



Assembly of
Confessing
Congregations

BELROSE UNITING CHURCH

Good News Quarterly

Issue # 122 November 2020

“I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation *[including viral pandemics!!]*, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Apostle Paul, Romans 8:38, 39)



This year has seen us do things very differently as a result of the Covid-19 restrictions. However, what has remained the same is God's unfailing love, enduring faithfulness, and amazing grace! Even a pandemic could not stop us from growing in Christ and staying connected in fellowship.

Thank you to everyone for the conscious care and awareness of what we are all able to do that allows us to be able to continue to meet together safely so we can worship at church services during the pandemic.

Rev Ian Weeks & the Belrose Uniting Church Council.



We WILL have a Merry Covid Christmas!! 😊

Despite the Covid-19 restrictions, **we will** be celebrating Christmas this year, rejoicing in God's amazing gift: *Christ the Saviour is born!!!*

Thursday 24th December Christmas Eve at 6.30 pm
and
Friday 25th December Christmas Day at 9.00 am

Good News Quarterly is the quarterly newsletter of the Belrose Uniting Church:

To Know Christ and Make Him Known!

2 Morgan Road (Corner of Forest Way & Morgan Road), Belrose 2085

Editor: Venessa Crane 0433 862 674 venessac@tpg.com.au

Pastor: Rev. Ian Weeks 0408 308 196 mail@belrose.unitingchurch.org.au



A GIFT



It started with an application for the extension of placement for our Reverend Ian Weeks. He has been at Belrose Uniting Church for the maximum time of 10 years.

Due to the interruption of COVID this was extended by 6 months but was due to expire in June 2021.

What followed was an extensive process with the 'Life and Witness Consultation team'.

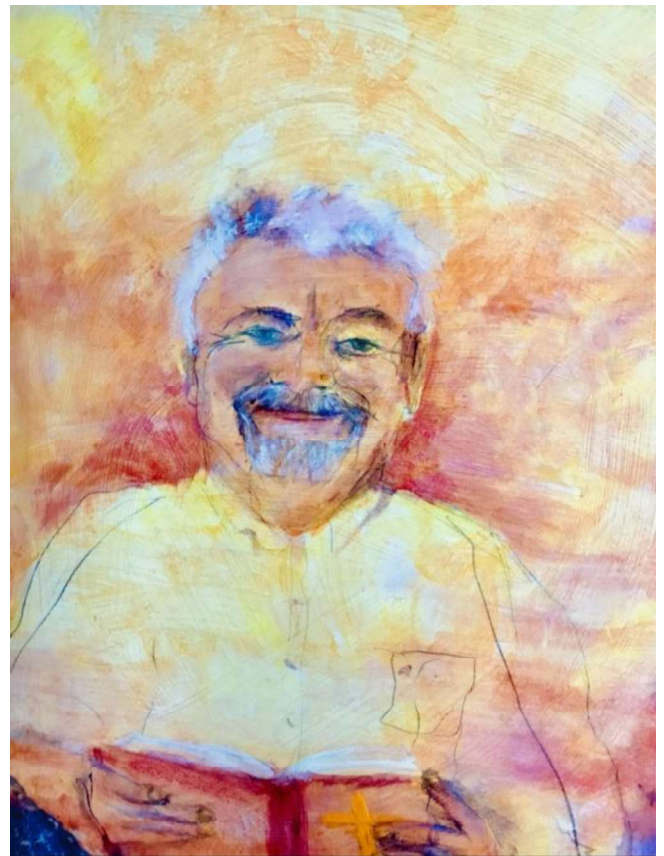
Then a unanimous vote from our whole congregation occurred at the Extraordinary Congregational meeting on September 13th 2020. A landslide of goodwill announced that we hoped that Reverend Ian Weeks would remain at the helm of Belrose Uniting Church.

With full support, the Church Council applied for Rev Ian's extension to be for the full 5 years, at which time he will be 65 and eligible to retire.

Then there was the vote of confidence from the Sydney Central Coast Presbytery's Pastoral Relations Committee - which came as a surprise to some. They recommended the full five years' extension to Rev Ian's placement. This vote was then put to a full meeting of the Sydney Central Coast Presbytery held on Wednesday 11th November. The vote was affirmative. Reverend Ian Weeks, against the odds, some might say - was granted the maximum extension of 5 years to stay to lead our Church. This was a most unusual decision.

What a gift! Thank you God for answering our prayers. Thank you God for preparing and changing and melting hearts. It is exciting to consider what God's plans might be for the future for Rev Ian and Anne and our Church.

Venessa Crane



Painting "Lit From Within" by Venessa Crane was a gift from the Congregation for Ian's 60th Birthday

"Seeds of Hope" - a huge blessing from our Heavenly Father.



Presenting the 'Seeds Of Hope' book

I cannot express how much of a blessing it was. Certainly after what we have been through this year, with not being able to worship at church for months. I think this gave a boost to our spirits.



Ross Swadling reading his memories and prayers

Hearing the heavy rain while Ian preached his sermon, I prayed for God's will to be done and smiled as the rain lightened enough for us to go outside. Ian's words of "I don't think it is too bad out there; let's give it a go" was music to my ears.



I just couldn't believe the the enthusiasm as everyone got straight into it and the yellow button seedlings were planted in minutes.

We were very blessed to have all the hopes and memories that people had shared presented in a beautiful hand-made book with everything donated. A huge thank you to Brigitta for her contribution.

This event has been so well received, we might have it on the church calendar as an annual event.

Venessa Crane



'Let's go for it!' with Seni Piukala

Zoe's Memories.

Belrose Uniting Church | Favourite Memories
Zoe Chapman, Youth Worker 2002-2012

To choose just one memory of BUC is impossible! Over the 10 years I was Youth Worker I have so many, though the best are probably the everyday conversations and prayers in the kitchen or the family room.

Doing life together at our Church Home was a truly special thing. Knowing the beautiful people of BUC has been the greatest blessing. The culture of empowering young people to use their spiritual gifts and skills to bless the church family is an amazing asset to BUC. It allowed many to be blessed, through beautiful worship, prayers and just letting God work through whomever he has called. Christ Jesus - always front and centre.

This is the best thing about BUC. Over my 10 years, Jesus was always the reason for doing what we did. And let's not forget the hilarious moments too! Like when I accidentally said Luke's message was 'awful' (a terrible mix up of trying to say 'awesome' and 'wonderful' simultaneously). The Youth Leaders' videos and moments on youth camps. So many funny times.

To the future, I pray that BUC continues to keep eyes fixed on Jesus, making this beautiful place a spiritual home for those that hear the call of Him who is the God and Father of all, who loves us and knows us and calls us to love each other. May Belrose Uniting Church be a place known for warmly accepting anyone, loving others as Jesus loves us.

Zoe Peters Chapman





Susana Piukala with nephew Paula



Ana Lutui with Anne Weeks

Gayle's Memories

Belrose Uniting Church | Favourite Memories
Gayle Dean, Family Worker 2000 - 2008

Thank you to Venessa who asked me to contribute to 'the Seeds of Hope' project. I am honoured to do so. It was difficult to know where to begin, as I looked back on the fulfilling of my life, remembering so many wonderful experiences I had of God's blessing being poured on Belrose Uniting Church.

I began work at this church in 2000, and finished in 2008. Back then, it was a bold move to employ me as a Family Support Worker. The church at the time had a new-but-small 10.30am service, not much available for young families, and few teenagers. The minister was fairly new too, and there was no Youth Worker yet.

I was convinced that the right person, ready to shape a church life that was attractive and relevant to young families, and to motivate and excite those already in the church, would be used by God to bring in a new season of revival.

So I set to work. My memories are of how easy it was to establish mid-week groups, which slowly filled to capacity. Those groups were so precious and it was a privilege to lead them.

How I loved all those beautiful young mothers who came every week, hungry for support and refreshment, and keen to understand who Jesus is. So many of them made a decision to become a Christian - and then brought their husbands and children along to the Family Service on Sunday's! How I loved seeing so many families grow in their faith, always with the interest and support of the church's faithful older generation.

I will never forget the strong working relationship I enjoyed with Rev Wendell Flentje and Rev Steve Parker, and of course Youth Worker Zoe, as we drew in the pre-teens and ministered to them together.

I have believed that our wonderful God blesses a church when the leadership is obedient and keen to submit together to his will. I experienced that blessing and every one of those 8 years was for me, it was joy.

Gayle Dean



Belrose Uniting