

# Regional Partnership: Riverina Presbytery Newsletter

August 2023



*The Regional Partnership is the Committee charged with oversight and responsibilities of the Riverina. We meet monthly and this Newsletter is a summary of the meeting held on **31 August 2023**.*

*At each Regional Partnership meeting we begin our conversation with discussion around theology, the Church and then in prayer together. The Regional Partnership, as part of the practice of Saltbush, grounds our work and conversation within our faith rather than our faith within our work.*

## Regional Partnership Chairperson's Report

Greetings to the Congregations of the Riverina.

The first month of the joint Regional Partnership seems to have gone smoothly. There is no doubt that without local people being willing to give of their time and energy, none of this would be possible. The goal of the Partnership is to enable more energy to be devoted to mission and ministry in local congregations, but this is never fully possible because we are an interconciliar church. The Basis of Union describes us as a series of inter-related councils, each of which has its tasks and responsibilities in relation both to the Church and the world.

Our church exists through Christ's call, and because faithful men, women and children give their hearts and lives to Jesus Christ and seek to live according to his teaching. So thank you to all our congregations seeking to serve Jesus Christ in your local communities.

On another issue, I am sending information Riverina and Far North Coast separately as all may not be relevant. If you feel it would be good to send both to everyone, let me know. I'm trying not to overload you, but you may be interested in what other congregations/Presbyteries are doing?

### Saltbush Regional Ministers Report - Riverina. Rev. Geoff Wellington

Geoff commented on his report, noting the following:

- Looking to set up a Task Group to consider Ministry across the Riverina in the future, what direction we are going to take. Meeting is scheduled for 19 October, to start the conversation.
- Alfred Santos and members of his property team are coming to Riverina for a meeting regarding building issues at The Rock on 4 October.

### Fijian Meatworker Missional Opportunity

- Geoff advised of a possible opportunity of 70-90 Fijians coming to Cootamundra, to work in the Meatworks.
- As a church we need to be mindful of cultural differences and any issues. We need to be ready to advocate, allow time for them to worship in their own language and provide pastoral support.
- There is more work to be done but we are thankful for the supportive response of the Cootamundra congregation and the leadership of Rev Keith Robinson.

## Seeds of Growth

Jane Hogan (Synod Finance Team) advised that all moneys from Seeds of Growth are no longer used for Synod Operations. The money is 100% given to support Congregations and Presbyteries as part of the Growth Fund.

## Combined Ethical Ministry Refresher Course - 7 September 2023

A Regional Partnership - Riverina/Far North Coast combined Ethical Ministry Refresher course has been arranged and was led by Rev. Geoff Wellington and Rev. Peter Overton on 7 September. We acknowledge this great collaborative initiative and encourage everyone to continue to attend Ethical Ministry training as required.

Following are details of other upcoming Ethical Ministry Refresher courses you can register for/attend online.  
**Note:** Once you register, a zoom link will be forwarded to you.

### Uniting Mission and Education - Ethical Ministry Refresher Program Topic 2023B

Thursday, 28 September 2023 - 1:00pm to 4:00pm

Register via this link: <https://www.nswact.uca.org.au/calendar/ethical-ministry-refresher-topic-2023b/>

### Canberra Region Presbytery

Thursday, 5th October 2023 - 7:00pm to 9:00pm.

To register please contact the Presbytery Office via: [office@cruc.org.au](mailto:office@cruc.org.au)

### Macquarie Darling Presbytery

Wednesday, 15th November 2023 - 9:30am to 12:30pm lead by Rev. Tim Jensen.

Contact Tim if you would like attend at: [TimJ@nswact.uca.org.au](mailto:TimJ@nswact.uca.org.au)

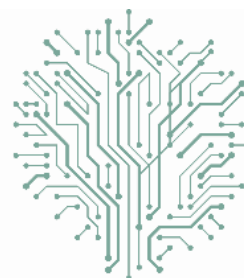
## Saltbush - Upcoming Events/Gatherings

**Saltbush Voice Café** - 4th October 2023 at 7:00pm with Nathan Tyson and the Saltbush team.

If you would like to come along for conversation, listening and dwelling please email [Saltbush@nswact.uca.org.au](mailto:Saltbush@nswact.uca.org.au)

**Saltbush Gathering** - 9th December 2023 in Lismore.

A day of Christian gathering, conversation, hospitality and news. You can come along in person or on zoom. Registration details coming soon.



SALT BUSH

UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

## Risk Focus this month for Congregations

Are your congregations contact details up to date? Have you had a change of Office Bearers?

It is important that your congregations contact details are up to date with Synod and with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission (ACNC).

To advise Synod of your new Office Bearers contact details OR to provide details of any changes, please complete a [Secretariat-Update Contact Details Form](#) and email to Synod Secretariat - [sec@nswact.uca.org.au](mailto:sec@nswact.uca.org.au).

It is a requirement of the ACNC to update the Responsible People associated to your Congregation. To check who is currently listed, go to the [ACNC Website](#). Search for your congregation and click on the People tab.

If your congregation details require updating, please notify the person in your congregation that has authorisation to log in and update details. All your Church Council office bearers should be listed here.

If you have any questions, please contact Kingsley Murphy - [kingsleym@nswact.uca.org.au](mailto:kingsleym@nswact.uca.org.au).

## Good News Stories

Coleambally hosted the Saltbush Gathering on 19th August. Rev Geoff Wellington was inducted as Saltbush Regional Minister: Riverina, and we spent a fruitful day exploring the book by Alan Roxborough 'Joining God in the Great Unravelling'. This book explores the changes faced by the institutional Church and invites us to find God in new places and in new ways. The Saltbush Team have created a study booklet which helps people focus on key questions and issues.

The day was quite cold, but the fellowship was warm with abundant hospitality, delicious food and hot soup for lunch. Thank you to the hosts and to Saltbush for another engaging day growing in faith together.



Please let me know if you have particular needs or if you have any good news stories to share. I would love to hear from you, please send to: [regionalpartnership@nswact.uca.org.au](mailto:regionalpartnership@nswact.uca.org.au)

Blessings to you all.

## Bron

Rev. Bronwyn Murphy  
Associate Secretary for the Synod of NSW and ACT  
On behalf of Regional Partnerships Committee