



UNITING CHURCH IN
AUSTRALIA
**BREMER
BRISBANE
PRESBYTERY**

P O Box 70 Booval Fair 4304
admin@bremerbrisbane.org.au

If you have something you would like to share in the January 'BB Connex', please e-mail – We would love to hear from you.
admin@bremerbrisbane.org.au



Presbytery Dates 2017

24th January – Education & Training – 1pm
7th February – Property Meeting – 3pm
7th February – Standing Committee – 4pm
7th February – PRC – 7pm
15th February – Presbytery Meeting – Inala UC

Bremer Brisbane Presbytery
office hours over Christmas

Melloney will be on leave from
Wednesday 28th December, returning
on Monday 9th January 2017

BB CONNEX

December 2016

No. 13

Brian's Buzz

It never ceases to amaze me, as the year draws to a close, that at a time when it would be good to reflect upon the past year, it becomes instead a frenetic rush to the finish line that is the end of the year. We try and cover a whole year's work in the last few weeks. People very much want to catch up with friends, workmates and colleagues. We want to tell people that they are special, and often will give them gifts. It seems to be a last minute flurry to fit everything in before collapsing in a heap on Boxing Day, or whenever annual leave begins. May I encourage you to find time within the season to reflect upon its true meaning. The ongoing relationship that the creator of the universe wants to have with his Creation. This is the gift of Christmas that we have to share. The joy of knowing Jesus. The Synod postcards express it well *'Hope has a name'*. *Please allow yourself the time to experience and celebrate that hope for yourself.*

On another note, may I thank everyone for their efforts and commitment to their churches through the year. May I especially thank Melloney and the great job she has done, John Roulston (Chairman) Shirley Doyle (Secretary), Robert Johnson (Treasurer) and Greg Braithwaite (Property) to the members of the Standing Committee, Pastoral Relations Committee, Property and Education and Training Committee, and all of those who serve the church through the various committees and congregational, Presbytery and Synod level.

Friends at this time may you have a joyous and safe Christmas

With blessings

Brian

Monique Coughlin

Monique has some new contact details:

discipleship@bremerbrisbane.org.au

Mobile: 0468 989 671

Blessings at Trinity Ipswich Uniting Church



Sunday 18th December, 2016, will long be remembered as a day of blessings at Trinity Ipswich Uniting Church. During the worship service, Rev Jeanette Gillam, assisted by Pastor Jameson Taupiasi, received 17 candidates for Confirmation. Two of these people were baptised prior to their confirmation. All the candidates were from the Niuean Worship Group, and both English and Niuean language were spoken during the confirmation. Pastor Jameson and the new members joined in a Niuean version of 'O Thou Great Redeemer' at the conclusion

of the confirmation. Rev Jeanette had led the candidates through a four part instruction process, in preparation for the public affirmation of faith, and commitment to service and witness, by which the Church accepts us as members. A celebration feast was held later in the day for members and their families.

Lay Preachers Gathering for 25 March 2017

with guest Craig Mitchell (National Director for Christian Education) he will be taking 2 sessions on the day "Taste & see that God is God" & "Making Worship and Preaching more Creative".

The day will be held at St Stephens UCA, Toowoomba. Further information & registration details will be made available in the new year. The contact for the event is Bob Brownley, our Presbytery Lay Preacher Coordinator tdpresb.lay@gmail.com 0410 707 468

Easter Madness - Registrations close 31st December 2016 !!

		<p>7-10 APRIL</p> <p>Sunshine Coast Recreational Centre Currimundi Beach early-bird \$220, after 31st Dec. \$250</p> <p>http://eastermadness.com.au/register/</p>
<p>Have you heard about Easter Madness?</p> <p>Easter Madness is a state-wide camp held for our youth (Grades 7-12) and young adults (up to 25 years) to grow together in what it means to be followers of Jesus. This year the theme is Uncover the 'TRUE' meaning of Easter. There is only a few more days until the early-bird discount for Easter Madness goes WOOSH. Register before the 31st Dec 2016 to save on this radical experience!</p>		



Like creating *new experiences* for your brain. A new experience makes your brain work faster to communicate between different areas. And that helps your memory *and* makes your brain stronger and more resistant to the effects of aging.¹ So, to keep your brain in top shape, try these Brain Booster exercises as you go through your day:

Brain Booster 3 – Turn your life upside down. Literally.

Whenever you look at something, like a picture or an object, your brain's left side quickly labels it, and then sends your attention somewhere else.

But when you turn the thing you're looking at *upside down*, the *right side of your brain* takes over, trying to figure out what it is. And whenever your brain has to "figure something out"... it's great mental exercise!⁴

Exercise: Turn a few pictures upside down. If there's a vase on the table, flip it over. You'll not only make your brain work, but it's fun to see who else notices!

Brain Booster 4 – next newsletter !



Bremer Brisbane Presbytery needs a Logo – can you help ?

- ❖ *Do you like a bit of a challenge ?*
- ❖ *We need a logo for Bremer Brisbane Presbytery – get your thinking caps on and see if you can come up with an awesome, modern, relevant design.*
- ❖ *Entries close end of February.*
- ❖ *Please e-mail to Melloney admin@bremerbrisbane.org.au*

MINISTERIAL CHANGES

Incoming

- Induction of Sharene Fechner Sunday 22 January 3pm at Forest Lake UC
- Induction of Craig Batty Sunday 12 February 5pm at Centenary UC
- Commissioning Ps Phuoc Dang 19 February 10am at Darra Uniting Church

Sherwood Uniting Church



Above: The Quilting Group Break Up with a visit from 3 week old baby Jesiah



Above: The children's gift giving day

Laidley Carols

Carol singing



Our Evening was very successful, but with the rain early in the day we held the Carols in our Hall. It was pretty well packed out with many saying it was a good night as everyone was together and the Sound and words on PP were clearer than when it was on the lawns.

So, good can come out of negatives.

- Euan McDonald

2017 Dates

Forum on property matters for all congregations to discuss property matters will be held on 22 February 2017 Forest lake UC at 7pm. Synod property staff will be in attendance to seek to outline processes and answer any questions. Congregations are encouraged to come and ensure that someone attends.

SMC Trainers

- ✚ The Presbytery will again be offering Safe Ministry with Children training using accredited Trainers appointed by the Presbytery.
- ✚ Expressions of interest is called for from individuals who feel called to support the work of the church in this way.
- ✚ The number of trainers will be limited to ensure a consistency of approach and quality, and training will be required of those accepted.
- ✚ The training will be happening late in January for the 2017 year.
- ✚ Expressions of Interest including any relevant experience should be emailed to admin@bremerbrisbane.org.au by Friday 13 January.

BROOKFIELD CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

Sunday 27 November being the first Sunday in Advent, we lit the first purple advent candle signifying "hope", and the Christmas season was upon us.



We have an annual Christmas Festival, consisting of a Combined Churches Carols Service and then a couple of Morning-teas for local Seniors which are held in our hall, specially decorated for the occasion. The Brookfield Carols Service began at our Church in 2002 and has alternated between the Anglican and Uniting Churches since 2004. It was the Church of the Good Shepherd's turn this year.

Rev Will Lambert, 2 months in Australia from South Wales, with his wife Rev Heidi-Maria de Gruchy (priest-in-charge in the parish of Goodna), both graduates of the Royal academy of Music in London, planned and presented the Service to a full church.



The singing was enthusiastic with good harmonies filling the little church.



It was a delightful Service, well planned and enthusiastically participated in by all present. We all agreed that Carols by (electric) Candle-light in a church with the beautiful traditional carols and the familiar Christmas readings from the Prophets and the Gospels, was more in the spirit of Christmas than in a shopping mall with fire-works and Santa. A generous supper followed and, as they say in the classics...a good time was had by all!

With guests from the local retirement villages and respite centre coming in buses with their carers, by 10:00am on Monday we had about 50 comfortably accommodated in the hall which was beautifully decorated by Adele, Don, Donna, Ray and family. We enjoyed a generous morning tea, with Elizabeth, surrounded by music, on keyboard,



Having made it thus far with good weather, 38 degrees C was predicted for Tuesday, but at 4:40am a thunder-storm hit Brookfield and delivered 6mm of rain so that the morning dawned fresh, cool and over-cast and remained that way until midday...(another weather miracle!)

On both days, we nominated our Missions: Red Frogs, McIntyre Centre Riding for the Disabled, Kenmore SHS Chaplaincy, Royal Flying Doctor Service and Cunnamulla/Bourke & Wills Frontier Services Patrol (Rev/Fr Sunil and Eva Kadaparambil and their 450,000 sq km parish) as the worthy recipients of all offerings received from the morning teas. \$423.05 was so given.

- Edith McPhee, co-editor of *Reflections*



Ipswich City just finished packing some gifts for their onsite community groups.



Forest Lake Uniting Church moving from St John's Anglican College (their home of over 20 years) to the new site at 528 Waterford Road, Ellen Grove

20th November 2016 was the last service Forest Lake Uniting Church held at St Johns Anglican College.

The service was attended by Mrs Suzanne Bain (Head of SJAC) and Mrs Sandra Hawken (Head of Primary). Wayne Giebel shared his story of how he and his wife Debbie were in their front garden when Rev Ron Elvery, who was the minister requested by Synod to start a Forest Lake Uniting Church Congregation, started talking to them.



Rev Russell thanking Mrs Suzanne Bain and Mrs Sandra Hawken



Gathering the elements



Lighting the lamp



Alyce Giebel carrying Christ's flame from one location to the next



Walking from St Johns Anglican College to Waterford Road



Singing 'We are marching in the light of God' as we arrive



I

Arriving inside the
Leichardt Building



FAITH FOR LIFE



INCLUDING
Fired up
CONFERENCE
FOR RI INSTRUCTORS

IGNITE
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
CONFERENCE & EXPO
Saturday March 4th
Mueller College, Brisbane

GUEST SPEAKERS - MICHELLE TOLENTINO & SEAN W SMITH

Early Bird Fee \$65 (\$75 after 20th February)
for a full conference day including morning tea and lunch.

REGISTER TODAY AT
www.igniteexpo.org.au



Jesus is better than Santa

Santa lives at the North Pole.
JESUS is everywhere.

Santa rides in a sleigh
JESUS rides on the wind and walks on the water.

Santa comes but once a year
JESUS is an ever present help.

Santa fills your stockings with goodies
JESUS supplies all your needs.

Santa comes down your chimney uninvited
JESUS stands at your door and knocks.. and then enters your heart.

You have to stand in line to see Santa
JESUS is as close as the mention of His name.

Santa lets you sit on his lap
JESUS lets you rest in His arms.

Santa doesn't know your name, all he can say is "Hi little boy or girl, What's your name?"
JESUS knew our name before we did. Not only does He know our name, He knows our address too.
He knows our history and future and He even knows how many hairs are on our heads.

Santa has a belly like a bowl full of jelly
JESUS has a heart full of love.

All Santa can offer is HO HO HO
JESUS offers health, help and hope.

Santa says "You better not cry"
JESUS says "Cast all your cares on me for I care for you.

Santa's little helpers make toys
JESUS makes new life, mends wounded hearts, repairs broken homes and builds mansions.

Santa may make you chuckle but
JESUS gives you joy that is your strength.

While Santa puts gifts under your tree
JESUS became our gift and died on the tree.

It's obvious there is really no comparison.



One more little bit to go – keep scrolling !



Brian, Monique and Melloney
would like to wish you all a
Blessed and Holy Christmas
and thank you for your support and encouragement
through the year