



Annual Report 2025/6 Church Council

Preamble

As always, this brief annual report should be read with reference to our regular publications like Morialta Vision and the significant information available on our website. Morialta Uniting Church also uses Facebook to share our events and news with others.

Ministry

Rev. Anne Butler took up placement at Morialta Uniting Church on 1st June 2025. Her induction and the opportunity for fellowship afterwards was an appropriate beginning to the relationship that is growing in strength as we continue to get to know Anne and she us. We are also pleased to enjoy June's presence as she shares her talents with Morialta.

Worship

Morialta Uniting Church's digital presence has continued to support our face-to-face worship.

Live streaming of services and meetings continues to be an important part of our Mission to those in our community who are not able to join in activity at Chapel Street. As previously recognised, there are a number of

individuals, congregations and other groups that join live streamed services concurrently or at a later time.

Indeed, as part of our ongoing relationship with Kimba Uniting Church a group of 10 people from Morialta UC travelled to Kimba to participate in a combined service that joined Morialta UC and Kimba UC via the internet so that portions of our time together were initiated from Kimba and Morialta during the service.

This initiative is something that has come out of a desire to be more actively engaged with congregations and faith communities elsewhere and the expertise available within Morialta UC and particularly in the person of John Secombe. It is expected that the first digital, combined service will be repeated in the future. Indeed, the concept is transferrable to other situations and Morialta UC will provide assistance as requested to other congregations who might be interested in exploring this type of shared experience.

Morialta Uniting Church is fortunate to have the personnel and equipment to provide this important interface.

Of course, there is significant activity each Sunday at Chapel Street as well. Our numbers in worship are holding steady, and we benefit from the commitment of Lay and Ordained people as those sitting in chairs are able to worship together with those online in a positive way.

Morialta Uniting Church is also fortunate to have a band of faithful people to take worship to Milpara on a monthly basis. This outreach has been provided for many years!

Since Rev. Anne Butler's arrival, she has continued to support the needs of residents at Clayton Homes who value their time of fortnightly worship on Tuesdays. Anne shares this responsibility with Clayton-Wesley Uniting Church and Morialta UC is grateful for her commitment.

Inter-Faith Engagement

For some years a group of Muslims, the Dawoodi Bohra community, have used our facilities to celebrate their special events like Ramadan.

During the past 12 months there have been two combined events that have drawn our communities together.

In October we shared in a celebration and recognition of Older People that coincided with The UN International Day of Older People. In March the two communities combined again to recognise Harmony Week and the celebration of Eid. A wonderful Sunday afternoon saw activity and fellowship in the park opposite the church. It was pleasing to see a number of the local community engaging too.

Flexibility is key to our ongoing relationship. We appreciate the allowances made by at least some of our congregation. Regular meetings are held so that concerns may be raised and resolved.

However, it is wonderful to know that our two communities, each worshipping the Universal Truth, are able to co-exist.

Mission

Morialta Uniting Church's ***Beyond Morialta Mission Projects*** has raised a significant amount of money over the years. Since COVID the nature of fund-raising has changed but, the commitment remains.

During this reporting period, the two projects selected were Australian Knitters for War Affected Kids as well as Uniting World in Support of Pacific Islands. In addition to the work done within the congregation, the Morialta

Uniting Netball Club contribute the takings from their annual Mothers' Day Fund-raiser. Mothers' Day 2025 raised nearly \$2,000.

Of course, members of the congregation are able to support this arm of our mission with individual gifts.

As well as the Beyond Morialta Mission Projects activity the congregation has once again supported Act for Peace and the Lent Event.

Once again, this year, rather than cook pancakes, the congregation was encouraged to provide a monetary gift for the mission Pancake Day supports.

Student Accommodation Program

Morialta Uniting Church's Student Accommodation Program has been offering a place to stay to country tertiary students for over 30 years.

We presently have a full complement of students. As well as providing reasonably costed accommodation to the students, the Student Accommodation Program helps with our finances.

Pastoral Care

One of the other significant responsibilities that fall to Church Council is to ensure adequate pastoral care for our congregation and community.

Morialta Uniting Church has set up its Caring Connections Program. Individuals may opt for a one-to-one relationship, a group involvement or, because the program is not mandatory, may decide to arrange for pastoral care from an independent source. Members of the community are regularly invited to check the contact and other details held securely on our Pastoral Care database so that good communication is made possible. If members make changes to their personal information at any time it would be appreciated if you contacted the office with the changes.

While there are no regularly involved children or youth within the Morialta UC community, we do maintain an open and welcoming presence to all ages. It is wonderful when some of the grandchildren of members visit!

As part of Morialta UC's involvement in the Renew Event, in the second half of 2025, we applied for a grant to run a series of 'Holiday Fun Day' events during the shorter school holiday periods. The first event took place on Thursday 23rd April and was a wonderful success.

During The Week

While the key areas of responsibility are taken seriously by Church Council, there is another important area. Any congregation needs to have a vital and healthy life to support each individual.

As you will know, if you visit our website Morialta Uniting Church is **More Than Sundays**

Of course, worship is a defining area of any church's existence but, there are six other days of the week! Our office is open Monday through Friday between 9.00 a.m. and 1.00p.m. to welcome visitors that come through the door or, phone during office hours.

Starting in late 2025, the church opens its doors each Tuesday, while the office was open, to support our office coordinator and provide a welcoming presence to any ad hoc visitors who wandered through the door with a question or a desire for a quiet time in the church.

Volunteers are always ready to offer a cuppa to anyone who visits on Tuesdays. Nicole provides hospitality at other times during the week too.

Since our last AGM Morialta UC has also commenced Community Day each Wednesday. The relaxed program commences around 10.30 a.m., and simple lunch is served at 12.30 p.m. followed by other activity. On the

third Wednesday each month Wednesday Worship will take place starting at 2.00p.m. for those who might not be able to regularly attend our Sunday services. Afternoon tea is served after the service.

The library is available to any member of the community on any day. Just follow instructions to borrow one of the many books and other resources.

On Monday mornings there is a Keep Fit class that commences at 9.30 a.m. and later in the day an active group enjoy the exercises available through a guided Tai Chi session. The group meet at 1.30 p.m. each week during term time.

Also, on Monday mornings Morialta Uniting Church hosts the Japanese Play group. This group brings native speaking Japanese parents and children together.

In November last year, Morialta UC hosted a lunch for the carers and children as a sign of hospitality and welcome.

On Tuesday the church is open to provide hospitality and welcome to members of the wider community. As well as this there is Chair Yoga available to those who wish to attend.

Wednesday mornings the hall is abuzz with another Keep-Fit group that meets from 9.30 a.m. each week.

Of course, Community Day is a new initiative that will grow as the word is spread.

On Wednesday afternoon's a small group meet in the workshop to undertake project work and enjoy each other's company.

Once a month the friendship Group meets on Thursday mornings for fellowship and an interesting program of activities including speakers and excursions. Some of the members stay for lunch after the meeting. Later this year the group will celebrate its 70th Anniversary!

Art and Craft Group meets each Friday morning for fun and fellowship while engaging in their hobby interests. Morning tea is served .

On the second and fourth Friday afternoons, beginning at 4.00p.m., Gateways meets for fellowship and furthering their understanding of the Divine, the Environment and their interactions with each. Gateways is open to anyone who has questions. On the 5th Friday, when it occurs, the group, which forms the base of one of the Caring Connection groups, go to dinner.

Later on, Friday evenings, Square Dancing is held in the hall for anyone interested in this worthwhile group activity.

On Saturday mornings Arty Kids hold art classes in the Kooka Room.

The Morialta Uniting Netball Club is a lively organisation that uses the congregation's facility on a variety of days for practice and game day events. The commitment demonstrated by the management of the club is one of the reasons for the club's ongoing success in Summer and Winter seasons.

As well as the regular events our Community Building and Fundraising Committee develop a program of activity interspersed throughout the year. These activities include concerts and our market as well as 'Guess who's coming to lunch'. Please consult other publications to explore the program.

Wider Church Engagement

Morialta Uniting Church has a long history of wider church engagement. The Wimala Presbytery benefits from some of its members serving on the Standing Committee and our Presbytery Representative represents the congregation at the Presbytery's regular meetings.

Members of Morialta UC are also committed to participation at Synod.

As well as this involvement other individuals serve positively on various Synod Groups.

Morialta Uniting Church is grateful for the ongoing commitment of these members to the wider church!

The Future

One of the important projects that has been agreed by church council is a review of Live Streaming and Audio-visual provision within Morialta UC.

Live Streaming has celebrated its 5th year of operation. As indicated elsewhere, live streaming is an important part of many people connected with the congregation as well as those who are more remote.

The review will give Morialta UC some information to improve this important arm of our mission even more. Please take the opportunity to be involved with the review as it ramps up.

In Conclusion

The format that our Annual Reports have taken over many years does not make it possible for every dot and jot of activity to be recorded but, as always, you are warmly encouraged to seek clarification from any of the Church Council and other Congregation Leaders. As well as that, if you participate in an activity that relates to our community, please consider writing an article for 'Morialta Vision'.