

Linked Congregations of the Bellarine



Uniting Church in Australia



Portarlington



Drysdale

NEWS SHEET - Sunday, 5 July 2026

JULY IN OUR CONGREGATIONS

WORSHIP SERVICES

LECTIONARY READINGS

Sunday, 5 July

9.00am **Portarlington** Rev. Karen Eller
 10.30am **Drysdale** Rev. Karen Eller
*Holy Communion,
 Loose change and foodbank*

Sunday, 12 July

9.00am **Portarlington** Rev. Karen Eller
Holy Communion.
 10.30am **Drysdale** Lay Team - Denise

Tuesday, 14 July

11.00am **Drysdale** Regis Aged Care Worship
 Rev. Karen Eller

Thursday, 16 July

11.00am **Portarlington** Arcare Worship
 Rev. Karen Eller

Sunday, 19 July

9.00am **Portarlington** Lay Team – David & Lorraine
Loose change and foodbank
 10.30am **Drysdale** Lay Team - Wayne

Sunday, 26 July

9.00am **Portarlington** Rev Karen Eller
 10.30am **Drysdale** Lay Team - Jenni

Sunday, 5 July

Pentecost 6 Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67
 Psalm 45: 10-17 or Song 2:8-13
 Romans 7: 15-25a
 Matthew 11: 16-19, 25-30

Sunday, 12 July

Pentecost 7 Genesis 25: 19-34
 Isaiah 55:10-13
 Psalm 119: 105-112, Psalm 65 (1-8), 9-13
 Romans 8: 1-11
 Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-33

Sunday, 19 July

Pentecost 8 Genesis 28: 10-19a
Intercultural
 Isaiah 44:6-8
Neighbouring
 Psalm 139: 1-12, 23-24 Psalm 86: 11-17
Day
 Romans 8: 12-25
 Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43

Sunday, 26 July

Pentecost 9 Genesis 29: 15-28
 1 Kings 3:5-12
 Psalm 105:1-11, 45b Psalm 8:26-39
 Psalm 128, Psalm 119:129-136
 Romans 8: 26-39
 Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52

Minister's Musings

Since my return from holiday, I have been doing strength and cardio exercises with my sister. She lives in Bendigo and has subscribed to an online exercise program. With modern technology she can screen-share a 20 or 30-minute session and we do it together. Left to ourselves, neither of us would make the time to do the exercises, but making it a regular discipline that we do together, we are making it work for us. After five weeks I do feel a little stronger!

On Sunday during worship, we will be exploring the exercise of wisdom. How do we exercise wisdom, and can we build it up like we can strengthen our biceps and triceps? I think we can. God's wisdom is all around us, whether we are aware of it or not. It is available to us through the rhythm of the seasons and the delight in the free dance of toddlers. We can hear God's wisdom in the yellow tail black cockatoos as they tell each other that rain is coming. We can seek it in our friends, our neighbours and within. The more we exercise wisdom, the more wisdom we seem to have available for ourselves and to share with others.

It is a paradox then, that we would follow in the way of the foolishness of Christ, as Paul writes. Matthew writes to a community experiencing hardship and persecution on account of their discipleship of Jesus. For us, the deep trust in the way of Jesus builds with time and with life experience. We are blessed in this country that we are not persecuted or lose our jobs on account of whose wisdom we seek. The way of love and compassion becomes easier the more we practise it. And like the exercises I do with my sister, our wisdom is enhanced when we discern together and share our wisdom with one another.

May God continue to bless us with wisdom for life.

Karen

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Drysdale Uniting Church Op Shop

High Street DRYSDALE
 Monday to Friday: 11.00am–4.00pm
 Saturday: 10.30am–1.00pm

Portarlington Uniting Church

(St. Andrew's)
 portarlingtonuc@gmail.com
 Newcombe St PORTARLINGTON
<https://portarlingtonunitingchurch.org.au>

LINKED CONGREGATION NOTICES: JULY

Her Voice: Australian Women in Song - the Kardinia Rotary and Drop of a Hat Productions present **Her Voice: Australian Women in Song** at the Bellarine Arts Centre Thursday, 16 July; 7.30pm. Tickets are \$35 with all proceeds going to the Lazarus Community Centre which supports women facing hardship and adversity. Contact the Bellarine Arts Centre to book.

Emmaus Pilgrims Walk, Gold Coast – August 2026, expressions of interest by 20 July
Camp Tamborine, 28 Keswick Road, North Tamborine
Men's Walk (6 -9 August)
Ladies Walk (27-30 August)
There are volunteer positions still to be filled, for a reduced fee; full fee for Pilgrims is \$240.

If this interests you, you can email cld@brisbanesouth.emmaus.org.au or talk to Rhonda Lyons who has attended Emmaus Walks before and recommends them.

Synod News **JIM convention**

Registration has opened for the Justice and International Mission cluster's 2026 convention at the Centre for Theology and Ministry on 25 July, with the theme 'Blessed are the Peacemakers - Building a Peace Church'.

Next news sheet

The due date for items for August's news sheet is **Wednesday evening, 29 July**. It will be distributed by **Sunday, 2 August**.

DRYSDALE NOTICES

Upcoming Event:

Saturday, 18 July: 8.00am - **Breakfast Bible Study**
at Café Zoo

PORTARLINGTON NOTICES

Upcoming Events:

Friday 17 July: 10.30am Letter writing at Marg Manning's.

Friday 17 July 9.30am Bellarine Justice and Mission meeting at Marg Manning's.

NAIDOC Week will be celebrated from Sunday, 5 July to Sunday, 12 July, 2026.



Every year, the theme chosen for NAIDOC week has always been appropriate and significant, and this year's theme is equally as important: "50 Years of Deadly."

This significant milestone is a time to look back at the stories, the marches, the languages, the art, the leadership and the strength that it took to get here.

It is about recognition of just how far we have come. Not by chance, but by generations of people's refusing to be silenced. Most importantly, it's a wonderful opportunity to give Thanks to our wonderful Creator God who has always been with us from the very beginning of creation.

Genesis 1:1 states: *"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."*

We honour what came before by continuing the work.

This is our story.

This is our celebration.

This is our Future.

We can look forward to the future with Hope and Anticipation.

Our hope comes from God.

(Part of article by Aunty Rev Roberta Stanley, from Uniting Church Qld Synod website.)

To place a church-related notice in this news sheet, email the wording to the church office, drysdaleuc@yahoo.com.au by the Wednesday prior to the first Sunday of each month and indicate in which section you would like your notice to appear.