



UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA
Northern Synod

NORTHERN SYNOD NEWS

OCTOBER 2024

PILGRIM PRESBYTERY OF THE NORTHERN SYNOD MEETING LED BY REV DR SUNNY CHEN



We shared in an invigorating Pilgrim Presbytery meeting in October. Representatives came from far and wide, including Mowanjum and Broome in WA, Nhulunbuy in East Arnhem Land, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs. There was a positive vibe as we shared our stories and made decisions on the way ahead.

Rev Dr Sunny Chen travelled from Melbourne to speak at both the PPNA meeting and the Ministers' Retreat that followed. Sunny is an engaging and passionate educator, walking participants through the Gospel of Luke, and giving pertinent insights on the Greek translation of the Scriptures.

Our next full PPNA Presbytery face-to-face meeting will be held on Thursday 3rd April 2025, in Darwin, just prior to our full Synod gathering.



There was plenty of good food and fellowship, not to mention some stunning Darwin sunsets, at the PPNA Ministers' Retreat, held in Darwin City, with attendees from Alice Springs, Tennant Creek, as well as the Darwin region. Following on from the PPNA meeting, Rev Dr Sunny Chen continued to inspire with his biblical insight and practical ideas for self-care. Much gratitude to Sunny as well as to the PPNA Chairperson, Pastor Lauren Merritt, for making the retreat such a success.



The Mowanjum Church in West Kimberly has a wonderful children's ministry, teaching Bible stories and having fun with art and craft. Please pray for Pastor Kirsty Burgu and congregation leaders Gail and Mary, that this vital ministry will be able to continue to share God's love with children and families.



*NRCC Resource worker,
Rev Dr Peter Hobson,
visits Aboriginal
communities across the
Northern Synod.*

The Yirrkala Church is an important congregation in East Arnhem that provides support to many of the homeland communities. Yirrkala has a proud history in the struggle to establish land rights for Aboriginal people. Please pray for Pastor Marrpalawuy Marika and her Church Elders as they build trust and hope in their community.



The congregation in Warruwi regularly gathers for fellowship and worship around the cross in the centre of their community. We had such a wonderful time singing songs of praise and sharing stories of God's love for the world. Please pray for Pastor Richard Dhamarrandjil, Pastor Rosemary Urabadi, Pastor Jenny Immulugulu, and Pastor Isabel Lamilami and other church leaders as they share the Jesus story with the beautiful island communities of Warruwi and Minjilang.

Upcoming Celebration

David Mirrawana's ordination
1st November in Maningrida



*Out and About
with our General Secretary*



*Broome
Uniting Church*

The General Secretary visited the Broome Congregation and Church Council on Sunday 15-16 September. Broome is a joyful congregation working hard to serve their busy community. It was Rev Andrew Watts' (pictured above) last Sunday after 20 weeks of Supply Ministry in Broome. During this time his family visited for a holiday including a visit to Mowanjum. The Congregation was very grateful for Andrew's time with them during the dry.



On the road in East Arnhem Land

The General Secretary visited the Nhulunbuy Congregation on Sunday 22nd September. The Congregation is a vibrant group of young families and children who are passionate about their Nhulunbuy community. She added a trip to Yirkala and Gan Gan with the Moderator and NRCC Resource Worker.





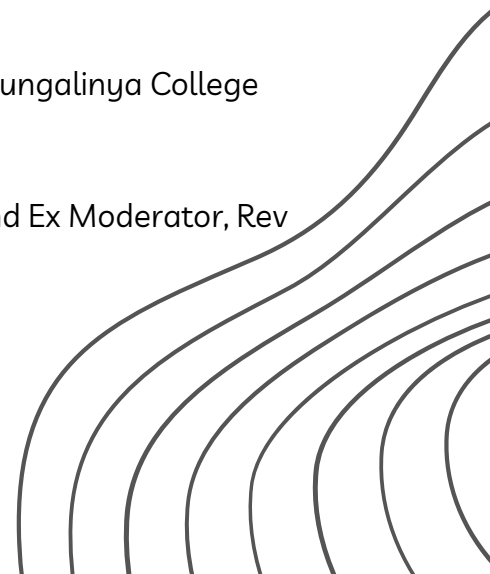
*Congratulations
graduating
chaplains!*



Chaplains from across the country recently graduated at Nungalinga College, completing a Pastoral and Spiritual Care Skill Set combined with Certificate IV Ministry and Theology. Among the graduates were Marlene Boko and Jill Doolan from Aputula, Julia Lennon from Oodnadatta, Rrikili Garrawurra from Ramingining and Kirsty Burgu from Mowajum.

Top Photo: Graduating class pictured with Moderator Elect, and Nungalinga College Lecturer, Rev Dr Michelle Cook.

Inset Photo: Nungalinga College Principle, Dr Ben van Gelderen and Ex Moderator, Rev Thresi Mauboy, with graduate Pastor Jill Doolan.



Synod Standing Committee

The Synod Standing Committee met on the 25-26th September on Zoom. The Committee approved an update of the by-laws and a number of updated and new Policies and Tools. These included Working With Children Card Policy, Bullying, Harassment and Discrimination policy including new NT legislation on gender equality, National Police Check Policy for Ministry Agents, Annual Leave Policy and a Supply Ministry Tool.

The Standing Committee affirmed the Memorandum of Understanding between Nungalinga College and the Northern Synod that gives definition to the role of Moderator from April 2025.

A recommendation to close the Assembly National Child Safe Unit was not approved and encouraged further conversations with the Assembly and the General Secretaries about building a national infrastructure. The SSC agreed to engage in a strategic planning process at the November meeting incorporating the Act2 process.

The next meeting will be face to face on 15th and 16th November 2024 in Darwin, including attending the Nungalinga Graduation.



You are invited!

The Induction of Rev Dr Peter Hobson
as NRCC Support Worker
Tuesday 19th November 2024
At Nungalinga College
7pm



BOOK LAUNCH - THE DHARRWAR STORY

Margaret Miller shares her experience of the book launch on Elcho Island in August 2024.

The Dharrwar Story has been in the making over many years, even decades, and is now available as a book.

The Dhamarrandji ladies, aka 'the Gomu girls', along with some of their families and helpers established a 'homeland' at Dharrwar on Elcho Island. For some, they have known this land all their lives but more recently chose to live their lives together with a difference.

Continued next page



Margaret Miller and Guymun Dhamarrandji with 'The Dharrwar Story' in hand



Guymun Dhamarrandji is surrounded by some of her contemporaries, who came to Dharrwar with their 'Aged Care' workers and others



The book launch introduced by the Djambarrpuyŋu men at Dharrwar's open chapel.

You can now purchase your own copy of this book online at www.koorong.com.au

Since its book launch at Dharrwar this year, one reader has shared:

"You have told me portions of this story before, but when the whole movement is pulled together with photos, wow just wow!"

Natini, granddaughter of Guymun, absorbed in her copy of the book

Another comment:

"What an extraordinary God story!"



Two granddaughters of Guymun and her sister Baltjingarr, presented a contemporary dance.



FRONTIER SERVICES - FOSTERING JUSTICE, EQUALITY AND UNITY FOR ALL

Frontier Services support Bush Chaplains who, in turn, provide practical, pastoral and spiritual support to those in need.

Here is a taster from Frontier News November edition:

Frontier Services recently attended the 17th Assembly meeting of the Uniting Church, a meeting of representatives which only occurs every three years.

More than 200 members from around the country came together in Sydney to agree on a future where unity is celebrated, diversity is cherished, and Christ's threads of love crosses boundaries.

Our Bush Chaplains Benji Quilliam, Jill Doolan, and David Jackson were among those who travelled far to attend this important event.

Look out for this addition of Frontier News coming soon to the [Frontier Services website](#).



MEETING DATES IN OCTOBER

- **Placements and Pastoral Relations Committee** - Thursday 17th October
- **Finance and Property Services Committee** - Wednesday 23rd October
- **Synod Standing Committee Budget** - Wednesday 30th October

Who's Who at Synod Office



REV TONY GOODLUCK

The Moderator's role is one of pastoral and spiritual leadership of the Synod. The focus of the role is to promote the Synod's vision mission for the future of the church; to listen to, guide, and care for all the members and ministers of the UCA and to represent the church in the wider community and the ecumenical and political landscape of the Synod.

Email: tony.goodluck@ns.uca.org.au
Phone: 08 8982 3400

MODERATOR



REV JANET STAINES

Janet is the executive officer of the Synod with executive leadership, pastoral and advisory roles. and responsible for ensuring the execution of Synod policy, Coordinating Synod activities, overseeing the office of the Synod, liaison with the Presbyteries.

Email: janet.staines@ns.uca.org.au
Phone: 08 8982 3400

GENERAL SECRETARY



MRS JUDY ORME

Judy maintains historical redress records, liaises with other bodies in relation to redress, maintains relationship with the National Safe Church Unit and legal services. Judy is also the Synod archivist and is working to ensure our historical documents are referenced and kept in good order.

Email: judy.orme@ns.uca.org.au
Phone: 08 8982 3400

REDRESS OFFICER / ARCHIVIST



MS HEIDI MCKELVIE

Heidi is a jack-of-all-trades, managing and organising calendars, making travel arrangements, answering phones, taking minutes at meetings, general admin duties, such as managing projects, sending out mail and answering email requests, creating presentations, organising events, managing the office and keeping the General Secretary happy 😊

Email: heidi.mckelvie@ns.uca.org.au
Phone: 08 8982 3400

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT



MR FRANCO VILLANUEVA

Franco is responsible for maintaining financial records, handling accounts payable and receivables, checking invoices and handling queries related to accounts, including congregational accounts and corporate credit cards.

Email: franco.villanueva@ns.uca.org.au
Phone: 08 8982 3400

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE OFFICER



MR RICHARD TELFER

Richard oversees the accounting function and leads the finance team. Richard is working in Brisbane and is the person to call if you have any accounting questions. He is also working on a number of projects and compliance functions.

Email: richard.telfer@ns.uca.org.au
Phone: 0435 031 567

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE



MR SHANE ALLEN

Shane prepares your accounts and distributes report to Congregations. Shane's best contact is his email address and he will get in touch. Shane is contracted by Richard and works from Brisbane.

Email: shane.allen@ns.uca.org.au

ACCOUNTANT BOOKKEEPER



MS LOUISE MACDONALD

Coordinate supports the translation of Indigenous Scriptures. Louise organises the gatherings of translators and SIU workers from language groups working on projects. She maintains relationship with partnering organisations and financial donors.

Email: louise.macdonald@ns.uca.org.au

COORDINATE PROJECT OFFICER

Join us for devotions

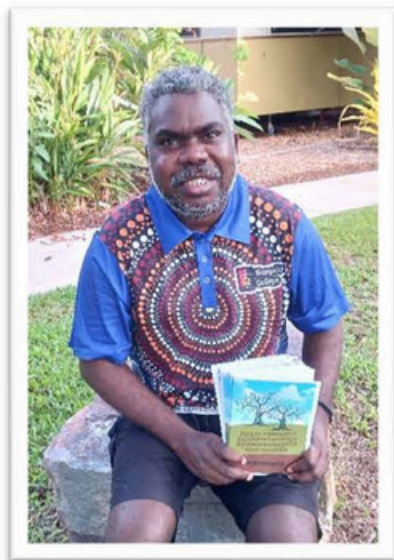
at 10am at Uniting House

Upcoming Dates: 15th October, 29th October, 12th November

Bible translation workshop



**Do you speak an Indigenous Australian language?
Do you want some Bible verses in your language?
Do you want to learn to do Bible translation?**



Monday – Friday
18th – 22nd November 2024
Nungalinya College, Darwin

Contact: Marisa Hylands
marisa.hylands@biblesociety.org.au
08 8911 1326



 **Bible Society**