



Uniting Tasmania

Issue No. 238 | February 2026

Welcome Peter!¹

Rev. Peter Overton is soon moving into ministry placement as Presbytery Resource Minister for the south, along with his family from NSW. Peter has wide and long experience in ministry, particularly in rural areas – and is a mad keen Hawks supporter!

Peter will be inducted at the Presbytery meeting on Saturday 28 March at Kingston Uniting Church. All Uniting Church Ministers, members and adherents are invited to join with the Presbytery members from 10:00am in celebrating this ministry placement of the Presbytery.

Peter's most recent placement as Resource Minister for the Far North Coast region builds on previous ministry experiences with local congregations and clusters, in chaplaincy and overseas mission, in regional aged care, and in ecumenical connections. ...*(continued on page 6)*



Walking together

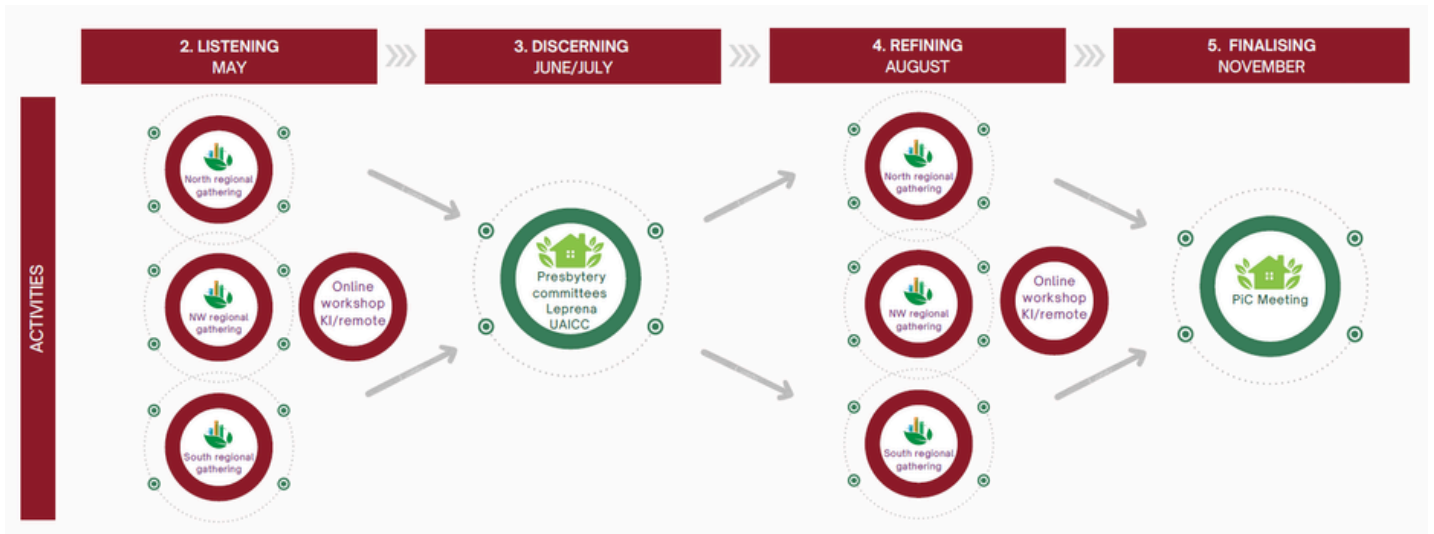
We want to hear your voice and your views!

- We are on a journey to develop a Charter for the Presbytery. A charter sets out how we will hear and hold stories, listen deeply across our communities, work together to shape a clear and practical way forward. You are invited to help shape this plan!
- In late May and late August in three locations around the state there are two big opportunities to share your views and voices. More details will be distributed by late February, including registration so we can cater for your dietary needs.
- By creating this Charter together and making sure many voices are included, the Presbytery will be well placed to create a Charter that is faithful, practical, and future-focused, shaped by shared hopes and local realities and capabilities.
- This Charter will link with the Faithful Futures and Act2 projects of the wider Uniting Church, and will support us all in confident, consistent, and open responses to complex challenges such as changing attendance, long-term sustainability, and the future of wonderful heritage properties.
- The Shared Vision of all eight Presbyteries and the Synod across Tasmania and Victoria:
"Following Christ, walking together as First and Second Peoples, seeking community, compassion and justice for all creation".
- Please contact the Presbytery leaders if you have further questions at this stage, or the Tasmanian Office:

Tas.Office@victas.uca.org.au



Walking together - steps & stages in 2026



Rob Floyd steps down from Frontier Services



After almost three years as National Director of Frontier Services, Rob Floyd has announced he will step down from the role following the next Board meeting on 31 March.

Rob Floyd commenced as National Director in March 2023, following nine months as Acting National Director. Prior to this, he served almost six years as Associate General Secretary of the Uniting Church in Australia Assembly. He is also a former National Director and Associate Director of UnitingWorld, roles he held over a combined period of more than eight years.

“Rob has held senior leadership positions with the Assembly for more than 17 years,” Mr Johnson (Assembly General Secretary) said. “Throughout that time, he has demonstrated exemplary leadership, dedication, and care for his teams. We are all richer for his skill, passion, and commitment.

Reflecting on his time, Mr Floyd said, “I’ve thoroughly enjoyed my journey with Frontier Services and the various roles I’ve held within the Uniting Church.

“It has been an honour to play a small part in God’s work across Australia and the world. I pray that many people will continue to be touched by God’s love through the ministry of the Uniting Church and its agencies.”

The process to appoint a new National Director of Frontier Services will commence in the near future. From <https://uniting.church/rob-floyd-stepping-down-as-national-director-frontier-services/>

A CHANCE ENCOUNTER

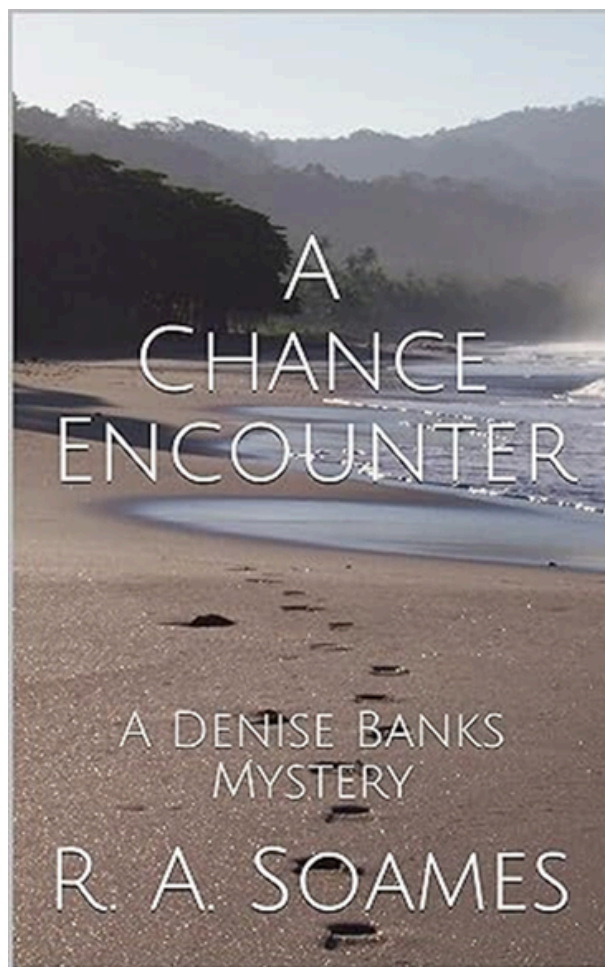
A novel by R. A. Soames

Just before the Christmas holidays I found myself browsing the shelves of my local library for books to read over the Christmas break. I came across a book called A Chance Encounter by R.A. Soames. It was in the crime section and was identified as a Tasmanian related book.

The description at the back of the book was: Denise, Paul and their family have settled quite comfortably into their new lives in Tasmania. As they all enjoy the more relaxed and stress-free lifestyle that Tasmania has to offer, the last thing on their minds is mystery and intrigue. As fate would have it though, a chance encounter sees both Denise and Paul once more entangled in an historical mystery. A mystery that challenges the very notions and framework of a Nation.

I found this book an emotional read as the story unfolded. A couple who had recently moved from Sydney to Port Sorrell come across an older aboriginal man looking for his family. They only spoke to this man once before he dies. The couple become curious and with a family member of the older man explore the history of the Port Sorrell area to discover what happened to other members of the older man's family that he had never shared with others. The history was not a pleasant history and the resulting finds had both good and bad elements to them.

It is a short read with only 164 pages however I was given a further insight into the lives of aboriginal people in the early 1900's. The book has been classified as fiction however the author notes that although it is fiction it was based on facts. He provides a number of places that people can go to for more information.



In light of some of the projects within the Uniting Church at the moment – including Faithful Futures and the Respecting Country stream of that project – this book may be one more way of starting to understand some of the history of the aboriginal people here in Tasmania.

Shirley Bowers

Request/borrow this book from your local library: https://libraries.tas.gov.au/Record/Library/SD_ILS-1409747



40 days of faith-filled action for God's creation

ENERGY 40

Aim to reduce your energy usage for 40 days. Give up heating or cooling your home and layer up instead, switch to coldwater washing and line-drying.


18 February - 2 April 2026

This year's Lent Event through Uniting World has a focus on Timor Leste through the twin lenses of climate change and hunger.

Lent Event asks that you set aside five minutes in each Sunday's worship time. They provide presenter notes and PowerPoint presentations for each Sunday. The presenter notes could be used independently if you have no technological access.

Lent Event encourages giving towards supporting the difficult issues in Timor Leste. To make this more palatable they suggest individual or team challenges such as the one to the right.

More information can be found at <https://donate.unitingworld.org.au/lent-event>



Reducing Your Emissions?



FUNDS TO ASSIST YOUR CONGREGATION OR FAITH COMMUNITY REDUCE EMISSIONS

In 2024 a Synod Emissions Reduction Fund (SERF) was made available by the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania and many congregations applied and were granted funding to assist with their work in reducing their emissions.

There is now a further opportunity for congregations and faith communities to apply for another round of funding.

Your congregation or faith community is invited to make an application to this fund in order to assist your congregation's work towards reaching zero emissions.
Applications close 5 pm on February 28th 2026.

Download the SERF application from <https://justact.us6.list-manage.com/track/click?u=21f3bd90cc82c10b8e2cf6a47&id=a990dac7fb&e=b84d6fde62>

No application will be funded more than \$10,000. We aim to inform congregations and faith communities on the outcome of their applications by the end of March 2026.

Questions about the application can be asked of the SERF Administration Team members:
Jamie Thom 0427 210 787
Heather Baxter 0487 429 748
Tom Spurling 0409 461390

Once your application is completed, it can be submitted to: jim@victas.uca.org.au



Welcome Peter!²

Peter describes his relationship with God: *“Experience of God for me is best described as “Ground of my being” and the key for me is attention. Stopping, listening, seeing, exploring being open. In creation, around the streets, on the edge of life. A daily early morning attention to silence, scripture, and prayer, wherever I find myself. I do not need a building, but I find a candle grounds me in the local Church.”*

He is a member of the recently formed Uniting Church Assembly’s *Commission on Governance, Resourcing and Administration*, which means Peter is part of the Assembly’s Act2 project that seeks to listen to the Spirit’s call and gifts to the Uniting Church.

UCA Tasmania staff and committees are keenly looking forward to working with Peter, and he will quickly get to know the congregations and faith communities around the south. You are invited to pray for Peter and Kim, Jay and Bubs their black & white cat as they all prepare to move to their new home Hobart’s eastern shore.

What happens when all ages truly connect in community? Join us for a transformative day exploring the power of hearing and living the story of God’s people together. Hear real stories of impact from churches and leaders across Australia and New Zealand, discover what’s possible when generations are woven together in local faith communities. Dive deep into Scripture: Explore the Biblical narrative that calls all ages into life together. Learn how stories shape memory, identity, and participation in God’s unfolding work. Be inspired to action: Whether you’re a senior leader, children’s or youth leader, or simply passionate about community, this is a space for you. For more information go to <https://www.intergenerate.com.au/events>





Celebrating New & Renewing Christian Community

Sat 21 February 10am-3pm (9:30 registration for a 10am start)

Gathering to listen to each other and celebrate insights and gifts that colleagues bring, as we seek to help renew established communities and / or create new Christian Communities.

The time will include:-

- Learning From Practitioners who have insights from experience
- Recognise Opportunities for Collaboration
- Hear of Funding Possibilities
- Celebrate Both Edge & Core Leadership

Ongoing Communities of Practice will be established to support your ministries.

Lunch Provided

Workbook Provided

Online Option Available

To register go to <https://events.humanitix.com/inspiring-2026>

Our VicTas Uniting Church Historical Society is pleased to announce our first event for 2026 on Sunday 15 March, by Zoom only.

Rev Dr Paul Goh will speak on 'Why the statement that "we are a multi-cultural church" matters more today'.

Any English as a second language congregations in your region are most welcome.

Clive Jackson, Committee member,
VicTas UC Historical Society



Beauty Point Uniting Church



INVITATION

Former Members and Ministers and other interested folk from across the Presbytery are cordially invited to attend a service to celebrate the

90th Anniversary of Beauty Point Uniting Church

Guest Preacher: Moderator of the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania, the Rev'd Salesi Faupula

Date: *Sunday, 15th March, 2026*

Time: *10am, followed by a Barbecue Lunch*

The church building (formerly the Beaconsfield Primitive Methodist Church) was moved to its present location by bullock team and officially opened on Friday 20th March 1936 with a dedication service. A music festival followed this over the weekend. The celebrations began on Saturday with over 200 attending a morning tea at the hall. Three special services were held on the Sunday bringing the celebrations to an end.

The Hall (now used for Church and Community events) was built in 1986, and is dedicated to the memory of Kathleen Pryor, the driving force behind its development.

The Meander Valley Community Radio

The Meander Valley Community Radio is based in Deloraine and broadcasts in Tasmania's Central North. Call sign is 96.9 FM.

On behalf of the station, I'd like to draw your attention to a couple of things which might be of interest to your congregations, especially in the run-up to Easter.

Firstly, we broadcast a twice-weekly, Christian, one hour program called "Praise in the Valley" which is presented by Philip Ragan - Sundays at 9.30 am and 9.30 pm.

Secondly, on Tuesday, 31st March at 7 p.m. "Classical Time" will feature an hour of sacred music which is related to Easter and the program will be repeated on Easter Day from 3 p.m. The presenter of this program is John Phelps. Other special programs are being considered.

And thirdly, if your congregation or group of congregations has any special plans for Easter (an Easter Festival or a Tenebrae service or service by the river or anything else) please let us know. We would be able to spread your word over the air for a couple of weeks before the event. It is a community service we offer.

If you would like more information about our Easter plans or about any other of our activities and services, please let me know.

Blessings, John Phelps

JIM Cluster Work Survey 2020 Your paragraph text



Justice and International Mission Unit seeks your feedback again on how they allocate limited funds towards advocating on justice issues. Help direct the effort by filling out a survey at this link: [https://us6.list-manage.com/survey?](https://us6.list-manage.com/survey?u=21f3bd90cc82c10b8e2cf6a47&id=81d738193b&attribution=false&e=b15f92e4)

[u=21f3bd90cc82c10b8e2cf6a47&id=81d738193b&attribution=false&e=b15f92e4](https://us6.list-manage.com/survey?u=21f3bd90cc82c10b8e2cf6a47&id=81d738193b&attribution=false&e=b15f92e4)

[80](https://us6.list-manage.com/survey?u=21f3bd90cc82c10b8e2cf6a47&id=81d738193b&attribution=false&e=b15f92e4)



NORTHEY LECTURE

FEBRUARY 2026

Northey Lecture: Providence and Possession

Join us for a two-part event at 7pm on Thursday 26 February at Pilgrim Theological College. Supper is provided. All welcome! Join in person or online.



Northey Lecture: Providence and Possession: How concepts of religion explained away a genocide by Associate Professor Laura Rademaker (Australian National University)

When settlers came to Australia, many believed in a God-given duty to “fill” and “subdue the earth” through agriculture and the supposed failure of First Nations people to do this. But the colonists also drew on other religious and biblical ideas to frame themselves in relation to First Nations people.

This lecture will trace the ways that First Nations people’s supposed “forgetting” of true religion was used to excuse the rapid First Nations population decline, and the implications of this history for us today.



Acknowledgement of Country and poetry reading by Alison Overeem (proud palawa woman and member of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress, Tasmania).

Thursday February 26

Centre for Theology and Ministry, 29 College Cres, Parkville, 3052

Time: 7pm – 8:30pm

RSVP by February 25

Who: all are welcome

Register:

To attend, please [register online](#) or scan the QR code below.



This lecture will also be part of the Pilgrim unit, [Respecting Country: Deep history, the colonies and the church](#). [Contact us](#) to enrol in the unit.



The Importance of Trying



- For Uniting Church congregations in Tasmania and Victoria who are interested in new and renewing community conversations and action.
- Mat Harry and Tanya Walker hosted a facilitated conversation with Michael Henderson on the subject of "The Importance of Trying".
- Watch the recorded conversation (webinar) online: <https://vimeo.com/1109874190>

We can afford the future. Resources are not our problem. Nor will they be into the future as more congregations need to divest of property they can no longer sustain. Yet the Uniting Church – as an inclusive community – has something unique and profound to offer local communities; life giving spirituality; local places of safety and welcome; and a sense of belonging. Together we can support the heartbursts that people have to try new and renewing ways of doing Christian Community. This will be the topic of our conversation.

Michael is a Social Creative from Tasmania with expertise in leadership development. Join Rev's Mat Harry & Tanya Walker in an insightful and inspiring conversation about the importance of experimentation to find new ways of being faithful Christian community in our time.

National Lay Preachers' Conference 4-6 September 2026

Our theme is building on the President's Assembly theme of Threads of Love: weaving Christ's Love Across Cultures and Boundaries

Weaving Christ's love as a Lay Preacher

Sammy Stamp

The UCAF Stamp Fund, better known as Sammy Stamp, coordinates the collection and sale of stamps to offer grants for mission and development work in Australia and overseas and is responsible to the UCAF Council.

The Sammy Stamp fundraising project has contributed \$1.15 million to numerous deserving causes, thanks to the efforts of its tireless volunteers.

Volunteers – and stamps – are still needed

In Melbourne, people are needed to assist with collecting, sorting, trimming, packaging or selling stamps. For more information, contact Allan Clark on 9557 1008.

In Tasmania, donations are welcome through the Tasmanian Office in Launceston, or via one of the Presbytery Ministry team. Contact Tas.Office@victas.uca.org.au or phone 6331 9784.

If you have stamps you would like to donate directly, send them to:

Sammy Stamp

c/- Ian & Margaret Beaumont

Unit 64

Bert Newton Retirement Village

4 Pioneer Walk

Highett Vic 3190



For more information see:

<https://victas.uca.org.au/sammy-stamp/>

or

<https://crosslight.org.au/2024/12/10/projects-stamp-of-approval/>

Source: Uniting Church Victoria & Tasmania, <https://www.facebook.com/ucavictas>, 10 Dec 2024

VicTas Lay Preachers' Association

AGM and Conference 13-14 March 2026

We already have speakers in mind, and Natalie Sims, the Lectionary Singer and author of the website/blog Singing the Lectionary, will be a speaker.



Vaka 2026

JOURNEYING
TOGETHER
FOR THE
**COMMON
GOOD**

25 Feb – 27 Feb 2026

Centre for Ministry

16 Masons Drive North Parramatta NSW 2151

Wed 25	4:30pm – 5:30pm
	9am – 4pm
Thu 26	Dinner
	6pm – 8:30pm
Fri 27	9am – 3pm

REGISTRATIONS OPEN NOW!



Individual Bookings

www.tinyurl.com/Individual-Bookings



Group Bookings

www.tinyurl.com/Vaka-Group-Bookings

Strengthen national relationships across the Uniting Church family.

Share stories of pressure and resilience from our communities.

Learn from the history of organising in Australia and the UCA's role.

Ground our shared action in Scripture, the Basis of Union, and Pasifika and First Peoples' traditions.

Join us in shaping the next chapter of the Uniting Churches witness for **justice, community, and hope.**

CATERED EVENT

www.nswact.uca.org.au



Uniting Church in Australia
ASSEMBLY



Uniting Church
SYNOD OF NSW & ACT

WHAT'S ON!

FEB - MAR 2026

FEB 03 | Pastoral Relations Committee
10.30am - 4.00pm

MAR 09 | Public Holiday
Tasmanian Office Closed

FEB 09 | Public Holiday (South)

MAR 10 | Resource and Development
10.30am - 2.30pm

FEB 10 | Resource and Development
10.30am - 2.30pm

MAR 17 | Pastoral Relations Committee
10.30am - 4.00pm

FEB 25 | Public Holiday (North)
Tasmanian Office Closed

MAR 26 | Presbytery Standing Committee
10.00am - 3.00pm

FEB 26 | Presbytery Standing Committee
10.00am - 3.00pm

MAR 28 | Presbytery Meeting: Kingston UC
9.30am - 4.00pm

MONTHLY CHECKLIST



Check monthly and three monthly items in Annual Maintenance Statements Logbooks



AGM meetings should be starting to happen, please advise any changes to office bearers to the Presbytery office along with copies of AGM reports

The next issue will be distributed in the week before the end of April. Contributions to be received seven days before publication. Contact Graham Booth, editor, by [email](#), phone 6331 9784 or post: 36 Paterson St, Launceston, 7250.

THE
WORD SEARCH BATTLE

Bible

Difficulty: Hard

D	Z	R	J	H	E	I	N	R	S	U	T	I	T	G
B	H	K	Q	A	D	G	O	R	M	J	R	P	C	K
K	G	I	X	G	M	M	V	A	O	A	U	L	W	J
F	O	N	C	L	A	E	S	U	B	I	X	S	T	E
D	Y	G	I	N	N	T	S	B	S	T	V	N	M	S
K	H	A	S	N	E	H	I	R	N	I	W	A	V	U
A	F	B	N	R	J	Z	Q	A	A	M	V	I	S	S
K	V	I	E	G	A	K	Y	T	I	O	L	S	U	G
J	R	W	Z	C	I	C	A	C	T	T	Q	E	Z	D
G	J	A	T	Z	H	D	J	N	A	H	Y	H	P	W
Z	N	S	M	R	P	U	H	P	L	Y	C	P	V	H
T	I	D	I	Z	D	O	E	I	A	G	A	E	I	G
C	M	S	L	E	J	T	M	Z	G	A	D	R	O	L
X	T	A	S	W	E	R	B	E	H	K	L	U	K	E
T	Z	M	T	R	L	M	A	T	T	H	E	W	W	F

Play this puzzle online at: <https://www.wordsearchbattle.io/topic/bible>

ACTS
CHRIST
EPHESIANS
GALATIANS
HEBREWS
JAMES

JESUS
JOHN
JUDE
KING
LORD
LUKE

MARK
MASTER
MATTHEW
PETER
RABBI
ROMANS

SAVIOR
TIMOTHY
TITUS

Creation Cube Craft



Genesis 1

*You will need: Thin card
Coloring pens or pencils
Scissors & glue stick*

Instructions: 1) Draw and color pictures relevant to each day of creation 2) Cut out the template 3) Carefully score along the folds 4) Fold the shape into a cube 5) Glue and stick the tabs

