

# Regional Partnership: Riverina Presbytery Newsletter

July 2024



*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 9 July 2024.*

*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 from the Regional Partnership Committee.

I read recently words from John Wesley, written 238 years ago, that struck me as prophetic.

*'My fear is not that our movement, known as the Methodists, will eventually cease to exist or one day die from the earth. My fear is that our people will become content to live without the fire, the power, the excitement, the supernatural element that makes us great.'* John Wesley: 4<sup>th</sup> August 1786

I pray that the fire, the power, the excitement, the supernatural element we call Holy Spirit, is alive and well in your church and transforming your community.

## Saltbush Regional Ministers Report

Geoff Wellington provided the following highlights from his monthly report:

- The Synod Growth Fund has agreed to support the Griffith project. Hopefully by the end of the year/early next year we will have someone in placement there.
- Rev. Ann Perrin continues to work with Wagga Pilgrim. They have supply ministry there.
- Rev Alimoni Taumoepeau has had conversations with Wagga Wesley and Cootamundra around future possibilities
- There is interest in the Walbundrie property and Mangoplah property is on the market. We have been doing some pro-active media work to address any local concerns about the sale of property in the area.
- Sadly, Lara Carlson has resigned. The role did not fit her family needs. We wish her well and thank her for the time and effort.

## Budget 2024-2025

The Riverina Budget for 2024-2025 was presented at the July meeting and approved by consensus.

Please find a copy of the FNC budget attached. We are incredibly grateful for the work of George Thomas, Maria Ioannou and Andrea Tustin.

## Riverina Local Finance and Property Report

George Thomas provided an update that included:

- The need to be pre-emptive in managing media and press releases as we close buildings particularly in rural areas.
- Audit for Wagga Pilgrim is due.
- With the departure of Lara Carlson, we will need to reconfigure how we are processing some of the tasks to make sure there is appropriate scrutiny of both income and expenditure.
- The Ardlethan property will close at the end of 2024. Frontier Services will be in Ardlethan next week working with them.

## Update for Griffith and Saltbush Regional Minister Profiles

The Strategic Growth Fund application was successful. The Profile will go to the next ACOMP meeting on 23 July for approval.

Regarding the secondment of Rev Liva Tukutama to Griffith for 50% of his time for 6 months, we are waiting on an MoU from Parramatta Nepean Presbytery on how the intentional supply may happen. Liva intends to come for a couple of months from August forward and will be paving the way and setting up for someone to join at the beginning of next year. A big piece of work is being done to get things in place.

The Griffith congregation continues at around 70, which is a big increase and encouraging.

The Saltbush Regional Minister position went to ACOMP Executive and will go before the Full meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2024.

## News from the Far North Coast: Congregations working together to Grow Young.

### Growth Fund Proposal Alstonville and Byron Shire

Rev Daniel Yang and Rev. Phil Dokmanovic visited the meeting. The two ministers and their congregations have teamed up and are seeking a grant for someone to help them reach the younger people in Byron, Bangalow and Alstonville.

- The energy, passion and enthusiasm for this project is very real. (it was inspiring and uplifting for the whole committee to see)
- Both congregations have been engaged in mission planning with UME (Rev. Ann Perrin) across the last 12-18 months
- From this came the recommendation that the congregations unite to explore growth funding for this project.
- Ann Perrin has been wonderful and has met with local teams on three occasions, including one face to face. It has been so good to have her leadership and guidance.
- To see our people engaged and listening to each other is really rewarding.
- We finally have one document that is in good shape. From here we send to Ann for further reflections, recommendations and advice.
- The video that will be included in the application will reflect and share the excitement in our future ministry. We will share that with you when it is submitted
- Date of submission is in August.

It truly was a wonderful point of our meeting. Please pray for their courage and creativity.

### Saltbush Gatherings

The next Saltbush gathering will be held in the Riverina at Colleambally on 7 September 2024. This is for everyone as a way of intentionally encouraging active discipleship. It is a great day of fellowship that also nourishes our faith so that the spark never dies. Please join us.

There will also be the Saltbush Gathering at Yamba in the FNC on 30 November 2024.

## Contact Us – The Uniting Church Synod of NSW and the ACT Office

Aren't sure who to talk to? Please use this link to access Synod contact details:

<https://www.nswact.uca.org.au/about-us/contact-us/>

If you scroll right down, you will see each area and who is the best contact.

## Good News Stories

There are no Good News Stories this month.

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 Partnership Committee