walls were very stained and shabby. Merle and Wendy got to work with the vacuum and cleaning clothes and Rob sped off to buy some paint. Rob and Brenda spent the afternoon re-

painting the shop! Other volunteers were kept busy with cleaning and sorting the mountains of stock that was to be relocated.



L. The Bump has gone.



R. Gleaming walls

ORGANISING THE CHAOS



We interrupt Jenny's report for **LATE NEWS: AND THEN!!** The carpet layer couldn't come so they waited some more and went ahead with the celebration re-opening on Friday while the carpet was still being laid. Wendy was down early in the morning to let the workman in, then returned with her coffee machine and served eager takers for the rest of the day. One retired volunteer who had seen Jenny's notices on 4069, turned up just to see how they were going. Old friends and customers came in very excited to see the refurbishment going on.

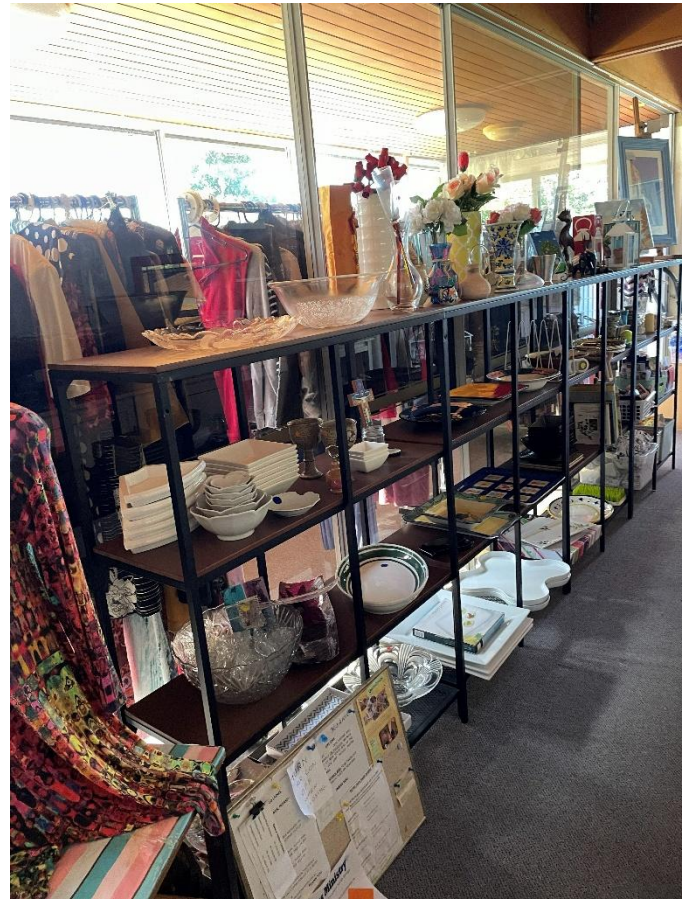


Apparently the whole day was one of laughs and



hard work. A tremendous team of church members and volunteers went home exhausted but uplifted.

BACK TO JENNY: David has become very expert in sourcing bargains on Marketplace and had been able to find various new shelving and cabinets needed.



Thank you to everyone who has helped us this week (and before and after) to improve Refreshed. Special thanks to Wendy & Rob, Courtney, David, Brenda, Rosemary H, Leigh, Merle, Kay, Celma and Kim. I am confident this refurbishment will be well received by our customers. Let me know what you think. **Jenny**





THE MUSIC LOVERS CONCERT held on 18th June welcomed Rhonda Davidson-Irwin and her choir La Viva Musica. Rhonda and the choir have performed at Music Lovers on many occasions, and this concert was even more poignant due to the recent tragic circumstances when Rhonda's family home of 33 years was destroyed by fire. Before introducing the first item Rhonda took the opportunity to speak about the event. She thanked everyone for their messages of support and good wishes, and for attending that day. She also spoke of what her music meant to her and how it was helping her to keep going.

There followed a wonderfully varied programme of Music and singing, beginning with the choir's signature piece 'Viva Viva Musica', and including 'Feed the birds' from Mary Poppins and folk song 'Appalachian Dances' to name just two. The youngest member of the choir sang two solos, and the audience was encouraged to join in with "Gonna rise up Singing". Rhonda accompanied the choir on her flute for many of the songs as well as playing two solos with their pianist Ethan, the second of which was totally improvised. Rev David closed the morning with a prayer for Rhonda and her family, and the ongoing work with her music and the choir, and then finished with a blessing.

The audience was very appreciative of the performance and knowing that the profits from this concert were to be sent to Rhonda and the Choir many people donated over and above the usual entry fee of \$10. **The total raised was \$700.**

I would like to thank our usual Team members – Rosemary Chay, Katherine, Joycelyn and Lester plus extra people who helped on the morning - Marleine, Jenny and Courtenay. Morning tea is always a busy affair when there are several choir members to add to our usual audience numbers. **Rosemary H.**

MUSIC LOVERS CONCERT FOR JULY 16TH at 10am



On this occasion we will be welcoming back Jeremy Stafford, a classical guitar player from The Queensland Conservatorium, Griffith University. He will be performing a solo recital.

Kenmore Uniting Church, Moggill Road. Entry \$10 at the door, to Include a light morning tea. All welcome.

Enquiries to rosemaryhenni863@hotmail.com or the Church office on 3378 4505

PROGRAMME

Prelude, from BWV 998 - J. S. Bach

Lob der Thränen - Franz Schubert, arr. J. K. Mertz

Fantaisie Hongroise - J. K. Mertz

Meditations on a Welsh Folk Song

Valses Poeticos - Enrique Granados, arr. Paolo Pegoraro

Verde Alma - Maximo Diego Pujol

Campanas del Alba -

Capricho Arabe - Francisco Tarrega

El Sueño del la Razon Produce Monstruos (Caprichos De Goya, no. 18)
- Mario Castelnuovo Tedesco

Serenata Española - Joaquin Malats, arr. F Tarrega



ARTBURST 2026

Calling all gardeners! Please start striking yesterday. We are once again selling plants as part of this year's ArtBurst. We do not expect huge numbers of plants, but we do know that plants sell well.

I would also ask members to perhaps approach local businesses that you frequent for a donation that can either be used in the auction, or as part of our raffle.

Once again there will be Sogetsu Ikebana on show at ArtBurst. It will complement the artworks in Inspired Gallery and throughout the event.

With that in mind, I thought I would show some of the work I have done lately at both the Annual Exhibition and at the Queensland Art Gallery. I'm obviously going through a wooden stage! **Wendy.**



WE ARE COMMUNITY

Not very many birthdays to celebrate this month – Just Dawn (early-ish in the month) and Anne K. and Glenda sharing the same day at the end so we wish you all a happy time.

We have a newsy letter from Gemma:

Marseille Adventures

Bonjour from Marseille everyone! It has been a little over a month since I landed in Marseille and I wanted to send you this letter as a postcard of sorts! Thank you all for your prayers and support – the journey over went very smoothly and I couldn't have asked for a better first international flight experience. Since I landed, Marseille (and many parts of Europe and France) has been gripped by an 'unprecedented' heatwave – so far, it hasn't been under 26 degrees at night, and I think the "coolest" day we had was 32 degrees! The city is very heavily developed and the concrete traps heat like an oven.

Joshua's apartment has a good cross-breeze when *Le Mistral* decides to blow, but has no ceiling fans or air-conditioning – the same as most shops and buildings – and the rooms stay about 35 degrees all day until evening. All I can say is at least it's not humid too! Marseille itself has been celebrating the perpetual sunshine, with *Fête de la Musique* running this week to welcome Summer. Lots of live music and beach parties and fireworks. Josh has been busy at work with experiments, but we managed to get out to Vieux-Port to have some *Pannise* and enjoy the atmosphere.

Josh and I attended a short concert at his church to celebrate *Fête de la Musique* on Sunday – a lovely half-hour of Cello and Piano music by their very talented member Aidan and their visiting friend Canon Alan Amos, followed by a few hours of a very lavish 'light lunch' complete with wine and cheese. Alan writes music for fun and also arrangements for the sung Canticles, and got on very well with Josh chatting about church history, his adventures in international Chaplaincy, and their shared passion for music. We have been attending All Saints Anglican Church (one of two English-service churches in the area) and I feel like a bit of a celebrity because Josh has been telling everyone very excitedly about me for the last two years. The congregation is a welcoming mixed-bag of Ex-pats from the UK and professionals from various parts of the world that have been blown together in Marseille. I am trying my best to learn the Lord's Prayer in French so I can say it as well as they do! The Diocese has a long tradition in supporting the Seafarer's Club, which was established in 1878 and has been running ever since. The Club look after sailors stopping over in the port of Marseille, who often can't escape their ship for long or go very far. They provide a safe, welcoming place to relax and

buy supplies – as well as a long tradition of humanitarian and spiritual support for Abandoned crews who are left stranded with no money and no way to return to their countries. I have been invited to help out while I am here, to keep me busy while Josh is at work. So far I haven't been brave enough to go by myself, but I have promised myself I will be bolder in July.

I have been finding the language barrier the hardest thing to deal with. My anxiety about talking to strangers has been ramped up to ten! Thankfully we have a really lovely bakery and corner store who humour my nervous attempts when I forget how to speak English as well. Where Josh lives in Baille is a lower socio-economic area, and not as many people speak English. There is a real mixed bag of Mediterranean, African and Middle-Eastern cultures in Marseille, as well as a large Algerian population mixed in with the Frenchies. Marseille is very much like Ipswich city. There is a large divide between the “North” side and the rest of Marseille, and it's not the kind of place you go unless you're a local. I have noticed everyone looks at their feet when they walk, and no-one makes eye contact if they can help it. I get some strange looks when I smile at people and look around at the world – very easy to tell I am not native. I offered a lady with less groceries to go in front of me at the shops, and I think she nearly had a stroke when I suggested it! I have been enjoying saying hello to all the dogs (so, so many dogs here, more than I've ever seen in a city!) and making friends with the pigeons and *Gabian*, which is the local name for a seagull. They are as big as a toddler, and their cry is similar to a Kookaburra, except more on the maniacal side. They “are more like eagles than seagulls”, and urban legend has it that *Gabian* will eat small dogs. I have seen one swallow a whole pigeon at the very least! We will visit Frioul soon to see where they hatch and I am quite excited about that.

So far, I haven't done much adventuring as “*Je suis timide*” and Josh has been busy at work – life as usual for everyone else here! This weekend we might be going up to Lyon for a short trip, and in July we will have more time to explore Paris and Strasbourg together. I am excited to visit *L'Ateliers* to see the traditional Provençal pottery artists, make my own soap at the Marseille Soap Museum, and take some photos of *La Bonne Mère* for the powerpoint.

Miss you all and hope the cold weather has been keeping you all nice and cozy. Please send some our way! Sending lots of love from friends here in Marseille to you all,
from **Gemma**.

IKEBANA Specially for Gemma we have a photo of Wendy at the Ikebana Exhibition with her entry.

It was a fabulous show very well presented with the extra bonus of the results of the pottery competition for pottery suitable for ikebana. Quite a few KUC people went along and used Wendy as their personal Gallery guide.

(Only the one on the right is a creation of Wendy's. Look at ArtBurst article for more of her work.)



THANKS FOR THE MUSIC

A meaningful introduction to our services lately has been the occasional playing of Glenda's son Mark when visiting and also more recently, a tranquil improvised piece by Marion McConaghy. This generous extra offering of music has been warmly received.



NEWS FROM JUANA who is cruising from Broome to Darwin. She says:



Here are some photos I captured of the 'Staircase to the Moon' phenomenon, whilst on holiday in Broome.

My high school friend, Irene, and I have been so lucky to have clear night skies and to be here when there is a full moon. The shoreline was packed with revellers here to celebrate this epic sight.

Here is what the research says about it:



It occurs when:

- there's a **very low tide**, exposing broad, flat mudflats,
- a **full moon (or nearly full moon)** is rising,
- the air is reasonably clear, and
- the moonlight reflects off the wet mudflats, creating the illusion of glowing steps leading up to the moon

DIARY – TWO MID-WEEK EVENTS

Women's Fellowship

Join us for lunch and fellowship at:

One Table Café Kenmore

Churches of Christ
41 Brookfield Road
Kenmore

See menu here:

<https://kenmore.church/onetable>

Date and Time:

Monday 13 July at 12.30pm

RSVP: At church or

to: Rosemary Chay on 33784436 or Jan East on 38785424



AND MUSICLOVERS ON THE 16TH JULY AT 10AM.

BIBLE READINGS FOR JULY AND 1ST SUNDAY IN AUGUST

July 2026

Date & Day	1st Reading	Psalm	2nd Reading	Gospel	Colour
Jul 5 Pentecost 6	Gn 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67	Ps 45:10-17 or Song 2:8-13	Rom 7:15-25a	Mt 11:16-19, 25-30	G
Jul 12 Pentecost 7	Gn 25:19-34; Is 55:10-13	Ps 119:105-112; Ps 65:(1-8), 9-13	Rom 8:1-11	Mt 13:1-9, 18-23	G
Jul 19 Pentecost 8	Gn 28:10-19a Is 44: 6-8	Ps 139:1-12, 23-24; Ps 86:11-17	Rom 8:12-25	Mt 13:24-30, 36-43	G
Jul 26 Pentecost 9	Gn 29:15-28; 1 Kgs 3:5-12	Ps 105:1-11, 45b; Ps 128; Ps 119:129-136	Rom 8:26-39	Mt 13:31-33, 44-52	G
August					
Aug 2 Pentecost 10	Gn 32:22-31	Ps 17:1-7, 15	Rom 9:1-5	Mt 14:13-21	G

July Roster 2026

	5 July	12 July	19 July	26 July
Elder	Wendy	Wendy	Wendy	Wendy
Music	Jenny	Jenny	Jenny	Jenny
Prayer	Marleine	David	Wendy	David
Reading	Coralie	Rob	Dawn	Andrew H
Steward	Lester	Allan	Carolyn	Ralph
Steward	Rob	Blair	Philip	Coralie
Cha Bar	Lynda	Arini	Rosemary C	Carolyn
Cha Bar	Marleine	Wendy	Joycelyn	Sally
Ann'ments	Rosemary C	Rosemary C	Rosemary C	Rosemary C
PA System	Andrew L	John	Andrew L	David
PowerPoint	Wendy	Rosemary C	David	Wendy
Notice Board	Merle and Colin	Merle and Colin	Merle and Colin	Merle and Colin

August Roster 2026

	2 Aug	9 Aug	16 Aug	23 Aug	30 Aug
Elder	Rosemary C	Rosemary C	Rosemary C	Rosemary C	Rosemary C
Music	Jenny	Jenny	Jenny	Jenny	Jenny
Prayer	Juana	Dawn	Wendy	David	Marleine
Reading	Wendy	Andrew L	Rosemary C	Andrew H	Dawn
Steward	Carolyn	Rob	Coralie	Rob	Rob
Steward	Philip	Lester	Allan	Blair	Ralph
Cha Bar	Lynda	Rosemary H	Sally	Jan	Rosemary H
Cha Bar	Joycelyn	Arini	Carolyn	Wendy	Joycelyn
Ann'ments	Wendy	Wendy	Wendy	Wendy	Wendy
PA System	Andrew L	David	Lester	Andrew L	John S
PowerPoint	David	Rosemary C	Wendy	David	Rosmary C
Notice Board	Lester	Lester	Lester	Lester	Lester

This morning, I woke up with a small nagging cough, so I rang my boss, who is Scottish, to tell him I couldn't make it to work today.

"You have a wee cough," he said to me.

"Yes. Thanks very much. See you next Wednesday," I replied.