

UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA



MAFFRA PARISH ANNUAL REPORTS 2025

**Annual General Meeting
Sunday 8th February, 2026**

Minister: Rev. Paul Ryu

UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

MAFFRA PARISH

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Maffra Uniting Church, 8 February, 2026

AGENDA

Welcome: Sue Burnett

Devotion/Prayer:

Apologies:

Minutes of 2025 AGM:

Business Arising from 2025 AGM Minutes:

Presentation of 2025 Treasurer's Report and Financial Budget for 2026

Nomination of Treasurer for 2025

Presentation of Annual Reports:

Minister
Church Council
Elders' Committee
Membership
Property Committee
Hall Hire
Friendship Group
Combined Churches Group
Maffra Quilt and Craft Group
Jack Kelly BBQ

General Business:

No items for General Business have been received.



UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA MAFFRA PARISH

Date:	23 rd February 2025
Time:	9.38 am – 9.47 am
Location:	Uniting Church
Meeting:	Annual General Meeting

Attendees:	Sue Burnett (Chairperson), Frazer Burnett (Treasurer), Jeanette McNamara (Secretary), Isa Taylor, Nell Langley, Joan Irving, Ros Benson, Gwen van der Lynde, Lois Ramsey, Eleanor Delaney, Alice Ryrie, Peter Gillespie, John White, Morrie Spooner, Jude Walker, Dot Berryman, Geoff Little, Chris Clyne and Alan Clyne
Apologies:	-

Minutes

No.	Item	Discussion	Actions - who, what, when...
1	Welcome		Sue Burnett
2	Devotional Prayer	Prayer for guidance in our meeting and decisions.	Ros Benson
3	Apologies	-	
4	MINUTES of last meeting	Minutes from the 2024 AGM Moved " <i>That the Minutes of the 22nd June AGM 2024 are true and correct</i> " Moved: Joan Irving Seconded: Isa Taylor Carried.	
5	BUSINESS ARISING	Nil	
6	REPORTS		
	Treasurer' s Report	Frazer moved the motion: That the treasurer' s report be received and the 2025 budget be adopted at the next Church Council meeting " Moved: Frazer Burnett Seconded: John White	

		Carried unanimously Dot Berryman moved “That Frazer Burnett be the Maffra Uniting Church Treasurer for 2025” Seconded: Alan Clyne Carried unanimously Since 2022 our giving is down by \$5000 per year, with \$4000 from the plate and \$1000 from direct giving. Our finances have been helped considerably due to not having a Minister for 9 months last year. Ann Morgan donated \$1400 last year for Mission Liaison Group through the sale of her flowers. Costs are continually increasing, for example, the Insurance for the church, which is organised through the Uniting Church in Australia, is about \$7000	
	Minister’ s Report	No questions	
	Church Council Report	No questions	
	Elders’ Council Report	No questions	
	Membership	No questions	
	Property Committee	No questions	
	Friendship Group	No questions	
	Maffra Quilt and Craft Group	No questions.	
	Jack Kelly	No questions.	
	Church Hall	No questions.	
		Morrie Spooner moved: “That the Annual Reports are accepted as received, with comments as noted above.” Seconded: Chris Clyne Carried unanimously Noted that over the last two year there have been a lot of positive changes in our church with congregation members continuing to contribute in many ways, our new website, internet and TV, having a new minister, and now two new computers for the	

		treasurer and delivery of church services respectively, as well as leadership of our church services.	
7	General Business	No General Business notified.	
8	Close	Meeting closed at 9.47 am Evacuation drill was successfully completed with 19 participants.	

TREASURER'S REPORT

I would like to thank all those that have contributed to the financial viability of Maffra Uniting Church in 2025, through direct and open plate giving, fundraising and assistance in the approval process of our increasingly electronic means of conducting transactions. I would especially thank Sue for her ongoing dedicated contribution. Her success in securing a significant insurance payout is a notable example.

The year has presented a number of challenges particularly in property expenditure. Insurance and utilities costs continue to rise. We have incurred substantial unexpected maintenance charges for church and rental properties. Land tax on rental properties is an ongoing obligation.

Sue Burnett, Jude Walker and Jeanette McNamara should be thanked for their excellent services in the absence of Paul. The shared Ministry arrangement with Sale and Stratford has made our ongoing viability more secure.

Frazer Burnett
Treasurer

MINISTER'S REPORT

Pastoral and Worship Ministry

Since December 2024, I have been actively engaged in worship leadership across Maffra, Sale, and Stratford Uniting Churches, as well as in ecumenical settings within the wider Gippsland community.

Key worship leadership activities include:

- Leading Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services at Stratford and Maffra Uniting Churches.
- Leading New Year's Eve and final Sunday services of 2025 at Stratford and Sale Uniting Churches.
- Leading Good Friday services and participating in Ecumenical Good Friday Walks in

Stratford and Sale.

- Preaching at the Easter Dawn Service in Maffra.
- Leading ANZAC Day prayers at Stratford.
- Leading Ecumenical Combined Churches worship services, Advent services, and Carol services.
- Preparing and leading worship for aged care facilities including McDonald Wing and Wattle Glen.
- Writing devotional messages for the Stratford Town Crier and preparing regular worship resources and orders of service.

Through these services, I have sought to offer worship that is welcoming, grounded in Scripture, and sensitive to the life stage and context of each congregation.

Pastoral Care and Visitation

Pastoral care has been a central part of my ministry throughout this period, offered through face to face visits, hospital visits, aged care services, phone calls, and messages of comfort and prayer.

I have visited the following aged care facilities on a regular basis:

- Wilson Lodge in Sale
- Ashleigh House in Sale
- Stretton Park in Maffra
- Laurina Lodge in Heyfield
- Wattle Glen and McDonald Wing

I have also provided pastoral care to many individuals and families.

Pastoral care was also provided during times of illness, grief, dementia, hospitalisation, and family distress, with a focus on listening, prayer, presence, and gentle encouragement.

Funerals and Memorial Services

During this reporting period, I had the privilege of conducting and preparing several funeral and memorial services, offering pastoral support to grieving families before and after services.

These include funeral or memorial services for:

- Graham Gordon Henry
- Norman John Mallett
- Jeanette O'Neill
- Heather June Florence Ollier
- Fred Schultz
- Raymond James Malcolm
- Sharon Denning

Each service was prepared with care, in consultation with families, and grounded in Christian hope, gratitude, and dignity.

Meetings and Leadership Engagement

I have participated in a wide range of meetings to support church governance, connectional life, and ministry development.

These include:

- Church Council meetings at Maffra, Sale, and Stratford Uniting Churches.
- Presbytery In Council meetings and special Presbytery meetings, including leading

devotions.

- Meetings with the Chair and Presbytery Minister of Gippsland Presbytery.
- Ethical Ministry Refresher training and Code of Ethics sessions.
- Synod meetings and intercultural gatherings.
- Combined Churches and ecumenical committee meetings across Gippsland.
- Mentorship meetings with Rev Tony Floyd and supervision meetings with Rev David Kim.

Through these meetings, I have continued to learn, reflect, and grow in accountable and healthy ministry practice.

Currawong Team Ministry Reflection

In 2025, the Currawong Team ministry became a meaningful space for shared leadership, pastoral reflection, and community building.

I organised Currawong Team meetings with shared meals at the rectory, which allowed team members to connect more deeply, reflect on ministry experiences, and support one another. Through these gatherings, we strengthened trust, communication, and a sense of shared calling across our congregations.

The Currawong Team also played a vital role in supporting worship, pastoral care, and ecumenical engagement, especially during busy seasons such as Advent, Easter, and major community events.

I am deeply grateful for the faithfulness, openness, and quiet dedication of the Currawong Team, whose ministry reflects care, humility, and commitment to serving God's people together.

Education, Learning and Communication

Throughout the year, I continued learning and formation by:

- Studying the life, theology, and structure of the Uniting Church in Australia.
- Preparing monthly newsletters and pastoral letters.
- Writing referral letters and ministry reports.
- Developing worship rosters and planning ahead to February 2026.

I also maintained regular communication through emails, phone calls, and messages to support members during times of need.

Leave and Wellbeing

I took sick leave from 16 June to 30 June 2025 for medical treatment in Korea, and I am grateful for the care and understanding shown by the congregations during this time.

I also planned annual leave following the New Year services of 2026, ensuring worship continuity across all congregations.

Reflections and Future Focus

As I reflect on this period, I give thanks for the trust, openness, and faith shown by the people of Maffra, Sale, and Stratford Uniting Churches.

Despite challenges such as ageing congregations, health concerns, and loss, I continue to see deep faith, resilience, and love at work among God's people.

As we move forward, I encourage our congregations to continue walking together with patience, compassion, and hope, trusting that God is still at work among us, guiding us into the future with grace.

Rev Paul Ryu
Minister – Currawong Team

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

It has been wonderful to embrace 2025 with the certainty of having a minister, but in a slightly different way. After encouragement from VicTas Uniting Church Synod, we decided to combine with Stratford Uniting Church and Sale Uniting Church to form the Currawong Team, sharing ministry across all three churches (Sale UC 0.5, Stratford UC 0.3 and Maffra UC 0.2). Rev Paul Ryu was appointed as full time minister for the Currawong Team at the end of 2024 and he has been warmly welcomed into our community. We greatly appreciate his enthusiasm, friendliness and commitment to his role and now have the certainty that a minister will be leading us in worship every fortnight.

The formation of the Currawong Team has also offered the opportunity to share services (as well as friendship and fellowship) across all three churches – Christmas Eve was celebrated at Stratford Uniting Church. The Good Friday service took place at Sale Uniting Church and our Advent Traditional Carol service was held at our very own Maffra Uniting Church. Great examples of our churches working together. Currawong Team members have met regularly throughout the year.

I need to acknowledge Jude Walker and Jeanette McNamara, who along with myself led a number of services across the year to ensure there was a weekly Sunday service taking place at Maffra. We have been fortunate to be able to access resources such as the Figtree Worship and Project Reconnect which have been invaluable in helping in the planning of these services. Thank you also to Lois Ramsey and Isa Taylor (representing the Elders) as well as Duncan Malcolm who led a service when we were unable to do so. It has been so appreciated. It would be remiss not to acknowledge the commitment from Lay Preacher, Peter Morris, who has taken the fifth Sunday services when he can throughout the year. Peter has had significant health problems this year but is unwavering in his commitment to our church. We always enjoy his thoughtful reflections. Thank you so much Peter.

Sharing Rev Paul's ministry meant that we had to adopt a 9:00 a.m. service time. Although there was some concern that this may deter attendance (particularly in the cold winter months) I am delighted to report that there was no significant drop in numbers and we averaged 21 people attending worship. Well done everyone. Your regular attendance and participation make it all worthwhile!

Once again our Church Councillors (Jeanette McNamara, John Little, Ros Benson and Frazer Burnett) and Elders have been instrumental in keeping our church viable in 2025. Jeanette is our extremely dedicated and conscientious Secretary and Presbytery representative. Frazer assumed the role of Treasurer at the end of 2024 and has kept us well informed with close monitoring of our financial situation and full accountability of how our funds are dispersed.

John, as property convenor, has been kept busy ensuring our two rental properties (7 and 8 Pearson St) are well maintained and that we meet all requirements as per essential services management.

Thanks to the Community Work Crew from the Fulham Correctional Facility, our church lawns have been mown regularly and we have not had to draw on our “stand-by” volunteers on the lawn mowing roster. Our wonderful neighbour Geoff (Moon) Anderson has also been mowing our lawns and we are so very grateful for his time and effort. Thank you to Gwen Van Der Linde who continues to nurture our lovely garden beds with regular weeding and watering. Lois Ramsey, Jude Walker and Isa Taylor have been dedicated Elders monitoring pastoral matters in their regular meetings. Lois has also been delivering monthly services at both Stretton Park and McDonald Wing. Thank you, Lois, for your commitment to those in our community who are unable to physically attend our church. Lois also oversees all matters related to Hall Hire which is such an important source of revenue for us. I thank Lois, Isa Taylor and Ros Benson for their commitment to Combined Churches activities which has allowed us to come together ecumenically with St Mary’s Catholic Church and St John’s Anglican Church where we have been able to share food and fellowship together. Thanks also to Jude for her dedication as our Monthly News editor.

Anne Morgan sells flowers on her farm and donates the money to the Mission Liaison Group which assists disadvantaged children in the south Pacific. This year \$1,270 was raised. A wonderful contribution! Our local Vinnies continues to generously give us pre-loved back packs, school stationery, books, etc which we have also distributed to the Mission Liaison Group as well as to the people of Vanuatu, facilitated by Don and Meg MacRaild, Stratford Uniting Church.

Sadly we farewelled four of our faithful stalwarts this year with the passing of Nina Leslie, Betty Jarvis, Heather Ollier and Ray Malcolm. All were members of our church for decades and contributed in so many ways. They will be sorely missed and we offer our sincere condolences to their families.

We were sorry to say goodbye to Church Councillor, Ros Benson who moved to Bairnsdale to be closer to family. Ros was an active member of our church who could always be relied upon to help out when needed. Our loss will most definitely be Bairnsdale Uniting Church’s gain! Thank you to Dot Berryman who is now helping to organize the Friendship Group’s monthly get togethers in Ros’s absence. Welcome to Anna Malkic, David and Lyn Lancey and Peter Gillespie who have become regular worshippers with us. We have been delighted you have joined our congregation!

To all the people who were prepared to help as Cake Stall contributors, Door Stewards, Bible Readers, Floral Arrangers, Organ “Players”, Worship Leaders, Advent Displayers, Saturday Arvo Games Organisers – a HUGE thank you. We could not possibly do it without you. Your time and effort on behalf of Maffra Uniting Church is never taken for granted and is so very much valued. Thank you to ALL the members of our church family who keep coming to church and contribute however they can. Well done Team Maffra Uniting Church!

"We can do all things through Him, who strengthens us" Phillipians 4:13

Sue Burnett

Chairperson Maffra Uniting Church Council

ELDERS COMMITTEE

Elders committee for 2025 year commenced with a small group of 4 dedicated members and Rev Paul Ryu, representing Maffra/Newry and Boisdale congregations. Elders have met bi-monthly opposite Church council or as required during this time, supporting Parish activities and pastoral care to members.

These included Parish Picnic, Pancake night, Women's World Day of Prayer, Palm Sunday Witness Walk, the Ecumenical Easter dawn service in Victoria Park. Week of Prayer for Christian Unity which was well supported, the first year for Rev Paul's participation. Combined Churches Pentecost bring and share Lunch at St John's, then combined Advent Dinner with a new introduction of Traditional Carol Service to conclude the year, St Andrews the host venue, again bring and share, great way to finish.

Lois along with Isa, Ros(until relocating to Bairnsdale) and Sue Burnett continue to represent St Andrews on the Combined Churches committee, which hopes to hold similar Ecumenical occasions going forward in 2026.

The last Elders gathering for the year was sharing fellowship over a meal at the Club, no preparation or washing up.

Finally, Elders continue to provide pastoral care, visits and calls to those not enjoying good health, the infirmed and bereaved. Sadly again this year we farewelled some of our dear and special friends including Betty Jarvis, Nina Leslie, Alice Mills, Heather Ollier, Ray Malcolm and former Minister Rev Bob Ross (Geelong).

Once again it has been a full and challenging year. Well done and thank you everyone.

Lois Ramsey

Secretary Elders Committee.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership Rolls –	Confirmed and Members in Association is 43
	Adherents 11

During the year the Maffra Uniting Church congregation sadly had four deaths (Nina Leslie,

Betty Jarvis, Heather Ollier and Ray Malcolm), no baptisms and no marriages.

The average attendance for 2025 was 21 with little difference between the first half and second half of the year. This was similar to 2024. There was concern that the earlier service time of 9:00 a.m. could impact attendance during the winter months. Encouragingly, average attendance during the winter months was also 21.

Sue Burnett

PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT

We are fortunate to have had the same tenants this year at 7 Pearson St and 8 Pearson St. The real estate agents conducted routine inspection reports, and minor maintenance when necessary.

Boltz contractors did electrical safety checks on the two rentals. These are to be done every two years.

7 Pearson St had water leaks in the roof repaired.

8 Pearson St.

Electrical Safety Check was completed in July. Smoke detector was replaced and carbon monoxide alarm installed. Water leakage in the bathroom resulted in a new floor, shower base and lino – mostly covered by insurance. Hedge was trimmed.

The roof above the hall toilets was replaced as provided for in the 2025 budget (\$7,237). The gas heater in the craft room was repaired, but Church Council has decided that in future we will transition towards reverse cycle air conditioners.

Fire extinguishers have regular checks by the fire brigade, and the electrical appliances were tested and tagged. Some that were unnecessary were decommissioned.

After the Statcom inspection in September the folder in the red box was checked. Smoke alarms and hall exit lights checked.

Unfortunately our hall was broken into in December. Nothing was taken, but two doors were damaged. No cash is kept on our premises. Please continue to ensure all doors to the hall and church are securely locked when exiting our buildings.

This year the Community Work Crew and Geoff Anderson have been lawn mowing again which helps our lawn mowing roster.

Our sincere thanks goes to everyone who has helped mow lawns, trim trees, rake up leaves, garden, and clean the church and hall.

John Little
Property Coordinator

HALL HIRE

The year commenced with the hall being used by the Planned Activities Group (PAG) – Tuesday and Wednesday from approximately 8.00am to 3.00pm. They are part of the Central Gippsland Health Service, aka Gippsland Base Hospital. The charge rate of \$200.00 per week, reflects utility and insurance increases. With fluctuations in client numbers their daily programs on occasion have short notice cancellation, we are advised in advance where possible. However Church Council implemented a \$40.00 fee, as the hall was booked and could have been available to other users.

The arrangement with PAG ceased in mid July, resulting in loss of income sadly.

The craft and quilt room is now primarily Jude's quilt group meeting space, the Friendship Group meeting once a month on Thursday in the meeting room, as does KYB group which meets weekly on Thursday mornings. Church Council (every two months) and Elders (monthly) respectively meet 3.00pm Thursdays also.

We now have 2 additional hall user groups, the main being Pilates sessions on average 10-12 per month. The other being Yoga, one session per week. We are pleased to have the hall being used.

At this point there is the possibility of another user coming on board, that being a 'Supported Play Group', under the auspices of Uniting Sale, subject to budget funding.

I would like to extend thanks to Sue and Frazer for taking up Church and Hall cleaning and tidiness following my stepping down.

Finally, thank you to all parish members for your support of the programs and hall availability outside of Church use, the hall is a community asset.

Lois Ramsey

Hall Hire Coordinator

FRIENDSHIP GROUP REPORT

We continued to meet at the Church Hall at 1.30pm on 2nd Thursday of the month. We average about 8 attending, and enjoy our get togethers with various topics to talk about. Otherwise we have a friendly chat and cuppa. We attended a light lunch at Yo Yos at Stetton Park in June.

When Rev John and Ann Connon visited, we gave them some stamps we had sorted for the Sammy Stamps for the work they do with the Mission Liaison Group.

Ros left our Group in August to live in Bairnsdale to be close to family. We really miss her for her dedication to our group.

Everyone is welcome for the year 2026

Dot Berryman

Friendship Group Contact Person

COMBINED CHURCHES REPORT

Our most frequent activity is making sandwiches for local schools. It is also the most relaxing one for us helpers as we chat about everything and nothing. Margaret Dare of St. John's is in charge of organising this. The other workers come from St. Andrews and some have no home church. We work during school terms.

The Committee consists of a Chairperson who is Mary Hardwick from St. Mary's, Jennifer Toma who is Secretary/Treasurer from St. John's, officially the three ministers who often have other commitments, Lois Ramsey, Sue Burnett and Isa Taylor. We meet four times a year and other times when something special needs organising.

During 2025 the churches organised the Palm Sunday Walk, the Dawn Service at Easter in Victoria Park, a lunch at Pentecost, an Advent tea followed by a Traditional Carol service and, as it turned out, four members of the Committee manned the activities table for children near the rotunda during the Maffra Christmas Festival.

The Advent event as suggested by Lois Ramsey, was a great success. The food was good and afterwards the church was so full and the singing so enthusiastic that the organ had to increase its volume to be heard.

Also during the year Ros Benson left the Committee because she moved to Bairnsdale. Sue Burnett arranged a lovely farewell tea at her house and Ros received an orchid which when last heard of, was still thriving.

It is quite a lot of work when the events take place but it is so reassuring that when the "chips are down" all three churches work together and make it a success.

Isa Taylor
Combined Churches Committee Member

QUILT GROUP REPORT

During 2025, our numbers unfortunately fell to just 4 attendees at the Quilt Group, with an average attendance of 3. Although we are small in numbers, we continue to enjoy spending time together, catching up on our lives and working on our own projects.

Jude Walker
Co-ordinator

JACK KELLY REPORT

The Uniting Church became involved with the Jack Kelly BBQ when the (then) MSC Chaplaincy Committee was invited to use the BBQ to assist in raising funds for the extra day each week for the Chaplain. It commenced in March 2014.

When Tim Wallace resigned as Chaplain and the new Chaplain was appointed, they were not available to work the 3rd day each week, so there was no longer a need to raise funds. The

UCA then took it over as a fundraiser for our Mission and Outreach in 2016.

Rev Sandra Houghton coordinated the BBQ until her retirement in 2018, when I then assumed the role.

In 2019, I was purchasing the sausages at Woolworths ahead of the BBQ, when I met Matt Vaux from the Rosedale Butchers. When he realized that we were purchasing the sausages, he offered to donate them. This has been a valuable partnership over the years. Not only were the sausages donated, but they have also delivered them to my home each month. We thank them very much for their assistance. Their donation to us has assisted them with their inventory control. If they had excess sausages at anytime, they could freeze them for our use. In that period, we have raised around \$26,000, most of which has been distributed to various projects and charities. The MSC Chaplaincy Fund, School Breakfasts, Frontier Services, Uniting (Gippsland), Mission Liaison Group and Royal Flying Doctor Services. One year we also made a donation to St Vincent de Paul, to keep the money local.

This year we raised \$4176, this was distributed to:

\$1000 – Frontier Services

\$1000 - Uniting (Gippsland)

\$1000 – Royal Flying Doctor Services

\$1000 – Mission Liaison Group

Over the years, many different people have assisted, including Heather Ollier, Nell Langley, Rev Sandra, Geoff Little, Isa Taylor, Lois Ramsey, Duncan Malcolm, John Little, Jeanette McNamara, Ros Benson and Dot Berryman. This year, my neighbour Sue Jordan offered to help. I hope I have been able to accurately recall all that have helped, in case I have missed anyone, my apologies.

Many thanks to those I've mentioned and the others that have helped out in many ways.

Jude Walker

Coordinator