

Northern Light



March 2015 ~ Far North Coast Uniting
Presbytery Synod of NSW & ACT

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Northern Light Newsletter ~ June 2015

So what do our ministry agents get up to on these annual retreats each year? Believe it or not we really do get into some good training and reflection times!! This year we moved our location to the Koinonia Camp at Evans Head. It was not quite as comfortable as our previous years in our Yamba location but served us very well anyway.

Our guest was Sue Kaldor, who brought great wisdom in leadership and community building to challenge and provoke us. Sue was surrounded by an almost all men group (thanks Maggie de Leeuw for breaking this up on your daylight visits) but made sure that we were kept in line... well almost.

Attached are a few photos to give a hint of our time away. We could tell you more, but of course the rule is what occurs on retreat stays on retreat!



Burringbar Celebration – Thanks to all who attended our recent Presbytery celebration at Burringbar! We were hosted very well indeed and hopefully people left feeling that the day of worship, challenge and reflection was worthwhile. Ken Day closed our meeting as we all shared in the sacrament of Holy Communion. Special thanks to our musos James Annesley, Craig Blackburn and Bruce Robinson.



To keep this important means of communicating across the presbytery alive and well, why not send some of your good news stories and photos to Joá in the office and that way we can all better share in our various journeying.

Uniting Women's Day

Sixty women from Tweed Heads to Yamba and west to Casino gathered at the Uniting Women's day at Alstonville UC on Saturday 30th May.

It was delightful to have Rev Dorothy Gordon-Harris, Aunty Dorrie, 'welcome us to country' before we were completely enthralled with our Guest Speaker. June Rogan is a local country girl who claimed she had led a pretty ordinary life to date. Only those of us, who were there, will know the definition of June's 'ordinary.'

Worship singing was splendid as we sang favourites and learnt new songs. Our five story tellers, all with different life adventures had everyone captivated as we listened to stories from Gill Lomath, Brunswick Heads of adopting a refugee family assigned to Mullumbimby UC; the passion of Barbara Curthoys, Alstonville for social justice; of Cathy Hulme, Murwillumbah who now celebrates her life following a stroke. Cathy also had us participating in a hilarious laughter session.

Adrienne Sheppard, Brunswick Heads told us of her journey of early church disillusionment and illustrated to us that death is part of living. Finally, Louise Lancett, Ballina UC shared her passion and commitment for Life Line, Samaritan's Purse Christmas Boxes and 'Women up North' who provide housing for women.

How thrilled we were that Rev Maggie de Leuw joined us in the afternoon and honoured us all by presiding at Communion to conclude our Far North Coast Presbytery day of Uniting Women.

Mary Birch (Ballina) and Sue Duncan (Murwillumbah)



June Rogan

"Songs of Praise" was held in the Casino Uniting Church on Sunday afternoon on 24th May 2015.

The church was full for a programme of congregational singing led by the Kyogle Citizen's Brass Band, and contributions by a community group, The One Voice Choir, St. Mary's Primary School Choir, The Messengers music group and the combined Casino and Kyogle Uniting Church's choir. One of our Elders, Ray Wallwork introduced the programme, Rev Bob Rutherford led in prayers and Alana and Carissa Weis read from the Scriptures.

Following the programme in the church, afternoon tea was served in the adjoining hall. A retiring offering was received, and after expenses, it is expected about \$250.00 will be given to the Casino Volunteer Rescue Squad.

Songs of Praise has been held for a number of years at the beginning of the town's celebration of Beef Week, as our contribution to the celebration and an outreach to our community.

**If you need any further information, please give me
a ring on 6662 1139. Russell Playford**

A Reflection

Jeremiah was possibly the world's most unsuccessful preacher. Called to ministry as a boy, Jeremiah was the prophet who witnessed to the exile of the people of Israel and the destruction of Jerusalem. For all of his obedience to God, his ministry was seemingly a resounding failure! The lasting legacy that this 'great' prophet of Israel has is that people who tend toward being miserable and negative can be labelled as Jeremiahs.

Yet Jeremiah persisted in his call. He was faithful not because of external things, but of the enduring certainty of God's hand upon his life. He had his doubts and quitting crossed his mind but Jeremiah persisted because of his call from God:

'If I say, "I will not mention him, or speak anymore in his name,"

then within me there is something like a burning fire shut up in my bones;

I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot.' Jeremiah 20:9

Paul had the same certainty when he wrote from prison to the church at Philippi: *'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.'*

What is it that sustains us through the hard times?