



Carpentaria Presbytery

- of the Uniting Church in Australia -



#13 | 2026

NOTES & UPDATES

- **Robyn Cooley's final day at Carpentaria Office is 2 July**
- **Safe Church Audits – answer your audit questions as they were due for completion on 31 May**
- **Monday is Christy's Day Off – any queries or urgent matters can be directed to Ana at the Presbytery Office**
- **National Church Life Survey 2026 info now available**
- **New PO Box for Carpentaria Presbytery Office from 1 June 2026 is PO Box 7070, Garbutt QLD 4814**

PRAYER POINTS

- **Presbytery Capacity / Resourcing – Synod wide conversations and discernment**
- **NAIDOC Week from 5-12 July – 50yrs of Deadly**
- **PLT meeting on 7 July**
- **Patrol Ministry throughout QLD**
- **Townsville Consultation follow up work**

PRESBYTERY OFFICE



Monday – Friday | 8:30am – 5:00pm



0459 544 507



PO Box 7070, Garbutt QLD 4814
New PO Box from 1 June 2026

Presbytery Minister Pastoral & Coastal

REV CHRISTY ALLEN (Chairperson)

0418 184 834 | presmincoastal@ucacarpentaria.com.au

Residing in Southern Zone

Mon (Day Off), Available Tues-Fri

Presbytery Minister Rural (Supply)

REV CRAIG MISCHESKI (Deputy Chairperson)

0400 036 630 | cjmisch@gmail.com

Concluding Supply on 30 June

Executive Assistant

ANA MILA (Secretary)

0459 544 507 | office@ucacarpentaria.com.au

Mon-Fri 8.30am-5.00pm

Administration Support (1 day/wk)

NATALIE LUND

0491 278 198 | natalie.lund@ucaqld.com.au

Mon 10am-12:30pm | Wed 2-4:30pm | Thurs 3-4:30pm

Presbytery Administrator

ROBYN COOLEY (Treasurer)

0429 195 506 | admin@ucacarpentaria.com.au

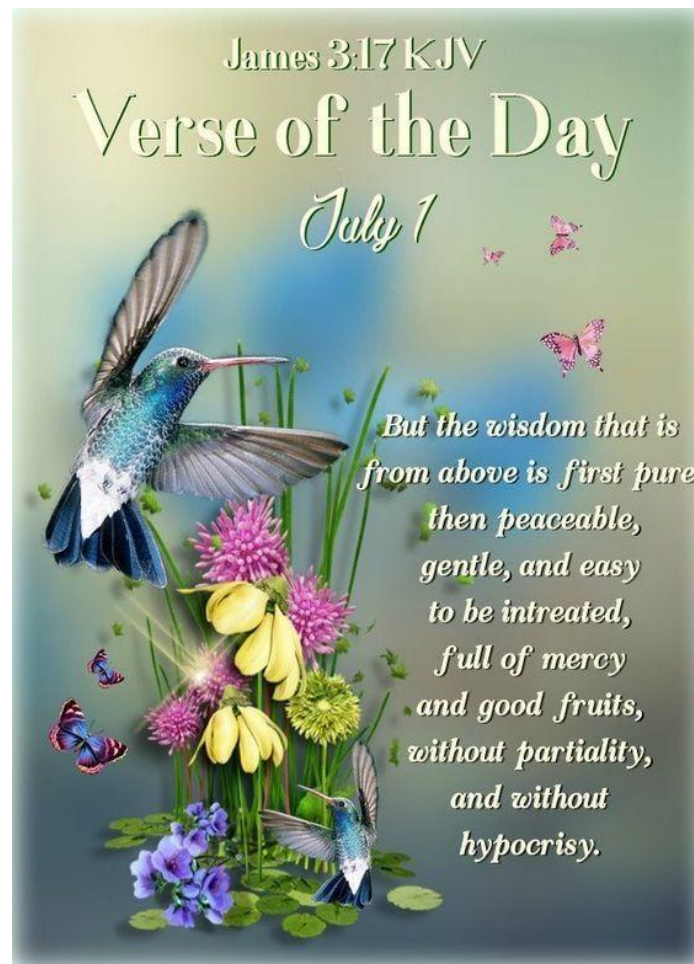
Final Day is 2 July

Uniting News – Stay connected with UCA QLD by subscribing to weekly updates and stories [here](#).

QLD Synod Hub – hub.ucaqld.com.au

Connect100+ Newsletter – email connect100@ucareqld.com.au

UCA Assembly Newsletter – subscribe [Sign up here](#)



FAREWELL MESSAGE

FAREWELL MESSAGE FROM ROBYN COOLEY

One of my favourite worship songs is 'Goodness of God'. When reflecting on the lyrics of this song, I am reminded of some of the conversations with my Mum in her last days and of the many times (particularly in my working life) of how God has remained faithful to me and turned my doubts and uncertainty into new beginnings. As I embark on this new thing called 'retirement' I know that God still has work for me to do, just not in a paid capacity.

I am certain I will cross paths with many of you again. I haven't disappeared into a new workplace, I am still around and still available from time to time (but in a different way and maybe not right at that very moment). I am thankful to have been able to conclude my working life in a role that is challenging and full of variety and of course been fortunate to see many places and meet many of you.

Each organisation I have worked in, has helped me gain additional useful skills, which I know will be used into the future. There is always a way to use your skills and abilities for good and especially so in the building up of God's Kingdom. As I conclude in my role as Collaborative Administration Officer (which encompassed Treasury, Property and Admin), I am thankful for the opportunities to sit with and talk to the many volunteers that keep our congregations functioning. While our main goal is to share the love, grace and forgiveness of God, we are challenged to do this in ways which are governed by compliance, procedure and policy. We can choose to accept these challenges and turn them into opportunities, to develop meaningful and safe relationships with others.

Although it may annoy some people, I asked many questions in the last 6 ½ years, and I kept asking them until I understood what was needed and who it was that I needed to talk to or provide information to and also why I needed to do so. It is all about information gathering, so that you can do the best you can with the resources you have. I have always tried to help in any way I could and to steer you in the right direction, when I couldn't.

As I write this last note, I am mindful that as I leave, there are a number of vacancies – a Presbytery Treasurer and several seats at the table for a Property Committee. The load on Christy and Ana will increase, so please be kind when you reach out and respect Christy's day off, so she too can recharge and have a better work-life balance. Consider whether your Zone Chairperson might be able to help you. I ask each one of you across the Presbytery to think about your skills and abilities and also those of others you know in your congregation. I am certain there are several of you out there who would bring great benefits to the Presbytery team. If there is uncertainty, on your behalf, please know there are others who can help you learn the role, and guide you through the necessary steps. Has God been tapping you on the shoulder? Please seriously consider (and pray about) whether you might be able to offer your skills in either the Treasurer role or as member of the Presbytery Property Committee. If you want more information, please reach out to the Presbytery office, talk with your minister or even give me a call. I pray for renewal and rejoicing in all the congregations, faith communities and bush chaplaincies across the Presbytery. May God lead you deeper into relationship with Him and what He wants for this Presbytery.

Thanks to all for your phone calls, emails and private messages over the last few days. It has been truly humbling.

Blessings and Kind regards
Robyn Cooley



CARPENTARIA NEWS

INDUCTION SERVICE FOR REV BRENDON LUKIN – ARMY CHAPLAINCY

Service of Induction into Army Chaplaincy for Rev Brendon Lukin will be held on Sunday, 12th July at 9:00am at Aitkenvale Uniting Church conducted by Rev Kaye Ronalds.

Those wishing to attend in person please notify the Presbytery Office, for catering purposes. Online attendees may go to the Aitkenvale Uniting Church homepage. <https://aitkenvale.unitingchurch.org.au/>

CARPENTARIA PRESBYTERY TREASURER – POSITION VACANT

The purpose of the position is to manage the financial records of the UCA – Carpentaria Presbytery according to the Uniting Church in Australia regulations, ensuring that:

- Banking and payment of bills are timely
- Financial operations are systematic, compliant, effective and efficient

to effectively report to both internal and external customers / stakeholders.

Here is the PD [Carpentaria Treasurer PD](#) and start date is 1 July 2026. For all expressions of interest or applications, send to the Presbytery Secretary at secretary@ucacarpentaria.com.au.

For further questions, please contact Ana at office@ucacarpentaria.com.au or Presbytery Minister presmincoastal@ucacarpentaria.com.au if Ana is not available.

UCA CARPENTARIA PRESBYTERY – ADDRESS AND CONTACT CHANGES

After 2nd July, the "admin@ucacarpentaria.com.au" email address will no longer be used, nor monitored. All accounts and correspondence are to be sent to the office email address "office@ucacarpentaria.com.au". We kindly request that you update your contact lists to reflect these changes. We are trying to ensure that the changes are affected before Robyn finishes up on 2 July, so that we know the new system is working.

UCA CARPENTARIA PRESBYTERY – ADDRESS AND CONTACT CHANGES

Do **YOU** or **SOMEONE YOU KNOW** have a skill in:



Business Operations
(small or large)



Finance



**Building / property
maintenance**



**Architecture /
Engineering**

Please connect with us!

You could be the right person to join our team and give back to the Presbytery as part of the **Presbytery Property Committee**, supporting the mission of the Presbytery through:



Supporting congregations with
property enquiries



Reviewing property-related
applications



Overseeing maintenance
of Presbytery properties

Please contact Rev Christy Allen on presmincoastal@ucacarpentaria.com.au or **0418 184 834** for more details. PD is now available [Presbytery Property Committee PD](#)

DATE CLAIMER: BLUE CARE SUNDAY – 23 AUGUST 2026

You will likely already have this in your calendars, but we wanted to take a moment to remind you about BlueCare Sunday, which will be held on **Sunday 23rd August, 2026**.

BlueCare Sunday provides a valuable opportunity to highlight the important work of our Aged Care Chaplaincy, along with the broader ministry and services of BlueCare across Residential Aged Care, Retirement Living, and In-home & Community Care.

We encourage presbyteries and congregations to consider connecting with your [local BlueCare Chaplain or Connect100+ "Connector"](#) to explore opportunities to share during a service or to support a BlueCare-themed service. Congregations may also wish to consider simple ways of engaging with their local BlueCare team, such as providing a Thank-You Morning Tea for staff at a nearby centre. Where a Connector or Chaplain is unavailable to attend, we invite presbyteries to consider whether a presbytery representative may be able to participate in this way.

In the coming weeks, Connect100+ will share resources to assist you in planning and participating in these services. Please help us by sharing this information through to your congregations & faith communities.

This is a wonderful opportunity to continue strengthening relationships and partnerships within our communities.



On Sunday 19 July, Uniting Church communities across Australia will celebrate Intercultural Neighbouring Sunday, a special opportunity to give thanks for the rich cultural diversity that shapes our life together and to deepen relationships across cultures in our churches and neighbourhoods.

Now in its fourth year, Intercultural Neighbouring Sunday continues our journey towards becoming a truly multicultural, cross-cultural and intercultural Church. This year's theme, "Belonging: One Body, Many Members", invites every congregation to reflect on what it means to ensure everyone can truly belong.

"The Church is at its best when people from different cultures, languages and traditions realise that, in Christ, we belong to one another as the Body of Christ," says Uniting Church President Rev Charissa Suli.

"Paul reminds us that 'we are one body with many members'. Our diversity is not a problem to overcome; it is a gift through which the Holy Spirit continues to shape, challenge and renew us."

"As we continue learning from one another we discover more fully who God is calling us to be."

A worship resource to help congregations mark Intercultural Neighbouring Sunday will be released soon. Sign up to receive the resources in your inbox as soon as they become available.

[Sign up for the resource!](#)

GRANT TIPS

Tip 1: "Create a Grant Want List. Do not wait for a grant to open before deciding what you need funding for. List the projects, equipment, programs, or improvements you want to fund over the next 12 to 24 months. When a grant opens, you can assess the fit quickly instead of starting from scratch. It saves time and makes it easier to decide which grants are worth pursuing.

Tip 2: "Use a mind map before you write. Put your project in the centre, then add the need, activities, outcomes, budget, stakeholders, and evidence around it. You will spot missing details before you are halfway through the application."

Tip 3: "Set up a shared information system. Keep budgets, annual reports, policies, support letters, statistics, and project details in one shared folder. It saves hours of chasing information when a deadline is close."

UPDATED MINISTRY AGENT HOUSING POLICY ON HUB

Here are the new resources (released this month) related to Ministry Agent housing. **Found on Hub> Ministries > [Ministry Agents](#)**

 [E8.2-Ministry-Agent-Housing-Policy-POL-MAP-02](#)

 [E8.2.1-Use-and-Maintenance-of-Housing](#)

 [E8.2.1.1-Statement-of-Mutual-Expectations-Form](#)

 [E8.2.1.1-Statement-of-Mutual-Expectations](#)

DATE CLAIMERS

2026

2 July – Robyn’s final day at Presbytery Office

23-26 October – 39th Synod at Alex Park

19 November – Muth Arrak Zone Meeting in Cairns

20-22 November – #2 Presbytery Meeting in Townsville at Mount Louisa Community Church

23-25 November – PLT F2F Strategic Meeting

Synod Selection Panel (SSP) Key Dates 2026 Selection Day 2

Applications Close – 31st July

Psychological Testing – 8th August

Synod Selection Day 2 – 7th November

ZONE MEETINGS

Muth Arrak	Northern	Southern	Gulf
19 November - Cairns	18 July 12 September	13 June 1 August	(Zoom meetings at 5.30pm) 20 August 17-19 November - Retreat to be confirmed

THE WORD FOR TODAY

SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS

“Truly my soul silently waits for God.” Psalm 62:1 NKJV

The contemplative pathway. If you relate to God best through the contemplative pathway, you love large blocks of quietness and uninterrupted time alone. It is very likely that when you were a child, your parents would tell you to go outside and play with other kids more. Reflection comes naturally to you. You often feel like an observer in life.

Here are some Scriptures you easily identify with: *“Meditate within your heart on your bed and be still. Selah”* (Psalm 4:4 NKJV). *“Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him; do not fret”* (Psalm 37:7 NKJV). *“Be still and know that I am God”* (Psalm 46:10 NKJV). *“Truly my soul silently waits for God; from Him comes my salvation.”* God is most present to you when distractions and noises are removed. Images, metaphors, and pictures help you as you pray. If you get too busy or spend too much time with too many people hanging around, you begin to feel drained and stretched thin. You do not require much external stimulation. Making time to listen to God in silence and solitude is vital to the health of your soul, and it’s necessary for you to experience a deepening sense of His presence. You need regular, protected, intense, undistracted time alone. But here’s a word of caution: The Bible says, *“If God so loved us, we also ought to love one another”* (1 John 4:11 NKJV). And love takes time and effort. Sometimes it requires sacrifice. One of the best ways to show your love for God is to show it to the people around you whom God loves.

(Reflection from vision.org.au website – The Word for Today reading, 1 July 2026) The Word for Today is authored by Bob and Debby Gass and published under licence from UCB International Copyright 2026)