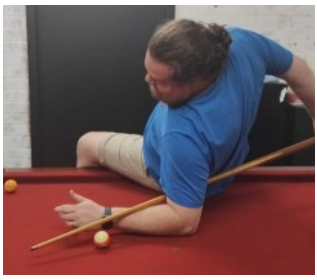


Turramurra Uniting Church

2024-2025 Annual Report

Ministers' Reports

Minister's Report - Phil

It has been another full and fulfilling year in the life of TUC, and I continue to feel deeply privileged to be part of this amazing and grace-filled community. This December will be 8 years since I started my ministry here and I have found myself reflecting over the past 12 months—not only what God has been doing through this place and you amazing people, but where God might be leading us moving forward, especially as we reimagine what it means to be a 2030 church.

One of my personal highlights of the past 12 months has to be the butterfly Easter art installation. What started as a simple creative idea caught the imagination of so many people within the church who helped cut out around 5000 colourful paper butterflies which were put up around the church between Good Friday and Easter Sunday. The look of wonder, amazement and joy that people had as they entered the church on Easter Sunday was priceless. I just loved how they added so much life to the church and worship!

A close second highlight would be the continued success of our major Christmas events—the Turramurra Community Carols and the Christmas Eve service. The carols event has truly become a treasured part of the local community calendar and it is such a joy to share this blessing with the community. But for me, the creativity, humour and powerful message of our Christmas Eve service "Shrektacular" was just amazing. I don't think I have been involved in a better presentation of the Christmas message ever! It will be hard to top this year.

A continuing highlight for me are our incredible young adults and youth in our church and the continuing development of EVOLVE. Their passion, insight, and creativity constantly inspire me. It has been a joy to walk alongside the young adults as they have shaped a vibrant and values-led community — grounded in authenticity, faith, and inclusion.

The last 12 months also included a very personal highlight: in September and October, Marion and I were blessed to take some leave and travel through parts of Europe—catching up with Rev. Tara Curlewis and exploring Italy, France, and the UK. It was a restorative time, made possible because of the strength and leadership within our church. I'm so grateful to Kevin, Daniel , office staff, Church Council, and many others for ensuring that the ministry of the church continued to thrive during that time.

One of the more intensive areas of focus this year has been the Mission Planning Process. It has been both encouraging and challenging as we've sought to listen for God's leading, reflect on who we are, and discern where we are being called next. Through workshops, congregational surveys, and leadership discernment, we've begun to shape a shared vision of what church might look like as we head toward 2030. This work is still unfolding—but already we're seeing some fresh energy, bold ideas, and a renewed commitment to discipleship, inclusion, and Spirit-led leadership. I'm excited to see how this will continue to grow in the coming year.

This past year has also brought moments of deep sadness. We have farewelled some beloved members of our church family, whose absence is still deeply felt. Their faithful witness and warm presence shaped the life of this church in lasting ways. As a community, we grieve together, but we also give thanks for their lives and trust in the hope we have in Christ.

Finally, I want to say thank you. To our Church Council, to those who lead and serve in worship, kids' ministry, small groups, playgroup, outreach, pastoral care, tech, admin, hospitality, and behind-the-scenes—thank you. To our staff team, especially Ana, Kevin, Daniel and to those who carry key responsibilities—Heather, Rob, Ean, Lara, and many others—thank you for your wisdom, servant-heartedness, and commitment.

Rev. Phil Swain

Minister's Report - Kevin

It has been another year full of excitement, challenge, and blessing. As I reflect on the past twelve months, I give thanks to God for the life, growth, and energy we have witnessed across our congregations and ministries. We have done a great deal over the past year, and I believe the next six months will be a critical time as we continue to shape our future. I want to share a few highlights and encouraging signs of God's faithfulness in our journey.

A core strength of TUC has always been its worshipping life. Over the past year, we have continued to maintain and grow three different worshipping congregations—each with its own unique identity and mission. It has not been without challenges, but I want to acknowledge the significant energy, dedication, and creativity poured into each service. Our *9am congregation* continues to be the main gathering for our church family, welcoming people of all ages, including some young families. The use of the Narrative Lectionary has provided a strong scriptural and thematic flow, helping us reflect on God's story throughout the seasons. The consistency of solid biblical preaching, creative storytelling, and outstanding music has strengthened the community. We have also welcomed new members to this service, which is a sign of healthy growth and of God's Spirit at work. Our *10:45am congregation* has remained a faithful expression of traditional worship, deeply valued by members who cherish hymns, reverence, and reflective liturgy. It continues to be a place of spiritual grounding and pastoral care for many, and I am thankful for the faithfulness of this group. *Evolve* has continued to innovate and push the boundaries of worship and discipleship. It is a space where we explore new ways of engaging with God and community, and it has become a model of creative ministry within our region. Its informal, interactive, and intentional style has reached people who might not otherwise feel comfortable in a traditional setting. These three worshipping communities—each praising God in their own way—are a source of pride and a hopeful sign for our future.

Children and family ministry has remained a priority for us, and *Sunday Funday* initiative has been a powerful expression of that commitment. Over the past year, Sunday Funday has drawn in new families, strengthened intergenerational connections, and created joyful, gospel-centered experiences. The team behind this ministry has shown passion, creativity, and resilience. I am deeply grateful for their work. We now have a strong foundation to build upon, and I believe this ministry will continue to be a key area for growth and outreach in the year ahead.

One of the most significant aspects of my ministry this past year has been the deepening relationship with the St Andrews congregation. Through preaching, pastoral care, and regular presence, we have nurtured mutual trust and respect. We are now at a crossroads where we need to reimagine our relationship moving forward. These conversations won't be easy, as they involve changes for both TUC and St Andrews. However, I believe God is calling us to explore a shared future. With thoughtful mission planning and prayerful discernment, we hope to bear much fruit together. Please keep this process in your prayers.

TUC's role in the wider community continues to grow. From major events like the Flea Market and Carols to weekly playgroups, SRE in schools, the community choir, and our growing fellowship ministries, we are finding fresh ways to connect and serve. These events require enormous effort and collaboration, and I want to thank all those who make them possible. They not only reflect who we are but offer a compelling invitation to those beyond our walls.

The year ahead is full of promise and possibility. I feel privileged to walk this journey with you and remain committed to leading with hope, prayer, and courage. Let us keep listening to God's Spirit, encouraging one another, and stepping boldly into the future God is preparing for us.

Rev. Kevin Kim

Children & Youth Worker - Daniel

It's hard to believe that it has already been a year since I started here at TUC. Looking back on this first year, I am grateful for the many opportunities I've had to get to know the young people, families, and wider church community, and to see how God is at work in and through this place.

Throughout the year, I have been involved in several key ministry areas that have allowed me to connect with young people and families in different ways. Our Friday night youth groups have continued to be a space where young people can gather for fun, community, and conversations about faith, offering them a safe and welcoming environment to grow together. I've also enjoyed being involved in Sunday worship both upfront leading services and as part of the community in the pews.

A few highlights from the year include our annual HSC breakfast which saw nearly 50 people come along to pray for and support our 9 HSC students. This was a wonderful event that really showed the community spirit which is a core part of TUC. When I started, I was often told about two big events that happen at TUC, The Flea Market and Countdown to Christmas, and I am pleased to say that these both lived up to the hype. I was amazed at the way in which both events brought people together and reminded me of the importance of community.

One of the ways I've consistently seen God at work has been through the many dedicated volunteers who give their time, energy, and heart to support our children's and youth ministries. Their faithfulness and willingness to serve has been an ongoing encouragement and a true sign of God's presence in this community.

As I look ahead, I'm excited to continue building on the relationships and foundations that have been formed over this year. I'm grateful for the support, encouragement, and generosity shown by this church community, and I look forward to seeing how God will continue to lead and grow us in the year to come.

Leadership & Vision

Church Council TUC Annual Summary

It has been another rich and rewarding year in the life of Turramurra Uniting Church that has included some wonderful encouragement and signs of genuine spiritual and missional growth; and also some honest and challenging conversations as we move forward.

One of the most significant focuses for Church Council over the past 9 months has been the Mission Planning Process. Through prayer, consultation, surveys, leadership workshops, and feedback from the congregation, we've taken bold steps in seeking God's direction for our next chapter. This has included identifying areas for growth, clarifying our shared values, and imagining new expressions of church life. We are excited by the direction this discernment is heading and thankful for the thoughtful and Spirit-led input offered by so many in our church family.

There have been many moments of celebration and growth this year:

- The continued success of EVOLVE, our young adult-led discipleship community, which has offered inspiring worship, deep spiritual conversations.
- A vibrant year of worship life, including creative sermon series, the incredible Christmas events (including the Turramurra Community Carols), and strong leadership across both traditional and contemporary services.
- The impact of the Flea Market, which continues to bless both our local and global neighbours through significant fundraising for multiple community causes.
- The different ways we have explored discipleship and learning including combined Lenten studies, and a growing desire to make our discipleship process more inclusive and effective.
- The faithful work of our support and pastoral care teams, office staff, and

worship volunteers who keep the week-to-week life of the church thriving. We are grateful to God for those who offer leadership through Church Council. Following the recent election, we welcome the new Church Council for the next two-year term: Bill Bolton, Jonty Cornford, Max Day, Jane Ford, Esther Hamilton, Heather Koroknay, Robin Ruys, James Watson and myself.

We give special thanks for Rob Day, who is stepping down after over 20 years of faithful service on Church Council. Rob's wisdom, integrity, and steady guidance have been a great blessing to this church. We're grateful that Rob will continue serving as Treasurer, and we pray God's continued blessing on his ministry in this vital role.

To all who serve in leadership, ministry, volunteering, and prayer—thank you. This church thrives because of your faithfulness and the grace of God working through you. Church Council is deeply grateful for your support, encouragement, and commitment to the vision and life of TUC.

As we look to the year ahead, we do so with great hope and anticipation. We believe God is doing something new among us and continue to trust in the spirit's leading.

Ean van Vuuren

TUC Management/Property Committee

Membership: Rob Day (Treasurer), Judy Giacometti, Lara Fowler, Peter Baily, Nigel Clarke (Chairperson), Phil Swain and Kevin Kim (Ministers)

The TUC Management Committee meets on the second Tuesday of the month except August and January. Particular attention is given regularly to the state of the financial accounts, regulatory requirements, and special projects. The Committee reviews the Work, Health and Safety Risk Register and oversees day-to-day staffing matters, and it especially ensures that all employment contracts comply with Synod requirements and applicable laws. The Committee also directly oversees any property matters. The Church Treasurer and Chairperson have delegated authority to address urgent property matters up to $2,500. The Committee takes seriously its responsibility to carefully administer TUC's finances and structural well-being, including adherence to all regulatory requirements and reporting financials and significant business to the Church Council monthly.

This year, the Management Committee has

- *Administered the receipt and allocation of funds donated for general and specific use according to the budget approved by the TUC Congregation;*
- *Managed various major technology, electrical, plumbing and structural works in and around the TUC complex, including roofing repairs, and repairing the damage caused by the tree to the Lounge Deck.*
- *Managed the lease of the flat at the rear of the administration building, and the manse we rent from Gordon/Pymble UCA.*
- *Provided oversight of the relationship between TUC and Uniting Early Learning*
- *Facilitated Synod annual returns, ACNC (Charities Commission) reporting, insurance cover, auditing of the accounts and various other annual financial requirements;*
- *Assisted the Treasurer with the preparation of a Budget for the financial year 2025/2026 for approval by the Church Council and the Congregation;*
- *Exercised general oversight of various staffing arrangements on behalf of the Church Council, including the hiring of Ana, our Office Administrator, and*
- *Prepared advice to Church Council as requested by Church Council.*

Nigel Clarke

Faith Development, Worship & Big Events

9am Worship Support Group

The last 12 months has been a time of learning, creativity, and spiritual depth for our 9am worship community. We have loved gathering for worship and have valued a deepening sense of connection and embracing of new initiatives and themes.

We give heartfelt thanks for the incredible 9am worship team including musicians, tech team, prayer leaders, preachers, welcomers, and those who serve behind the scenes. Your consistent dedication ensures that each Sunday offers a meaningful and Spirit-led worship experience for our congregation, whether in person or online.

Our worship journey over the past 12 months once again followed the Narrative Lectionary, offering a rich tapestry of Scripture and story. In the lead up to Advent last year we began the Narrative Lectionary's Old Testament thread, focusing on God's promises to Abraham, Joseph, Moses, David, and the prophets. These stories reminded us of God's covenantal faithfulness and glimpses of God's heart.

In Advent, we centred around the theme *"The Hope of a Messiah"*, with a creative and engaging lead-up to Christmas. Christmas Highlights included the *Shrek-tacular Christmas Eve service* and our *Christmas Day celebration*, both filled with joy, light, and a strong sense of community. In January and February, we began our Gospel journey in *Luke*, tracing the identity and mission of Jesus. From his birth and baptism to his teachings and miracles, we asked together: *"Who is Jesus?"* During Lent and Easter, we walked closely with Jesus through Luke's lens—from stories of the lost being found, to Palm Sunday, the cross, and finally, the joyful celebration of the resurrection. After Easter, we moved into *Acts, Galatians*, and *Hebrews*, exploring the early church's witness and our call to live by the Spirit and *Hold onto Hope*.

A few standout moments this year included the thoughtful *Vision Sunday* service inviting us to imagine the future of our church and the baptism of Jinous and Mehdi and the powerful statements of faith that they shared. We also have loved the creative sermon visuals, interactive elements, engaging children's talks, and musical leadership that all added to our worship. As we look toward the coming year, we do so with joy and anticipation. We are excited for how God will continue to work through the 9am congregation—especially as we take some time to reimagine how to continue to develop this worshipping community as helpful, vibrant and growing.

10:45am Traditional Worship

The 10:45am Traditional Worship Service continues to be a cherished part of the life of Turramurra Uniting Church, offering hymns and liturgical worship experience that deeply resonates with many in our congregation.

This year, we've seen the community grow in both depth and number, with some new faces joining us. Our 10:45am services have generally followed the same Narrative Lectionary themes as the 9am congregation - often mirroring the message of the day in a more concise format. We are continually blessed by the musical gifts of our two wonderful organists—Ross and Robin—whose faithful service enhances the worship experience with beauty and reverence.

In addition to our worship gatherings, fellowship remains a cornerstone of this community and we are so appreciative of the ministries of "TUC and Friends"; "Coffee with" and the monthly bus trips for adding to the fellowship of our worshipping community. We see all these things working together to sustain our community and care for the emotional and spiritual wellbeing of our members.

We give thanks for the quiet faithfulness of this congregation and the many people who contribute to the life of the 10:45am service through leadership, welcoming, morning tea, music, and prayer. As we look to the coming year, we do so with gratitude and hope.

EVOLVE: Discipleship Community

Over the last year Evolve has continued to stay true to its four main missional pillars - community, discipleship inclusion, and taking Jesus' message seriously. These four pillars have guided the evening service at TUC as we have attempted to do church in a way that reflects the needs and culture of the congregation. We have settled into a new four-week cycle, in which each week takes a different form. These four styles of service at Evolve are GATHER, ENGAGE, DIVE and GLOW. Crucially, all four styles of service all begin with a shared meal. When we GATHER, it looks a lot like what many of us understand to be a fairly traditional church service. We worship together, we hear the word, we pray together. When we ENGAGE, we often hear from a panel or a guest speaker about a topic that will drive us to action. When we DIVE, we spend more time reading the Bible together, talking together in groups much like a Bible study. And when we GLOW, Evolve becomes an almost entirely music-driven, immersive worship experience. By allowing these four styles of worship to naturally form around other events in the calendar it gives our congregation an opportunity to experience worship in a variety of ways while always following our four missional pillars. We have had a number of fantastic guest speakers over the last year to complement our incredible ministry team. These guests have included Rev Dr Sunny Chen, Rev Dr Peter Walker, Rev Vanessa Williams-Henke, Will Small, Tim and Frank from Roseville UC, Rev Dr Peter Powell, Pastor Somerset Drayton, and Pastor Joyce Tangi. We have also enjoyed a continuing relationship with Roseville Uniting, in which we have collaborated with and visited each other a number of times. Roseville's "Soul Food" evenings are always a hit! Other notable events over the last year at Evolve include the ASRC Feast For Freedom organised by Bill Thomas and Bec Swain, three live podcast recordings with Filthy Hope and Uniting Heart & Soul, and of course the incredible Countdown to Christmas service on Christmas Eve. As Evolve continues to… evolve, we are seeing a deep sense of community and collaborative leadership developing amongst a passionate team of young adults. We can't wait to see what else God has in store for Evolve as it continues to grow in numbers, discipleship and reach.

Jonty Cornford

Easter Services

Easter at TUC continues to be one of the most significant and spiritually rich times in the life of our church. The Easter weekend began on Maundy Thursday, with our now-familiar creative and contemplative setup. The worship space was filled with candles, symbols, and a strong sense of sacredness as we remembered the Last Supper and Jesus' command to love and serve one another. Good Friday was marked by a series of four powerful reflections focused on the cross. It was a service shaped by silence and reverence, as we sat with the weight of Jesus' sacrifice and the brokenness he bore on our behalf. But the true highlight of the Easter weekend was Easter Sunday—celebrated with a breathtaking butterfly art installation. Thousands of butterflies filled the church, symbolising transformation, joy, and the new life that Jesus' resurrection brings. It was a visual and emotional expression of resurrection hope, and many in our congregation and visiting community commented on how deeply moving it was. Our Easter Egg Hunt was full of noise, laughter, and energy, drawing in children and families for a moment of fun and connection. The entire Easter weekend was a beautiful blend of reflection, creativity, and celebration—a time where we could once again proclaim the heart of our faith: Christ is risen!

Countdown to Christmas - Shrekactular!

Last Christmas, Daniel and the amazing Christmas leadership team ran another wildly successful Christmas program, made up of 3 parts: the Countdown 2 Christmas (C2C) program for kids in years K-6, the Christmas Eve Play and JOY Events. Each of these events were held in the week leading up to Christmas and culminated in a spectacular Christmas Eve Service which was attended by members of the programs, TUC, the wider community and beyond. It was an incredible opportunity for people of all ages to come together and explore the Christmas Story and share in community together.

Countdown 2 Christmas was centred around the theme 'The Season for Believing'. It was a 3-day extravaganza for children in years K-6, and led by a dedicated team of leaders. It was held during the afternoons on the 20th, 21st, and 23rd of December. There were many fun and exciting games, great food, chances to hang out with old friends and make new ones and engaging bible teaching, which was core to the structure of the program. We focused on three topics as part of 'The Season for Believing' theme: home, the importance of belonging and the significance of God's love. The program was attended by around 30 kids and 15+ leaders. A huge shoutout to everyone who was involved in leading, cooking, setting up & packing up, supervising, first aid etc. Everyone came together to make it a huge success! Our 2024 Christmas Eve Play was titled 'A Shrektacular' Christmas. With a very talented cast featuring the children from C2C, some young adults and a stellar band, we followed the story of two unlikely friends sent on a quest to find a king, and get back something they lost. Holding out for a hero, their journey led them to meet interesting characters, who helped them find a new reason for their journey, and discover that Jesus makes Christmas the Season for Believin'. There was incredible singing, dancing, music, props and a whole lot of FUN! With inspiration from the music & characters of Shrek, and such an All Star cast, the community was Accidentally in Love with this show! A big shoutout to Bec S for writing and directing the play, Kyle T and Wilson D for creating the magical lyrics to the songs, Megan S for choreography and Matt S for his impeccable tech and sound skills.

JOY Events are for the young adults to come together after a huge year and share the Christmas spirit together in the lead up to Christmas Eve. This year we had a competitive Trivia Night, the annual Indoor Cricket Competition and the well-appreciated Barefoot Bowls. Thank you to Muller, Alex, Kyle and Ryan who coordinated the evenings. Everyone who attended was really grateful for this fun and joyous chance to come together with young adults from the TUC community and beyond. The 'Season for Believing' Christmas program was a wonderful week of fun and excitement, and a great chance for all the people of TUC to share in community together and celebrate the true joy of Christmas. This is always a year highlight for all of us. Thank you to everyone who was involved in any way, we truly couldn't have done it without you! We're already planning and excited for this year! Let us know if you want to be involved in any way. **Bec Swain & Max Day**

2024 Christmas Community Carols

A beautiful afternoon greeted us for the 2024 Turramurra Community Carols (the fourth since they started). The team from TUC and Gordon-Pymble were on board as the community started to arrive from 5pm to take up prime positions and start purchasing food and drinks. The pre-entertainment commenced at 5.30pm with performances from the Creativity Centre, Steve Koroknay, Dance Max and Turramurra Community Choir.

The carols started slightly late as the Tech team dealt with unexpected challenges. Once we started, the carols were able to be heard up and down Gilroy Rd and part of Eastern Rd. There were even people watching from the local units overlooking the park. The attendees also enjoyed the face painting, BBQ, snow cones and the jumping castle.

This event requires all types of helpers and contributors to make it a success. A big thank you to the band, singers, tech team (and for resolving the above challenges), the pre-Carols entertainment, the welcomers, the MC, the helpers who prepare and pack up the site, the tech team, the cooks (BBQ and drinks), the decoration creators, the team preparing the song books and the ministers for their messages – yes it is a long list. And to those attended and also brought friends, thank you.

From a financial perspective, including donations for the Bouncy Castle, the Carols made a loss of $1,236. The potential inclusion of sponsors could offset this loss in the future. We estimate 800-900 attended the Carols and many thanked us for putting this event on. At Christmas, the carols provide one way for us to share the Christmas message, Jesus' birth and the good news of salvation to the community in a relaxed and casual setting. We have decided to stage the 2025 carols at Cameron Park and assess a possible future move to Karuah Oval in 2026.

There are always opportunities to improve the way we interact and provide an environment where attendees want a deeper personal spiritual engagement at this time of year. We will be looking at different ways to do this as part of the Carols and would seek any suggestions from those in the congregation.

Let's continue to point the community to Christ and allow the Carols to be one avenue for this connection. The 2025 Carols will be held on Sunday 14 December so please lock that in your calendars.

Cam Giacometti

TUC Missionaries

At Turramurra Uniting Church, we believe that every follower of Jesus is called to be part of God's mission—whether that's locally or globally. We are especially committed to supporting those who have been called to full-time mission work and are privileged to walk alongside several mission partners. This past year, we've continued to support three key missionary families:

- Matt & Heidrun Blair (with Rebecca, Amy, and James), serving with Logos Hope, a ministry bringing books, education, and the gospel to port cities around the world.
- Grant & Kathryn Bickerton (with Benny, Matthew, and Jessie), serving with Power to Change. Grant works in university outreach and missionary training, while Kathryn supports the organisation's administration.
- Ben & Antonia Wilkins (with Theo, Cedric, Jemima, and Dominic), who have begun their work in North West Africa with SIM.

We also continue our strong local and international support of Andy Tuskan, the KCEA SRE teacher at Ku-ring-gai High School; and the Nimbong School in India helping support the education and future of children in a remote and under-resourced area.

We remain committed to strengthening the connection between our congregation and our mission partners. It is our hope to strengthen our support and communication between our congregation and our missionaries. If you're interested in being part of this important work, please talk to Kevin or Phil.

Ministry & Mission Teams

Pastoral Care Working Group

At Turramurra Uniting Church, the Pastoral Care Working Group (PCWG) is passionate about ensuring that everyone, whether newly arrived or a life-long member, feels loved, connected, and always welcomed. We believe that sharing God's love with each other lies at the heart of our church community.

Our group meets regularly throughout the year to support our pastors, Kevin and Phil, and to help ensure that vulnerable, sick, or isolated members of our congregation are being reached. A large team of helpers plays a role in this care through phone calls, visits, transport assistance, and organising outings, alongside visits from Kevin and Phil.

Many of TUC's diverse activities provide gentle moments of pastoral care. Spaces where people can chat and share with each other in safe and welcoming environments. Whether it's morning coffees, meals, or group outings, these gatherings offer opportunities for friendship and support.

One of our regular events is the monthly **"Coffee with Phil and Kevin"**, where church friends enjoy delicious slices and coffee while Phil or Kevin lead thoughtful discussions, or simply let the conversations flow. Similarly, our **monthly bus outings**, which attract 8–10 people each time, have taken us on memorable trips to places like Cockatoo Island, Norah Head Lighthouse, Western Sydney Airport, Watsons Bay, Christmas light displays, and VIVID Sydney.

While many of these activities naturally appeal to the empty-nester generations, pastoral care at TUC reaches across all ages. We're always looking for new ways to connect with families, young adults, and others in our community with different needs and time commitments.

Sometimes, pastoral care is simply reaching out with a friendly conversation after worship, extending an invitation to a shared meal, or making a phone call to someone who can't get out. These small but meaningful acts help others feel seen, valued, and part of our caring church family.

If you'd like to learn more or explore how you might get involved in the Pastoral Care Working Group, we'd love to hear from you.

Community Choir

Our choir has enjoyed another strong and rewarding year. We were grateful to have Ben with us as choir conductor for nearly two years, and although he moved on to a new opportunity at the end of last year, we thank him for his musical leadership and encouragement during his time with us.

We are delighted to welcome Matt as our new choir conductor. In just a short time, Matt has brought fresh energy, creativity, and a wider musical repertoire to our group. His enthusiasm and skill have been warmly embraced, and the choir has responded with renewed commitment and joy.

Throughout the year, the choir has contributed meaningfully to many services and events in the life of our church. Highlights include special performances at the Flea Market, Carols, and 'Choir Sunday' held in April. One especially memorable occasion was our visit to Turramurra House in November, where we performed for the residents and were warmly received with heartfelt appreciation.

It has also been encouraging to welcome a few new members recently, and we remain hopeful for continued growth. We would love to connect with others who are

TUC & Friends

TUC & Friends is a friendly social group for men and women, we meet in the Lounge at TUC starting with Morning Tea. We extend a warm welcome for you to join us at any time. No need to be a regular, just come along when you can. This is a good opportunity to catch up with old and new friends especially those that you do not have time to talk to on Sunday. Phil and Kevin also join us regularly.

Program for 2024/25

3rd Wednesday each month 10am – Morning Tea. We serve home made sandwiches, cakes and slices for morning tea and each month we celebrate anyone who has had a birthday during that month. Recently we have introduced an activity for the last ½ hour of the morning. Similar to our Thursday Activities Morning.

5th Thursday during the year 10am – Activity Day. On Thursday's we have a varied program of entertainment maybe a word puzzle, 20 questions, poetry items, funny stories, or an opportunity to sing a few old favourites.

End-of-Year Lunch – We hold two lunches during the year. In November we had a very successful End of Year Lunch held at the Church. Lucille Taylor and her support team served 65 delicious home cooked meals. This was an exceptionally good day, and enjoyed by everyone who attended.

Mid-Year Lunch - In June we had lunch at the Asquith Bowling Club. A very small group attended mainly due to many of our regular members being unwell. However, another enjoyable day for those who attended. A good opportunity to catch up with friends from our two separate services.

We do not meet in December, it is a busy month for all. Our regular program begins on the 3rd Wednesday in January.

Treasurers Report.

Each month at our morning teas attendees are invited to donate $5.00 to be distributed to nominated charities during the year. As per my previous report in June 2024 we donated a total of $1,200 to 4 chosen Charities. I am very excited to share that we donated another $1,200 to the following 4 Charities in December 2024. Exodus Foundation, Kairos Ministry – Outside for Women Sydney, Catherine Hamlin Fistula Foundation and Samaritan's Purse.

TUC & Friends have a great Team of people who help with setting up the lounge, providing transport, making delicious sandwiches and slices and organising our activities, we would like to thank everyone who help and support this lovely Social group.

Pamela Bull & Lynne Gardiner

Men's Coffee Group (MCG)

This is an initiative that started in 2024 as a new informal and regular activity for men so that they can meet together. We catch up over a cup of coffee/hot chocolate and most importantly give and receive support and encouragement to each other and promote friendships.

We meet on the 3rd Thursday every month at the PCYC Cafe at Waitara Ave, Waitara. The cafe has plenty of available indoor and outdoor space. Parking is available along Waitara Ave and disability parking is available under the PCYC with the entrance from Park Ave and a lift up to the cafe.

So for all men, this is an invitation to join us any month(s), to bring someone else along if possible and also, to let other men know about this activity. To date we have had 8-12 coming each month. We would welcome and love to have more joining us. Hopefully, we will be able to have further initiatives and activities for men in future.

Keith Napper

Flea Market

The **Turramurra Community Flea Market**, a twice-yearly event run in partnership with St Andrew's Uniting Church South Turramurra, was held on a sunny Saturday in May. This popular event continues to be a fantastic opportunity to connect with our wider community while raising funds for important causes through donated goods, fresh food, and drinks.

The success of the day was made possible thanks to the many **community volunteers and church members** who helped both before and during the market. A more streamlined donation process—accepting goods only on the Thursday—resulted in a smooth setup, with the usual indoor stalls and **42 community stalls**.

This market saw the successful introduction of **online stall bookings** for external vendors using TryBooking. The system was easy to use, well-received by stallholders, and supported by a dedicated email address to ensure clear and timely communication. During the market, a **video presentation** showcased the community work of both TUC and St Andrew's.

Thanks to **targeted social media promotion**, **electronic payments**, and **careful pricing and presentation**, we once again broke fundraising records. The Committee approved donations to support:

- Older Women's Network
- Social Local Collective - Social connection programs
- Indigenous Literacy Foundation
- We Care Connect - supporting at-risk youth and families
- UC Moderator's Appeal - Flood relief in the Hunter and Mid-North Coast
- Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Women's Shelter
- Dreams2Live4 - supporting people living with metastatic cancer

Unsold items in good condition were donated to **Parramatta Mission, Salvos Hornsby, We Care Connect, Fusion, toy recyclers, Warnervale Uniting Church**, and **Achieve**. Three skips were used for rubbish and unsaleable items, one of which was kindly donated by **North Shore Skip Bins**.

The Committee is currently seeking a **Chairperson** (and Market Coordinator) for a term of up to two years. We're also looking for a new volunteer to take on C**ommunity Stallholder Communications** (including TryBooking management). As always, we welcome new volunteers across all areas of the market.

We continue to explore ways to simplify the **setup and pack-down process**, including removing some of the heaviest tables from beneath the hall during a recent working bee. Further suggestions are warmly welcomed.

A **big thank you** to everyone who contributed time, effort, and donations to this wonderful twice-yearly event. We look forward to welcoming you back on **25 October 2025**!

Jenni Prowse & Lara Fowler

Social Justice Committee

The Social Justice Committee meets by Zoom bi-monthly. If you would like to join the group please contact Rev. Kevin Kim or Bill Thomas. We would welcome comments and suggestions.

This year we have been putting an emphasis on awareness raising through notices in the weekly E-News and events such as a recent online session on climate change adaptation presented by Uniting Climate Action Network (UCAN). In March, with Evolve leadership, we hosted "Feast for Freedom" a very successful fund-raising dinner for the Asylum Seekers Resource Centre. One of the charities we supported at the May Flea-Market was the Indigenous Literacy Foundation. We were able to do some awareness raising of ILF through a book display, a slide presentation of one of the children's books at 9AM and Evolve Services and with the children at Kids Church. Several TUC members have registered for the Common Grace Conference in Canberra in November. Common Grace is a movement of over 60,000 Christians dedicated to following Jesus and Justice. It has largely Indigenous leadership. Please check it out and consider registering for the conference. There is also a Sydney gathering on September 2, at Newtown Mission.

It is heartening, as a relatively new-comer, to see the involvement of TUC in practical actions such as the distribution of proceeds of the Flea-Market to charitable causes, the regular collection of grocery items for The Dish and Parramatta Mission, and our monthly volunteering in The Dish Program. Also, each week in our services we pray regularly for issues of peace and justice at home and abroad. At the time of writing we are planning to contact our newly elected Local Member for Bradfield, Nicolette Boele MP to establish contact and discuss issues of concern including climate and Indigenous justice.

In the coming year we would like to see further involvement of TUC members in two Synod activities: Uniting Climate Action Network and Walking Together(support for First Nations People). Many Uniting Churches use banners produced by the Synod and Assembly on issues such as welcoming asylum seekers and protecting God's creation as a way of public witness. We would like to encourage the congregation to consider this step.

Bill Thomas for the Social Justice Team.

"Let justice roll on like a river, and righteousness like a never-failing stream." Amos 5:24

The Dish

TUC has supported **The Dish** for over 20 years. This local ministry serves **a hot meal** four nights a week to people experiencing homelessness or disadvantage. The Dish also runs a **food rescue service** in Hornsby, distributing **50+ hampers** of fresh produce and supermarket surplus each week to families and individuals in need. The **Community Pantry** has grown now that The Dish operates out of St Peter's Anglican Church, with our own storage space and commercial refrigeration. TUC's **monthly food drives**, alternating with Parramatta Mission, help stock the pantry, on behalf of The Dish, thank you for your generous support! We also enjoyed another **Dish Day Out** last year - a bus trip to **Walkabout Wildlife Park**, always a hit with our friends.

TUC volunteers serve **on the first Friday of each month**, with 5–7 helpers on the night plus others cooking meals in advance. We're part of **around 20 local church, school, and community groups** delivering this vital service. The Dish is **more than a meal**—it's a safe, welcoming community where friendship and support are found.

Interested in helping? Please speak to Lara Fowler.

Children, Youth & Families

TurraZone

Turrazone is an energetic group for kids in Years 2-6 that runs every Friday night from 5:30pm to 7:15pm. We get together for lots of fun and games, as well as delicious dinners from Geoff and talks about different Bible stories – it's always a super fun evening! Over the past 12 months we have continued to grow with quite a few new kids coming along on a regular basis. We're averaging around 16 kids most nights, with termly highs of around 22 kids at our big events!

Over the past 12 months we have had 4 huge term themes including "Dynamic Duo's", "Emoji Explosion", "Turrazone to the Extreme" and "Big Questions". Within these themes we have had plenty of highlights including Hide and Seek, nerf night, reality reloaded (where we recreated some classic video games in real life), kids vs leaders' night and everyone's favourite Chill Night. We also had some "BIG" nights such as our huge water fight night where everyone was drenched; as well as our Giant inflatable nights where we hired a giant obstacle course.

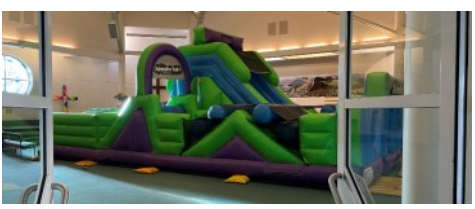
Over the past 12 months, we've also had some great talks from the bible where we heard some stories of classic Duo's within the bible (Moses and Aaron, Ruth and Naomi, David and Jonathan and many more), we also looked at different emotions within the Bible as well as following Jesus as he journeyed toward the cross and finally answering some of the Big Questions that the kids have about God such as What is heaven like? Where is God? and What does Jesus look like?

Thank you to the amazing leadership team (Bec, Megan, Max, Ruby, Mahalia, Maya, Esther, Kevin, and Phil) for their tireless efforts, to Geoff for being a wonderful chef and cooking delicious meals every week, and to everyone else who has helped with Turrazone over the past 12 months. **Daniel Gibb**

SquareOne

The SquareOne Friday Night Youth Group continues to be a great, closely bonded bunch of young people who love being together. Over the past 12 months, we have been thinking of various ways to reimagine SquareOne and explore how we can best support and encourage these young people in their faith journeys. Along with some new initiatives, including the Square one Café nights where we focus on deepening connections and relationship in a more relaxed style over food and conversations, we also continue to revisit some old favourite activities and games that SquareOne is known for, such as chair soccer and Zug Zug. Many laughs and jokes have been shared during games and social chats as well as some great conversations and questions that have been had during the talks. It has been so wonderful to see the young people grow and learn and become more curious and interested in the different topics we throw at them and it has been a joy to not only see this growth from them but to grow and learn with and from them as well.

Throughout the year we have looked at various different expressions of the church from around the world, as well as some stories from the bible that involve food and highlight the abundant way in which God provides for us all and with the help of a dart board, answered some questions and topics that were suggested by the youth including, Christin portrayal in the media, violence in the bible, Religion and mantal health and many more.



We are so grateful for the leadership and commitment of Will, Amy, Max, Mia and the others who help out when needed.

Turra Turtles Playgroup

Since Turra Turtles began in 2019, we've been building an inclusive community where parents, grandparents, carers and children can all find their place. To find a place where you can be truly seen and known is becoming harder in our modern age, but this is the culture we strive to build at playgroup.

While our activities are simple, the structure is deliberately designed to help adults interact with their children and at the same time allow them opportunity to engage with each other.

Friendships and connections have been born through conversations over coffee and craft; relationships that are providing vital support through difficult times.

These comments from some of our Turra Turtles tell the story better than a report.

"As grandparents we have absolutely loved coming to playgroup for the last year with our almost two-year-old granddaughter Emily. We are warmly welcomed each week by Edwina and her happy band of helpers and always enjoy the homemade treats and coffee provided. Playgroup is definitely one of the highlights of our grandparenting week! Looking forward to seeing you all next term!" - Kate, Daryl and Emily

"We've been part of Turra Turtles for over a year now with our daughter, Anjali. Over this time, we can see that Anjali has developed in her sense of self, independence and sense of ease in the Turtles playroom. She loves the songs and dance, toys (shop and dolly are her favourite) and is increasingly engaging in the creative crafts (sitting still is a challenge for a 2-year-old!). Sam and I look forward to our Tuesdays with Anjali to spend the morning with Edwina, Sue, Judy, Mia and Bree!" - Rhea and Sam

"I joined this Playgroup approximately three years ago and can honestly say it has been life changing. The impact of a community Playgroup like this one can never be underestimated — it offers so much more than a place to take your child to play. When I first came, I was navigating early motherhood while grieving the loss of my mum. I had a young baby and was seeking connection, support, and stimulation — not only for my child but also for myself. What I found here was a warm, welcoming environment that embraced both of us. We were enveloped in what I would describe as a circle of communal care — a deeply nurturing, non-hierarchical kind of support that is rare and incredibly powerful. Thanks to this Playgroup, I've made meaningful friendships with other parents, and I've seen my child thrive in an environment that values both structure and freedom. Each two-hour session is thoughtfully designed: there's a group time with singing and dancing that brings parents and children together, followed by both unstructured play and unique, lovingly prepared craft activities. What really sets this Playgroup apart are the people — the leader Edwina and volunteers, Judy, Sue, Mia, Bree and Amy, who consistently go above and beyond. For just five dollars, parents are treated to homemade cakes and tea or coffee, while the children enjoy thoughtfully curated crafts that support their development in creative and engaging ways. It's a model of care, generosity, and community spirit. Even during some of the more difficult times in my life — including the loss of a beloved relative and my own serious health challenges — this Playgroup has remained a safe, supportive haven for me and my child. I've always felt cared for, seen, and held — and importantly my child has too. This Playgroup - the Turra Turtles is truly a gift to our community. I'm endlessly grateful for it." – Bec

Hopefully this captures the heart of why Judy and Sue spend their time baking and serving tea and coffee each week. Why Bree juggles getting her children off to school before coming to church to care for other people's children. Why Mia organises her university timetable around Tuesdays, so she can be at playgroup. Why Amy has returned to the team as she continues her job hunt.

In all this, we remain thankful for the prayerful support of our church community. Together we are seeing the kingdom come in our small corner of Turramurra.

Edwina

Kids' Church

It has been another faithful and fruitful year of serving our children through Kids' Church. Week by week, our dedicated team of leaders has continued to help our children grow in their understanding of God's Word, their relationship with Jesus, and their place within our church community. We want to express our heartfelt thanks to our wonderful Kids Church team: Heather K., Geoff L., Marg L., Lynne A., Kate M., Jen C., and Daniel G. Their creativity, care, and commitment have made a lasting difference in the lives of the children they serve.

It has been encouraging to see a core group of children attending more regularly, supported by our consistent program that runs throughout the school term. Each Sunday, the team prepares engaging lessons that follow the Bible readings and themes from the main service, creating a shared spiritual focus across generations. This intentional alignment has helped foster a deeper sense of connection between worship and learning.

Our Kids Church team has also been actively involved on Sunday Funday. This involvement has strengthened the bridge between Sunday Funday and ongoing discipleship through Kids Church.

We are thankful for the seeds of faith being planted and nurtured each week, and we ask for your ongoing prayers—especially for our teachers, who faithfully share God's love and truth with the next generation.

Kevin Kim

Sunday Funday

Our first Sunday Funday was held in March 2024, and since then we have discovered just how effective and successful this initiative has been in helping us connect with young families in our wider community. As a church, we recognize the growing need for more active, creative, and welcoming spaces where young families can explore faith, build relationships, and grow spiritually. Sunday Funday has provided an accessible, fun, and engaging environment for children and their families to experience God's love together.

Since Term 2 last year, we have hosted four Sunday Funday events, each based around a meaningful biblical theme. These have included 'Treasure Hunting', 'I am the Vine and You are the Branches', 'The Parable of the Lost Sheep', and a joyful and well-attended Christmas celebration. Each event has been designed to include interactive storytelling, music, craft, games, food, and community connection. We have regularly welcomed more than 20 children (plus parents and carers) to these worship experiences, and the feedback from families has been very positive. The Christmas Sunday Funday in particular was a standout moment—full of celebration, energy, and a real sense of community.

Looking ahead, our next Sunday Funday will be held on 31st August (Term 3), and preparations are already underway. As we continue to imagine and shape a growing ministry with children and young families, we ask for your prayers and support. Please pray that this ministry will not only grow in number but deepen in faith impact as we build stronger relationships and nurture the next generation.

Kevin Kim

SRE - Special Religious Education in the schools

This year, Phil and I have continued teaching Scripture (SRE) to Year 3 students at two local public schools—Warrawee Public School and Turramurra North Public School—every Wednesday. We currently have around 25 children in the Warrawee class and approximately 10 children at Turramurra North.

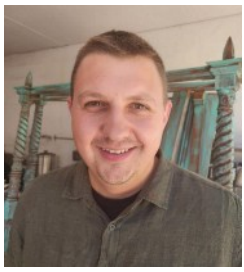
It has been another rewarding and joy-filled year as we have had the privilege of meeting with these students and their teachers on a weekly basis. Being present in our local schools as representatives of the Christian faith is both a responsibility and a gift. We are thankful for the opportunity to share God's love, stories from the Bible, and the message of hope with these children.

SRE often opens doors for wider community connections. For example, I recently saw two of the Warrawee SRE students at Ethan's swimming lessons—it's encouraging to realise how this ministry creates links not just in the classroom but in everyday community life. A couple of students who first connected with us through SRE also participated in our C2C program last year and performed in our Christmas Eve service—bringing their families into the life of the church.

We continue to believe that SRE plays a vital role in the spiritual formation of children and in building bridges between the church and our local community. Please continue to pray for this ministry—that it would bear fruit in the lives of students, teachers, and their families, and that we might be faithful witnesses to the love and truth of Jesus in our schools.

Kevin Kim

KCEA (Ku-ring-gai Christian Education Association)



Andy Tuskan, the SRE (Special Religious Education) teacher at Kuring-Gai High School, teaches classes drawn from Years Seven to Ten on an opt-in basis. Roughly half the students in those years elect to attend. Now in his third year at the school, Andy also maintains contact with those students in Years 11 and 12 that he taught in the previous years. Andy has been keen to reestablish a lunchtime Christian group, having come to faith at ISCF in his own school days. Unfortunately these days such meetings face hurdles that didn't exist in the past. Nevertheless some progress has been made, and Andy asks us to pray that a group will start soon. Andy is also continuing to build good relations with the school staff, particularly in the English staff room where he has been accommodated for the past eighteen months. He believes that part of his role at the school is to encourage the Christian teachers on the staff, while also making himself available to others.

Each year, supporting churches host four prayer gatherings, usually alternating been evening and breakfast meetings. TUC will be hosting the third one at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday 11th September, and we do urge you to come along to support Andy and his wife Jade. Andy expresses deep gratitude for the prayer support he receives throughout the year.

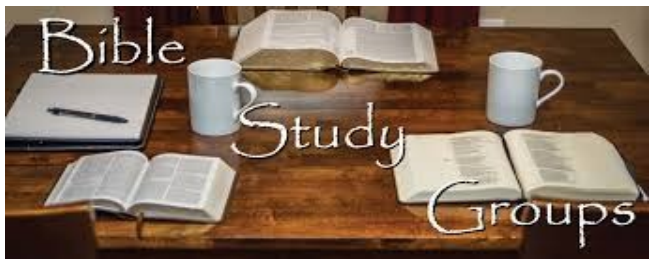
The KCEA budget relies on both scheduled contributions from our partner churches and the generosity of individual donations. Donations can be made by credit card: www.mycause.com.au/ charity/58723/KuringgaiChristianEducationAssociation Or by direct debit: Ku-ring-gai Christian Education Association Inc. BSB 732 189 Account 567 599 Or by cheque: "Kuringgai Christian Education Association, PO Box 355, Wahroonga NSW 2076.

To receive regular newsletters and prayer points, email secretary.kcea@gmail.com

Sue Bolton and Jon Fowler

Bible Study / Home Groups

Small Groups Support



At Turramurra Uniting Church, we continue to see small groups as a vital part of our spiritual growth and community life. These groups provide spaces where people can build deeper relationships, explore faith together, and support one another in life's ups and downs.

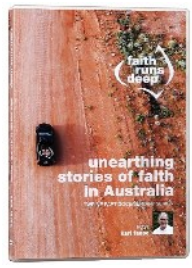
Over the past year, our small groups have experienced a mixture of momentum and challenge. Some groups have continued to thrive—growing in depth and welcoming new members—while others have faced transitions or found it difficult to maintain regular meetings. We celebrate the new life and energy in some spaces and we're excited to see how other groups are evolving into fresh expressions of community.

A standout moment this year was our combined Lenten Bible study series, where Phil and Kevin led us through creative and thought-provoking reflections on the Easter story using the Narrative Lectionary. These gatherings drew between 20–30 participants, and the conversations were rich and encouraging. It was a meaningful way to journey toward Easter together as a church family.

Our current Mission Planning process has affirmed the value of small group ministry, while also recognising that we may need to reimagine how our groups function—to be more inclusive, accessible, and life-giving for a broader range of people. This will be a focus moving forward, and we invite everyone to pray and dream with us about what this might look like.

If you would like to join a small group or find out more, please fill in a Small Group Connect Card (available at the back of the church) or speak to one of the ministry team. We would love to help you find a place to grow and belong..

Friday Evening Home Group



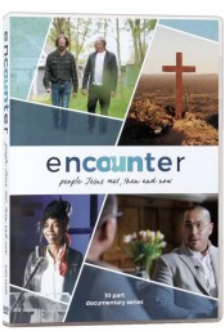
The Friday Evening Home Group has continued to meet on the second and fourth Fridays of the month, meeting for Bible study three times and once for dinner in a two month period. Several of our members have been happy to host our meetings in their homes. Our numbers have remained steady at eleven.

We have used study materials from a variety of sources, including the Karl Faase series "Faith Runs Deep," some based on TUC sermon series and some from other sources. Members of the group support and encourage each other in prayer and also enjoy the social aspect of meeting up for dinner every second month.

Alison Willson

Thursday Ponderers

This group has continued to meet on the First Thursday of the month, usually at 3pm (4pm during daylight saving). We finished "Faith Runs Deep" and have started on a new Karl Faase series, called "Encounter, people Jesus met, then and now."



We watch a DVD , then discuss and answer questions pertaining to it. We finish up with a hymn and a prayer. Numbers in the group vary, as age catches up with us, but it has been great to welcome two new members this year. We also meet socially for lunch, ideally on the fifth Friday of the month when it exists but circumstances this year have caused some variations in this routine. This enables us to keep in touch with those who don't wish to commit to a study. New members are always welcome.

Carolyn Cross

S.B.Y Group (Thursday)

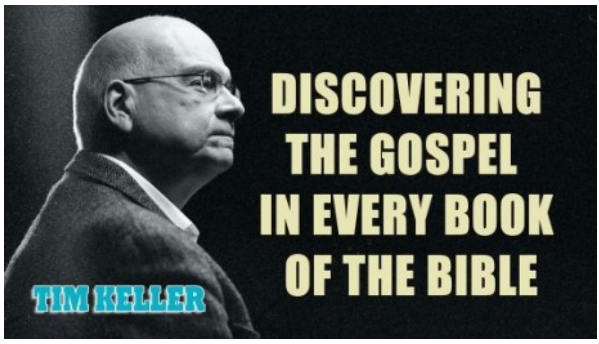
Thanks to Ron and Val Quarmby, we meet for bible study in the recreation room of St Margaret's Village in Gilroy Street at 1 pm on the third Thursday of each month except January and December.

All ten of us are senior citizens, six women and four men. Ron is leader of the group. He chooses the study for the group. Currently, we are in the midst of a study called "Meeting the Spirit", one of the *Life Guide* studies. Ron arranges who will lead each study.

Peter Myerscough

Friday Night Home Group 2025

Our group aspires to meet every Friday night, and in practice probably averages three out of four meetings a month. Generally we meet if three out of four couples can attend, apart from a prolonged break over Christmas and January. We meet in members homes, on a rotating roster basis.



In the second half of 2024 we continued working through the "Discovering the Gospel in Every Book of The Bible" series by Tim Keller. We are using the Bible Project video of the book concerned to do a refresh on the contents and structure of the book, followed by the Tim Keller video to look specifically at the Gospel linkage. After finishing the Keller material, we have continued working through the books of the Old Testament using Bible Project videos, supplemented by other miscellaneous study material as appropriate.

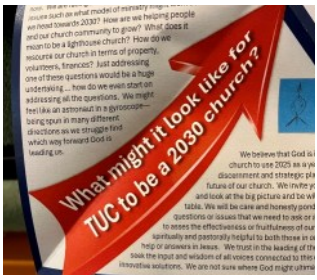
After finishing the OT books we have continued into the New Testament using a similar approach. We have reached the second-half of Luke's Gospel at the time of writing and will follow on through the NT books into 2026.

Sue and Bill Bolton

Monday Nighters

Monday Nighters is a Bible study group for young adults that has been active since 2021. We meet either in someone's home or the church basement, usually on alternating weeks, and explore the Bible together with a focus on the practicalities of living as a disciple in 2025. Joanna and Adrian Drayton deserve a massive shoutout for hosting the vast majority of home Bible studies - not just this year, but every year prior too. We continue to push the boundaries of how many people we can comfortably fit in a living room, as Monday nights are a core part of the discipleship journey of many of our young adults.

Jonty Cornford



We would sincerely like to thank all our contributors to our AGM Report

Turramurra Uniting Church

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