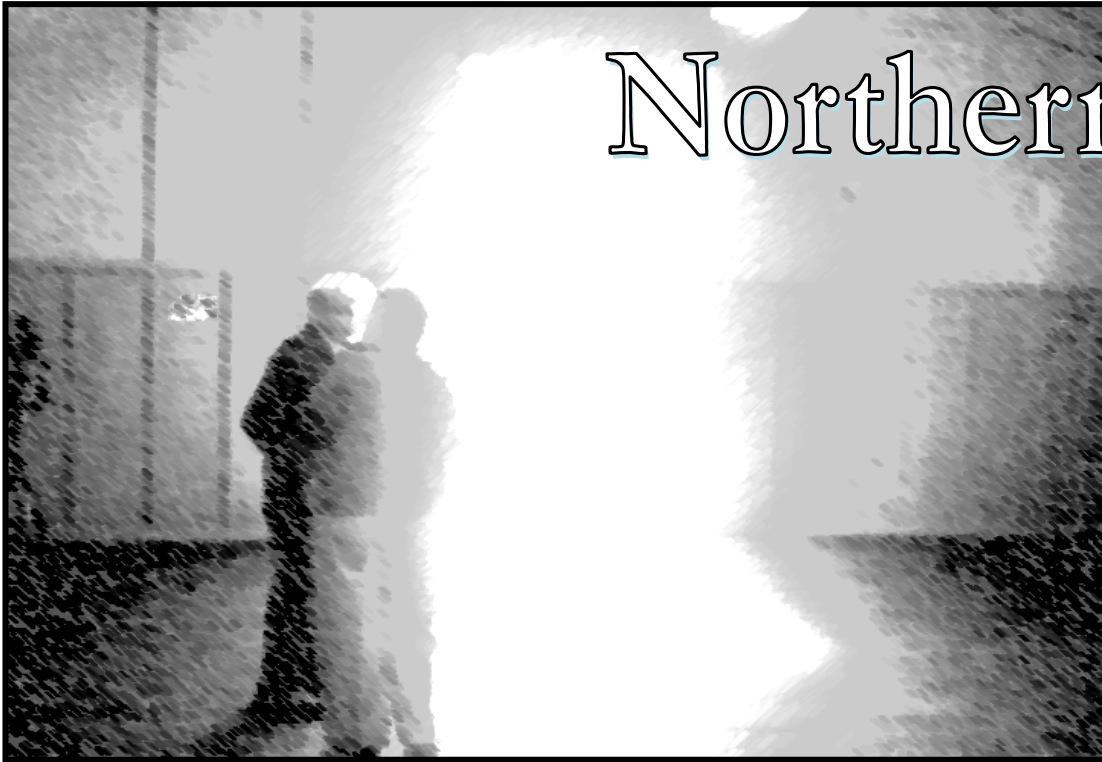


Northern Light



November 2012.

Far North Coast
Uniting Presbytery.

Synod of NSW/ACT

"Every desirable and beneficial gift comes out of heaven. The gifts are rivers of light cascading down from the Father of Light."

I Love Lights

I love lights. Mood and atmosphere are created and enhanced by good lighting.

Driving into Grafton at night, I always look for the blue cross! This huge blue cross stands high on a hill, gleaming with a luminescent glow against a dark night sky, making a silent but powerful statement of faith and love.

Similarly, arriving at the Yamba Uniting Church in the evening is also a beautiful experience for the outline of the cross, integrated into the brickwork of the church façade, is lit by numerous tiny, amber lights - speaking clearly of the congregation's mission to "be a beacon of hope in today's world" as the congregation commits "to living and growing as followers of Jesus".

I believe that the Holy Spirit is the prime source of the light that penetrates the blackness of a sin-ravaged world - and which led Jesus to say: "I am the light of the world".

The Holy Spirit's distinctive role is to shine a floodlight on to the Lord Jesus Christ.

I also believe that God's Spirit has chosen to illuminate our Presbytery with the floodlight of grace as we increasingly seek to honour Him in our search to reflect His will and embrace His ways.

Chris Sparks Chairperson of presbytery.

Chris, we thank you for your availability to chair the presbytery during this exciting time in the life of the Uniting Church, in particular the Far North Coast Presbytery. We are encouraged about the mission taking place in Yamba, and the new mission facilities. Thanks to Yamba for releasing Chris to the work of the presbytery.

The Presbytery ... will in particular exercise oversight over the congregations within its bounds, encouraging them to strengthen one another's faith, to bear one another's burdens, and exhorting them to fulfil their high calling in Christ Jesus. ~ Basis of Union.

NEXT PRESBYTERY MEETING

Sat 17th Nov, 2012 at Ballina Uniting Church, Cherry St
9.30am.

The picture above is taken after worship in one of our congregations? Can you guess where?

Thanks Alice Slater !

Alice has asked to be released from editing and overseeing the printing of Northern Light, our presbytery news letter. Alice, please accept our thanks for your dedicated ministry, and our prayers to God are for your wellness and peace.

Meet Bronwyn and Braden

Hear some fresh voices to build you up in your ministry. Braden French (Uniting Mission & Education **UME** Next Generation Consultant) & Rev Bronwyn Murphy (UME Lay Ministry, Discipleship & Rural Consultant) will lead anyone interested, especially leaders in the congregation, & in ministries within the congregation, **in a worship, resourcing and encouragement day. This day will include prayer for your ministry & congregation.**

THURS NOV 22nd at BANGALOW UNITING CHURCH. (Station St) 9.30 Morning tea for 10 am start. BYO lunch or buy in the nearby shops. Concludes 3pm. Cost \$5 per person. Need more info? Contact Ken Day.
RSVP to Joa at the presbytery office.

All people in specified ministries: (MOW, Pastors, etc). SMAT (Sexual Misconduct Awareness Training) will be conducted on Friday Nov 23rd 9.30am - 3pm. Bangalow Uniting Church.

This is a compliance issue and should be done every 3-5 years by all ministers, pastors etc. SMAT will not be offered in the presbytery for 2 years after this day, so we strongly urge all people in placements who have not done **THIS** in the last 2 years to attend so their records can be updated.
RSVP to Joa at the presbytery office.

A broad view across the presbytery of some of the ministries and mission.

CONGREGATIONS SUMMARY PAGE November 2012.

Alstonville and Rous Mill Enjoying ministry with Rev Christopher Barr. They have replaced their pews with comfortable seating. Their Presbytery support congregation is Lismore.

Ballina and Lennox Their Joint Nominating Committee (JNC) continues to meet, and an education process for calling elders and leadership is underway. They have just commenced a '3rd option' for people coming together. Up until now they have had 2 Sunday morning worship services. Their Presbytery support congregation: Alstonville

Brunswick Heads and Mullumbimby These congregations are the major fund raisers for ministry through the Wesley Methodist Church with deportees sent back to Tonga. John and Pam Morris were in Tonga for 2 months as part of this mission. Their Presbytery support congregation: Murwillumbah (Tweed Valley)

Bangalow and Byron Bay Bangalow has moved it worship to Sunday 5pm, and now has about 12 children and teenagers attending each week. The 4th Sunday of each month is a youth night, including a shared meal with the congregation and the high school students staying behind for their own activities, such as bonfire, photography, and searching-games out in the community and streets. Their Presbytery support congregation: Clunes Eureka

Casino celebrated their centre being established 50 years ago. Their Presbytery support congregation: Upper Clarence.

Clunes and Eureka

Eureka is still a favoured place for weddings. Presbytery support congregation: Byron Bangalow

Grafton and South Grafton. Grafton is a vibrant congregation and has a cross section of ages in its church family. Presbytery support congregation: Maclean

Kyogle and The Risk and Lynch's Creek A JNC is working on bringing a recommendation to the congregation for a leadership plan for their next few years in mission. In their vacancy they have a great Lay ministry Team working together. Presbytery support congregation: Lismore

Lismore and Bexhill and Nimbin and Jiggi and Jarman and Coraki and (Marmung)

With Rev. John Thornton in placement, and the rest of the ministry team, including Rev. Dorothy Gordon and Pastor Colin Scott, Lismore Mission is growing in their life and witness, including commencing a Food Pantry. Presbytery support congregation: Ballina

Maclean, Brooms Head, Lawrence, Brushgrove The presbytery is working with Maclean to be in a position to considering their leadership requirements for the future mission of the church.

Kingscliff Kingscliff is blessed with a Uniting Care Ageing residence complex on their property and some of the congregation connect well with these elderly people. Presbytery support congregation: Brunswick Heads Mullumbimby

Murwillumbah Burringbar have a marvelous preschool which the community find to be such a safe place for their children there is a waiting list to get in. Presbytery support congregation: Tweed Coast

Uniting Care Ageing Carroona The presbytery is represented by Bruce Robinson of the JNC for a pastoral care / chaplain co-ordinator. Other members of the JNC are reps from the Mid North Coast Presbytery, Julia Bellamy, Regional Director, and a rep from the Regional Board.

Woodenbong Urbenville Legume have a wonderful lay ministry team, and also a strong ministry in the local high school. Presbytery support congregation: West of the range.

Bonalbo Tabulum Drake have just arranged for a new building for their op shop on the church property. Presbytery support congregation: Casino

Yamba Iluka Woombah have planted a congregation in Woombah and also opened their new facilities in Yamba. Presbytery support congregation: Grafton

Contact us – Far North Coast Uniting Presbytery

PO BOX 5409

East Lismore NSW 2480

Telephone: 02 66215639

Facsimile: 02 66215639

Email: fncadmin@myone.com.au

Website: www.farnorthcoast.unitingchurch.org.au

Resourcing mission & ministry: Rev Ken Day 66851708

mintuc@fastmail.com.au

Contributions to next Northern Light

Email as an attachment to mintuc@fastmail.com.au.

If you have to send it in paper form, post to the presbytery office please, marked NORTHERN LIGHT.

