

January Birthdays

6th Olivia Ogston (10)
7th Sue Smith
8th Lorraine Perry
8th Annie Vosper
8th Jenny Easlea
12th Pippy Bohan (16)
19th Christina Windebank
21st Jean Maggs
22nd Emma Perry
25th Hanna Thompson
25th Greg Easlea
26th Heather Watson
28th John Brereton
29th Macallister Haak (14)
30th Graeme Coulson

*Happy birthday to you all!
May you know God's
blessing on your life.*

January dates at a glance

*11 January - Protecht Training
for Church Council*
28 January - Qld Schools resume

Advance Diary Dates

1 February- Blokes' Breakfast
2 February - Sunday Space resumes
*15 February - Women Of Worth
(WOW) breakfast 8am in the hall*
23 February- Explorers 11am

NEXT YARD SALE IS 29 MARCH

Electronic giving is a good way for you to be disciplined in your giving, and for UCD to budget more efficiently and effectively for our mission to serve. Every gift, no matter how small, helps. Thank you!

To give electronically: Bendigo Bank

Reference: OFFERING
BSB: 633 000 Account: 183102011

**Deadline: for the February 2025 Bulletin is
21 January 2024. Email: Joy Salmond
joy.salmond@gmail.com**

Uniting Church Dayboro January Bulletin 2025



*The people of Uniting Church Dayboro are warm, inclusive and welcoming who LOVE Jesus, LOVE each other and LOVE our communities, giving HOPE for the future.
Our worship, our communion table and fellowship is open to all.
We simply offer you a place where you will be accepted and loved, and where you can learn about the grace of God.*

**Service times: 9am every Sunday
22 William St Dayboro**

<https://www.dayborouca.com.au>

Find us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/dayborouniting>

Pastor's Ponderings

New year, New You?

It's been a couple of decades since I was eager for New Year celebrations, probably the change to the year 2000 was my last really engaged New Year's Eve. As a child it was just another night in the Nugent household. When I was a young adolescent, I would sit up and watch whatever music special the TV networks would play or a horror movie marathon if it was offered. As a young adult I would party with my friends and hope for a kiss from someone special. As I have aged New Year's Eve seems less important than the New Year itself. A new leaf, a new chapter, a clean start.

Or is it? It occurred to me in my 20s how arbitrary that idea is. Can the planet's trip around the sun correspond with this wonderful reset button in our lives? In the years since, I've discovered some iconic New Year songs-and they also point out the arbitrary and futile nature of the celebration! In U2's "New Years Day," Bono laments "Nothing changes on New Year's Day." And Death Cab for Cutie starts their melancholic "The New Year" with the lyric, "So this is the new year, and I don't feel any different."

So, if you're looking for some sad tunes to balance out the glitz and glam of New Year's, they're out there. But, even if it's just something we declare for ourselves —New Year's is a fresh opportunity to change, to make different decisions, to face challenges with new passion, to love others more fully. Viewed this way, for those of the Christian faith, a new year is like an invitation from God - to take off the old and put on the new. To set aside our prejudice, our bitterness, our elitism; to "clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience."

As we do, we issue a return invitation to God. An invitation for the Spirit to work: to make us more like Jesus, full of hope and overflowing with love.

Happy New Year,

Dan

Explorers 2025 -Warren Rose, Facilitator

Explorers will continue on the 4th Sunday from 23 February 2025.

I have some interesting topics that I will ask explorers to select for discussion, while also inviting explorers to make suggestions of topics we could discuss in 2025. If you have a topic you would like to discuss and lead, then please let me know so that we can slot you in for one of the explorers meetings. I will provide a list of topics to choose from in the February Bulletin.

I am also hoping to create a mutual email help list to share articles and things that will enhance our thinking about living the way of Jesus. If you would like to join the email list, please let me know so that I can include you in the email list. You do not have to attend explorers to be included in this email list.

Warren Rose
warrenrose16@gmail.com

The Combined Churches Christmas Lunch was a huge success. Thank you to the MBCC for the grant and a big thank you to the volunteers. It is wonderful seeing the Church Community work together. PS Santa, Mrs Claus and ELF were a great success! -Maria Hansen

THANK YOU

A special thank you to David and Christina Windebank for the Santa Claus initiative at various venues over the Christmas period. This was a wonderful outreach to the wider community, and donations went to helping provide Christmas dinner in the Community Hall. I believe Santa lost several kilos in sweat as he dealt with extreme heat and humidity, as well as pouring rain!



Kids' News

Our children's program finished 2024 with a BANG! We had about 17 kids and young people for our final service, children's presentation and party...and there were a couple away!

In Sunday Space sessions they worked on canvas boards depicting scenes from an Australian kids' story, the *12 Days of Bush Christmas* by Megan Van Den Berg and Emma Bamblett (see cover photo). Then without a full rehearsal they waved their artwork, and sang the song accompanied by the congregation and audio, didgeridoos and clapsticks.

They also listened to Grandpa Wombat, reading Mem Fox's lovely nativity book of friendship and inclusion, "*Wombat Divine*" and tucked Baby Wombat into his 'manger'. It wasn't just the kids who enjoyed the morning!

NOTICE FROM CAROLYN:

SUNDAY SPACE resumes **Sunday 2nd February**.

Please feel free to bring children to church over the Christmas break- we will have activities for them at the back of the church, and of course will continue Young & Young-at-Heart in the service.

We desperately need more teachers and helpers for 2025. We are also looking for helpers to come out during last song and set up morning tea for children. Please seriously consider if you could help in this very vital part of our church life. See Carolyn to find out more.

Our teaching team met in December to review the year and plan for 2025. We would like to link our activities in Sunday Space with the themes and readings used in the service. If we can get more teachers and helpers, we will be able to offer more for our growing number of young folk. In 2024 the teachers and helpers were rostered one Sunday per month. So with extras helping, we should be able to offer better programs more often, as well as replace anyone unable to continue, or away. Even if you can help less often than monthly, it will still make a difference to our team's effectiveness.

Church Council News

Since the September 2024 AGM, the Dayboro Church Council met three times on 13 October, 10 November and 7 December to work through and make decisions on a number of matters. The frequency will now move to every 2 months, on a Saturday morning. Council has reached a number of decisions and resolved the following matters:

- Assigned roles and responsibilities to Council members
- Signed statements of commitment and committing the Council to child safety
- Reviewed the work on Church vision earlier in 2024 and appointing a working group, (Pastor Danny, Shirley, Joy and Margaret-Anne) to develop options for a refreshed vision statement, for congregation feedback.
- Commissioned an audio-visual working group who prepared options for a new system to be decided on in future. Thanks to Andris, two projectors were repaired in the interim.
- Approved the updated Church manual, after significant effort from Warren, which will be made available via the Church website soon.
- Developed the 2025 Church calendar and processes for events and flying minutes
- Arranged training for the Council on UCA risk management system Protecht
- Reviewed the draft budget for 2025 and reviewed financial reports.

From your Church Council: Danny Nugent (Pastor), David Windebank (Chair), Maria Hansen (Treasurer, community activities coordinator), Mark Hansen (Property Officer), Annalie Roux (Secretary), John Brereton (Presbytery Rep), Caroline Nugent (Church activities coordinator), Shirley Coulson, Warren Rose, Fiona Patterson, and Margaret-Anne Green.

Rosters for January, 2025

	5 January	12 January	19 January	26 January
LECTIONARY READINGS	Christmas 2 White Jer. 31:7-14 Ps 147:12-20 Eph. 1:3-14 John 1:(1-9), 10-18	Baptism of Jesus White Is 43:1-7 Ps 29 Acts 8:14-17 Lk 3:15-17, 21-22	Epiphany 2 Green Is 62:1-5 Ps 36:5-10 1 Cor 12:1-11 Jn 2:1-11	Epiphany 3 Green Neh 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 Ps 19 1 Cor 12:12-31a Lk 4:14-21
Message	Danny	Danny	Danny	Shirley
Young & Young-at-Heart	Danny	Danny	Danny	Shirley
Reader	Andris	Christina	Margaret-Ann	Christina
Intercession	Margaret-Ann	Shirley	Robyn	Maria
Singers	Carolyn, Tim	Carolyn, David	Carolyn, Tim	Maria, Mike
Keyboard	Coral	Judy	Coral	Judy
Sunday Space	School holidays	School holidays	School holidays	School holidays
Cleaning Crew	John & Joy	Andris, Marion	Robyn & Fiona	Mark & Maria
Greeting	Andris, Marion	Christina, Coral	Robert, Judy	Chris, David

Annual Stewardship Review

Around this time every year we ask our adherents to review their weekly giving to our work in the Dayboro region. In 2024 we managed to take our minister's stipend to 45% of fulltime employment but were unable to achieve our elusive goal of 50%. This remains as our goal. For some people there are economic challenges that make it impossible to give any more than they are now doing. For others there may be some possibility of an increase. Over the twelve months to the September 2024 quarter, the Consumer Price Index rose 2.8%. This has impacted on our costs of insurances, maintenance, electricity, etc. and we are running a very tight budget. The wonderful work of those doing the Yard Sales has kept us afloat. Please prayerfully consider your stewardship and where possible use the confidential direct debit method using the bank details in this newsletter. Thanks for your ongoing support. - Paul Inglis



Carols on the Deck

Thank you to Mark & Maria, and of course, Tempo, for a great night!

