



uniting
church

Newscope



12th May, 2024

**Wesley Castle Hill
Congregation**

Today's Service 9.30am

Preacher : Rev. John Barr

Bible Readings : John 17:6-19

"What Matters Most"



<https://www.youtube.com/@wesleycastlehillunitingchu7825/streams>

Wesley Castle Hill Uniting Church

A congregation of The Uniting Church in Australia. *In partnership with Paama Seaside Church, Port Vila, Vanuatu*

Our Vision: *'To be a caring church, uniting people in Christ'*

Phone: 9894 8999

Email: admin@wesleycastlehill.org.au

www.wesleycastlehill.org.au

32 Showground Road, Castle Hill NSW 2154 / PO Box 515 Castle Hill 1765

Mission Plan (Our Mission Plan is available on the website)





Please remember in prayer—

[names removed from online version].

For those unable to worship with us

If you, or anyone you know, would like to be included in our Prayers, please contact the **Pastoral Care Team Heather**

Details are confidential.

Please indicate if you wish to have your name included in Newscope.

Thought of the Week: Most of you will know that on 14th March I had a nasty accident that led to a month in hospital and rehab. I had badly damaged my right hip and femur for the second time. I was looking forward to leading three ANZAC Services, and another that I would attend by invitation. I was able to unload two of those services, the ANZAC Sunday Commemoration Service in our local club, and the Dawn Service at our local cenotaph. However, I was able to lead the third (albeit on crutches) in our village. Everyone I contacted, while I was in hospital, to ask if they would lead a particular service said “yes” without hesitation, including two of our local councilors.

But there is something else that I need to share. During the month of February I had an earnest desire to prepare and send out all the invitations to our local dignitaries (Mayors, MPs, etc.) for the ANZAC Sunday Service. That was completed by the end of February. I also had an earnest desire to have the orders of service for all three services completed by the end of the same month. That, too, was done. Looking back, I found myself asking where did those earnest desires come from? They were the two most important things that needed to be done that nobody else could do. I just praise God for preparing the way for what was to come. Incidentally, all the services were conducted beautifully.

Before the accident I thought I was the only one left who could do these things. God has taught me some wonderful lessons. But the most important is the one that is embedded in the words of Jesus,

“And which of you by worrying can add a single hour to your span of life? If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest?” Luke 12:25-26 (NRSVUE)

And also, *‘Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.’* Proverbs 3:5-6 (NRSVUE)

The result: A ‘peace that passes all understanding’. (Ephesians 3:19)

Grace and peace Bill Rosier



Dates for your diary-May

Sunday	12th May	9.30am Morning Worship Service All are Welcome
Tuesday	14th May	9.30am Writers Group 1pm UFO craft group
Wednesday	15th May	10am Exercises gentle and low intensity perfect for post surgery.
Thursday	16th May	12.30pm AA Meeting in the conference Room 7pm GA Meeting in the conference Room
Friday	17th May	9am Friday Shed volunteers always welcome
Sat 18 May -Sun 19 May		Relay for Life see Below for details
Wednesday	22nd May	11.15am Rest & Reflect, followed by Seniors' lunch at 12pm details see page 5
Sunday	26th May	Following the 9.30am service there will be a morning tea to welcome new members to Wesley. Details page 5

**Hope
Lives
Here**



How it works

Register

Register and join an event in your local community.

Spread the word

Invite friends to join you and raise funds to support those impacted by cancer.

Ready, Set... Go

Unite with your community and take strides against cancer.



Minister's Message

Unity in Diversity

John 17:20-23

Jesus said, "I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me."

In these verses from the Gospel of John, we witness Jesus offering a profound prayer to the Father, not only for His disciples but also for all those who would come to believe in Him through their message.

What is striking about this prayer is its central theme of unity—a unity so deep that it mirrors the very unity between the Father and the Son.

The concept of ecumenism, or the pursuit of Christian unity, lies at the heart of these words spoken by Jesus. He desires that his followers be one, just as he and the Father are one. This unity is not merely superficial; it is a unity rooted in the very essence of God—a unity of love, purpose, and mission.

Ecumenism is not about the mere coming together of different Christian traditions or denominations. It is about embodying the unity that Jesus prayed for—a unity that transcends theological differences, cultural barriers, and historical divisions.

This year's ***Week of Prayer for Christian Unity*** runs from 12 – 19 May and the prayers are written by a team of people in Burkina Faso where freedom to worship as a Christian is near impossible, with security guards protecting worship centres and people.

As we reflect on Jesus' prayer for unity, we are reminded that 'unity is not uniformity'.

It is a call to humility.

It is a call to love, as we strive to overcome the prejudices and biases that divide us.

It is also a call to mission, as we bear witness to the reconciling power of the Gospel in a fractured and divided world. In striving for ecumenical unity, we not only fulfill the prayer of Jesus but also bear witness to the truth of His message. For when the world sees Christians united in love and purpose, respectful of differences, it becomes a powerful testimony to the reality of God's love and the transformative power of the Gospel.



May we, as followers of Christ take seriously His prayer for unity, and may our pursuit for unity, our language and prayers shine hope brightly in a world too often torn apart by division.

Blessings from Rev. Carmel

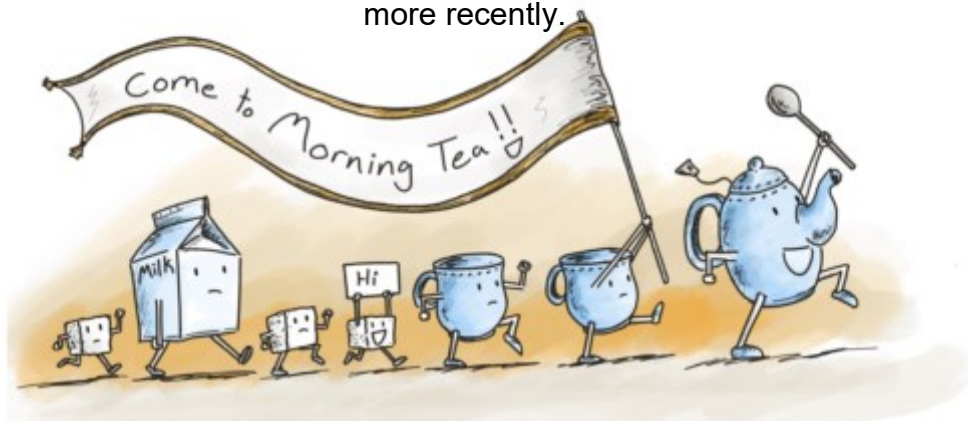
ADVANCE NOTICE SPECIAL MORNING TEA

EVERYONE WELCOME

Special Morning Tea to welcome new members to Wesley.

**Sunday 26th May
following the 9.30 service
in the Church Hall**

Please come and get to know some of the new people who've joined us more recently.



**On: Wednesday 22nd May, 2024
Time: 11.15am Communion, Rest &
Reflect followed by Lunch at 12
noon**

Where: Wesley Church Hall

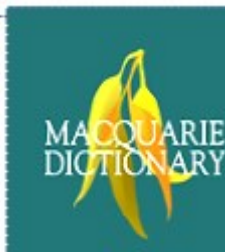
**Topic: Guest Speaker: Susan Butler
- who was the Editor of Australia's
Macquarie Dictionary**

RSVP: Sunday 19th May, 2024

Ph: Helen or Heather

Cost: \$15.00

Wesley Seniors' May Luncheon



Confirmation and Confirmation Classes

On the 28th July there will be a confirmation service as part of the Sunday 9.30am worship. If anyone is interested or would like more information regarding confirmation please contact Rev. Carmel or the office. **There will be 3 confirmation classes before hand, 17th June, 1st & 8th July. Thankyou**



**Wesley Uniting Church is having a Garden Sale
4th Saturday of each month.**

**The next Garden Sale 25th May
from 8am—12noon.**

**Loads to choose from including
Garden Ornaments and Pots.**

Cash and Eftpos facilities available.

Scrap Metal Wanted

Soon we will be doing a scrap metal collection with money raised going to our Roof fund.

If you have any aluminum or brass or copper (pots or pans) **Please No Steel** could you bring them to McPhail Cottage to be put next to the trailer this would be greatly appreciated.

Any enquiries please see Bruce
Many thanks in advance.



Donations of Spectacles

If you are wishing to donate used pairs of glasses that you are now no longer wearing please donate just the glasses themselves not the cases

thank you Heather





Bottom of Page 6 and Page 7 photos taken last Friday in the Community march against Domestic Violence.



Contact List

Minister: Rev. Carmel Ieraci
0426 445 608
minister@wesleycastlehill.org.au
Day off Thursday

Administration Officer
Karen Needs, 9894 8999

Council Secretary
Kate Cunneen, 0403 512 303
secretarycc@wesleycastlehill.org.au

Congregation Chair
Lindsay Smith, 0452 196 485
congregation@wesleycastlehill.org.au

Congregation Secretary
vacant
congregationsec@wesleycastlehill.org.au

Baptisms
Anne-Maree Kinley, 0417 228 534

Kids@Wesley
Lynette Case 0422 225 852
Fuse (Junior Youth yrs 5-8)
Tom Kelly 0466 244 323
Ben Speechly 0481 573 783

YA MISFITS (Young Adults. Many individuals seeking friendship in this society)
Aidan Armstrong 0401 246 427

Communications Coordinator
Peter Smith/Nicole Van der Stel
0417 443 810/ 0403 851 157

Education Team
Dermot Armstrong, 9686 2862

Community Markets
Bryan Mullan 0468 359 536

Community Connections
Helen McConnell 0408 211 471

Pastoral Care
Heather Searle, 9899 7628

Property Committee
Liz Jayawardene

Safe Church Committee
Bryan Mullan 0468 359 536

Seniors Care Coordinator
Heather Searle 0414 897 628

Stewardship Team
Dennis Hall 0414 541 610

Wesley Preschool
Jane Harvey, 9634 5282

Next Sunday's Service will be live streamed at 9.30am

Regular events	
Sundays 9:30am	Church Service (Communion first Sunday of the month)
Tuesdays 9:30am - 11:30am	Creative Writers
Tuesdays 1pm - 3:30pm	UFO Craft Group (Un-Finished Objects)
Wednesdays 10:00 – 11:30	Gentle Exercise
Thursdays 1pm -3.30pm	Mahjong
Fridays 7pm—8.30pm	Fuse Years 5-8
Fridays 7:30pm -10pm	YA Misfits (Young Adults)
Monthly events	
1st Wednesday	Wednesdays@Wesley Hymn singing
1st Wednesday	10.30-12.30 watercolours and 1-3pm Animal drawing
3rd Wednesday	10.30-12.30 and 1-3pm Relaxing Art
4th Wednesday	Communion & Relax 11:15 Seniors Lunch 12-1.30pm
1st Thursday	Book Club 10am-12pm
4th Saturday	Garden Sale 8am-12noon
4th Friday	Rummikub 1pm-3pm

Wesley relies entirely on your weekly giving and fundraising.

**For online weekly giving, you can use the details below-Castle Hill Congregation
BSB: 634-634 A/c: 100027297**

Please submit items for Newscope by Monday