



Blacktown  
Regional  
Uniting Church

# CONNECT

21<sup>st</sup> April 2024

"We are called to be a welcoming people, who love God and actively live out the teachings of Jesus in our community".



## Developing Our Missional Future – Stage 2

*(Taken from A Field Guide for the Missional Congregation by Rick Rouse and Craig Van Gelder)*

### Thoughts along the way:

It is the Spirit of God who leads congregations into sanctified living. They are to live out the fruit the Spirit brings and the Christian practices they are responsible to exercise, through the Spirit's power.

The power of affirming others cannot be underestimated . . .

**Who can you affirm this coming week?**

We have been reminded of the importance of the Missional congregation seeking to discern the leading of the Spirit, both in the life of the Congregation, and through the Congregation in the larger community. . . .

**Let's keep praying for this.**

We have been reminded of the importance of the congregation being intentional about getting to know and then engage the communities in which they are located.

**Pray for opportunities to connect with others.**

Congregations are to be the living demonstrations to the watching world, within their local contexts, that God is the living and true God, and that God's redemptive and reconciling love is freely and graciously available to all. . . .

**This starts with small, but foundational things ... let's talk lovingly and positively to and about others.**

We believe that missional congregations should seek to be led by the Spirit in taking a journey of spiritual transformation that shapes their lives and informs their ministries. Perhaps we can see this as a quest that becomes a journey . . .

**Let's pray that we have an openness to this journey.**

If you are in your 'Autumn years' . . . **please commit to praying and dreaming/ visioning and supporting and encouraging as a way of passing on the 'Jesus baton' to the next generation.**

Please join us on this quest to become a Missional Congregation, pray, ask questions, and sign up to one of our 4 Petal Areas of focus.



**We are stronger together!!!**



## NOTICE BOARD

### THE GOD SQUAD RIDES IN

Boys Brigade had a very exciting visit from The God Squad. The boys were able to rev the bikes, and even Trish gained some new info about motor bikes.

The God Squad led devotions and joined in the games. It was a family night... thoroughly enjoyed by all!!



### GIRLS BRIGADE HOSTS PACIFIC REGION LEADERS CONFERENCE



Last week many Leaders of Girl's Brigade from around the Pacific gathered at our Blue Mountains for a Conference.

Rev Raymond led devotions for them .

Our very own Elizabeth Neale was inducted as the Deputy Chair Person for the Girls' Brigade for the Pacific Region.

**Congratulations Elizabeth!!!!**

**More good news** : a new Girls' Brigade chapter will commence soon at Toongabbie. This will be linked to and supported by our BRUC Girls' Brigade leaders.

We are growing!!

### SAFE CHURCH TRAINING

Last Saturday 30 people from BRUC attended Safe Church Training (a requirement for all leaders and high trust volunteers across denominations). The training was described as 'interesting, engaging, well presented, practically helpful'. We are all responsible to report anything that is unsafe. Thank you to Rev Christine Bayless-Kelly for an excellent presentation. If you weren't able to make it please let the Office know and we will explore other venues for you to attend.





Blacktown Regional  
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## BRUC ELECTIONS 2024

Prior to coming together, both Church Councils from Blacktown and Grantham Heights Uniting Churches, agreed to join as the BRUC Church Council effective 1st October 2023, and that elections would be held for all positions by 30th September 2024.

This would allow time for an orderly transition into the new creation of BRUC, including meeting all legal / government and financial requirements, and for essential policies / procedures to be put in place. Many of which were time sensitive... and there were many, and are ongoing!

SAVE THE DATES! ..... SAVE THE DATES! .....

SAVE THE DATES!

### **BRUC Elections Process**

#### **Part 1: Leaders (*Ministry of Elder*) and Presbytery Representatives**

A Congregational Meeting has been called on **21st April 2024** at our Blacktown Centre, 2.30pm to present recommendations from the Church Council regarding the election processes.

Following a Special Church Council Meeting held **7th April 2024**, amongst other outcomes the Church Council agreed to the following,

- \* To recommend that the Congregation adopt the change in names of Elders and Pastoral Leaders to “Leader (Ministry of Elder)”.**
- \* That the Congregation adopt the BRUC Guidelines and Requirements for Leader (Ministry of Elder) Document.**

Please refer the schedule over the page for the timing of elections for Leaders (Ministry of Elder) and Presbytery Representatives.

# God's Mission Call

## Where to from here? Stage 2

Four working parties will be formed for each of the four key themes arrived at by the end of thematic analysis of the stories, leaf prayers and tablecloth dreams. These are:

### 1. "Keeping our Eye on God": Discipleship and Worship

This working group will focus on things like how to keep "growing disciples", "nurturing our relationship with God" and learning more about Jesus and God's Word as well as on strategies for worship.

### 2. Being a Caring, Connected, Welcoming, Inclusive Church Community

This working group will focus on developing strategies which foster an inclusive, welcoming community; strategies which promote connection and unity and strengthen relationships within the church as well as activities which care for others within the church community and for the church.

### 3. Living out Discipleship in the Community

This working group will focus on identifying specific community projects which BRUC might focus on and what might be involved in those projects.

### 4. "Growing Young": Bringing Children and Young People to the Church

This working group will focus on developing strategies for bringing more children and young people to the church and projects for working with children or young people.

Our hope is that everyone in the congregation who is able, will join one or more of the working groups. Those who are not able can offer their support in prayer. These groups will determine the “what” and “how” of the way ahead.

We look forward to continuing together to explore God’s love and mission for Blacktown Regional Uniting Church and the wider community, and we leave you with three inspiring prayers and dreams which cut across multiple themes and offer a rich vision for the future of our church.

“A multigenerational church which is characterised by love for Jesus and service and love for those in need ... warm and welcoming ... joyful !!”

“That the church is vibrant and alive and grows and represents a point of difference in our world for all to see.”

“To be more inclusive with those around us ; to reach out and really embrace ; support those already involved ... (and) those in need. To be a witness of your love and care for all.”



## **Timeline for Election of Leaders (Ministry of Elder) and Presbytery Representatives**

- 21/04/2024** Congregational Meeting to;  
Consider adopting the advice from Church Council re  
the Guidelines and Requirements for Leaders (Ministry  
of Elder) Document, including the name of Leader  
(Ministry of Elder).  
Call for nominations for the election of Leader  
(Ministry of Elder) and Presbytery Representatives.  
Presentation of the timetable for the election of Leaders  
(Ministry of Elder) and Presbytery Representatives.
- 28/04/2024** Reminder about nominations for election of Leaders  
(Ministry of Elder) and Presbytery Representatives.
- 05/05/2024** Close of nominations for the election of Leaders  
(Ministry of Elder) and Presbytery Representatives.
- 12/05/2024** Reminder of the Congregational Meeting and  
announcement of nominees for elections of Leaders  
(Ministry of Elder) and Presbytery Representatives.
- 19/05/2024** Reminder of the Congregational Meeting for election of  
Leaders (Ministry of Elder) and Presbytery  
Representatives.
- 26/05/2024** Hold elections at the Congregational Meeting for the  
election of Leaders (Ministry of Elder) and Presbytery  
Representatives.

### **Part 2: BRUC Church Councillors**

Election of Church Council members process begins on  
26<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

Please be praying as you consider nominations.

## **Call for agenda items for the upcoming Congregational Meeting of 21 April 2024.**

The current items set for General Business at the meeting are as below.

### **General Business**

- a. BRUC Guidelines and Requirements for Leaders (Ministry of Elder) Document
- b. Election timetable for the Election of Leaders (Ministry of Elder) and Presbytery Representatives.
- c. Call for nominations for the Election of Leaders (Ministry of Elder) and Presbytery Representatives

Please submit any requests for additional items to be considered for inclusion in the meeting agenda to the Secretary in writing by no later than **6pm Thursday 18 April 2024**, to [johnca@nswact.uca.org.au](mailto:johnca@nswact.uca.org.au)

### ***PREPARTIONS FOR ELECTIONS***

#### ***BRUC Presbytery Representatives***

As part of our upcoming elections we have the privilege of having two representatives from our Congregation that will attend our Presbytery meetings and are able to contribute and vote on our behalf, on issues relating to our Congregation and our Presbytery.

**GIFTS REQUIRED:** 'The kind of gifts required are people who understand BRUC and it's vision, are open to engaging with Presbytery's vision and issues, are open to listen and work together to hear the Spirit lead us.  
(information provided by Presbytery)

**TIME COMMITMENT:** Presbytery meets on a Saturday in February and August for a day meeting at Centenary UC (North Parramatta) and via zoom in May and November on a Wednesday Evening.


In addition, each meeting will require an amount of pre-reading that is essential to enable effective participation and representation in the meeting.

Please begin to pray regarding nominations.

**UPCOMING SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES**

\* BC = Blacktown Centre, 59 Bungarribee Rd      GC = Grantham Hts Centre, 19 Nipigon Rd

Date	Time	Loc	Type of Service	Minister / Preacher
<b>28th April</b>	9.00am	BC	Worship Service with Baptism	Pam Neale-Justins
	9.30am	GC	Worship Service with Baptisms	Rev Alimoni Taumoepeau
	12.30	BC	Worship Service Tongan Language	Litea Fifita
	12.30	GC	Worship Service Fijian Language	Elder Ovini Waqa
<b>5th May</b>	9.00am	BC	Holy Communion Worship Service	Rev Raymond Joso
	9.30am	GC	Worship Service	Wendy de Vroom
	12.30	GC	Worship Service Fijian Language	Rev Joe Mah

CHURCH CONTACTS	<b>Your Offerings may be transferred electronically to:</b>
Blacktown Centre 59 Bungarribee Rd, Blacktown	Blacktown Regional Uniting Church BSB: 634 634    Account Number: 100023472 Or deposited directly via any Australia Post branch
Grantham Heights Centre 19 Nipigon Rd, Seven Hills	<b>PRAYER NETWORK</b>
<b>Church Office</b> Tues 10am-2pm Wed to Fri 10am-4pm 02 9831 4121 <a href="mailto:BRUC.Office@nswact.uca.org.au">BRUC.Office@nswact.uca.org.au</a>	Are you, or someone you know, in need of prayer? Please contact our Prayer Chain by calling Joyce: 0408 978 890 or Doreen: 0412 020 366
<b>Church Minister</b> Rev Dr Raymond Joso 0423 152 411 <a href="mailto:raymondj@nswact.uca.org.au">raymondj@nswact.uca.org.au</a>	<b>First Aid Information</b> At Blacktown: First Aid Kit is in the Kitchen The Defib is on the wall near the disabled toilet entry Link to the defibrillator training video: <a href="https://youtu.be/qDdKrNxTaPk">https://youtu.be/qDdKrNxTaPk</a>
<b>Church Council Chairperson</b> Pam Neale-Justins 0422 370 778 <b>Church Council Secretary</b> John Cameron 0405 981 216 <b>Tongan Leadership</b> Si. Kaleki Katoa 0487 487 476 <b>Fijian Leadership</b> Kala Vatuararuku 0492 889 211	At Grantham Heights: First Aid Kit is in the Kitchen The Defib is Opposite the Kitchen on the wall Link to the defibrillator training video: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kxff2qjovgq">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kxff2qjovgq</a>
	 <b>A safe church for all people</b>
	The Uniting Church in Australia believes a safe church is who we are called to be. It is the way we physically, emotionally and spiritually care for each other. You can find more information on our notice boards, or by visiting <a href="https://safechurch.uca.org.au/">https://safechurch.uca.org.au/</a> If you have a Safe Church concern or need to report a Safe Church matter, please contact: Jackie Heap 0410 415 202    jackieh@nswact.uca.org.au Ken Doust 0417 081 085    kendo@nswact.uca.org.au

