



Regional Directory

Minister: Rev Corina van Oostende 0417 169 544

Secretaries: Name Phone

ARC	Sue Wilson	9851 4450
Lockyer	Anne Hortin	0428 752 325
Denmark	Margaret Cocks	0428 608 620
Mt Barker	Sue Wilson	0437 184 692
AUC	Elizabeth Burns	9842 2636

Pastoral Carers:

Lockyer	Joan Wright	0429 413 759
Denmark	Everyone	
Mt Barker	Sue Wilson	0437 184 692
AUC	Edith Verran	9841 2729

Prayer Coordinator: Heather Bailey 0428 936 824
Juniper: 11 Townsend Street, Lockyer 1300 313 000

Contact Us

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Office Hours: Tues-Thurs, 8.45 am - 12.45 pm



Uniting Church in Australia
Albany Region Congregations



Welcome to our service.

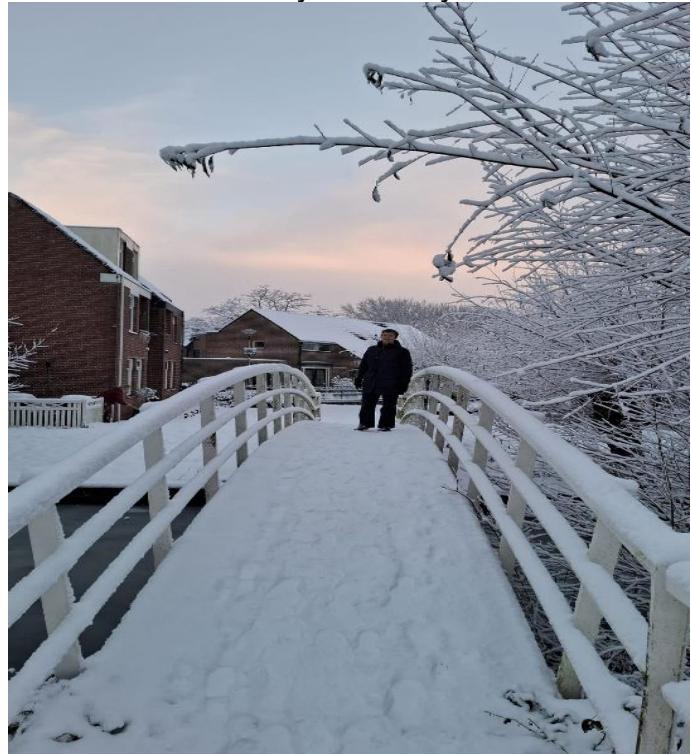
Wesley Uniting Church, morning tea is on the 3rd Sunday of the month; Denmark Uniting Church & Lockyer have morning tea after their Service.

11 January 2026.



Beginnings

If I have not seen you in person yet, this is my opportunity to say Happy New Year to you and your loved ones! In Australia the beginning of a new year is traditionally celebrated 31st December, with fireworks and barbecues. This is in Summer, so outdoors activities are popular. There are other places in the world where this day is in the middle of winter. I come from a place like that, and it is still a little awkward to welcome a new year in Summer. This is what it should look like in my mind's eye:



Not that it always looked like this. As a rule, slate was coming down on that last day, and we all sheltered indoors, with curtains drawn and central heating going full blast. The (real) Christmas tree, decorated with small (real)

Acceptance

To say it quite simply: God suffers because of us, for he wants to suffer us. This is more than a word play. Indeed, everything may be at stake in this saying: he wants to suffer us, and we are indeed suffered by him. Can we suffer those who are different from us? May the others suffer us? Can we suffer ourselves? Whom can we "not endure"? We are always causing suffering for each other: siblings, husbands and wives, parents and children, neighbours and colleagues. These spheres of suffering are deeply implicated in the church and politics. If we ourselves are not able to suffer, then nothing can possibly please us. But if we are able to suffer, then we take nothing amiss.

The love of God which is infinitely capable of suffering reaches us in Christ. His love is passion: passion for human beings and their worth, passion for the creation and its peace. Through his suffering because of us and through his death for us Christ has accepted us and brought us to the glory of God... We can mutually accept each other because Christ has accepted us to the glory of God. And because he has already accepted the others and us, the whole vista of life is opened wide before us. We stand on firm ground wherever we accept, recognise, and confirm each other. We cannot go far enough.

In view of the life that has been passionately confirmed and accepted by God, there is no longer any worthless life, no "second-class" citizen. The suffering of God's love has changed everything, and the more we go outside of ourselves, the more we will discover and experience this change ourselves.

Jürgen Moltmann

Supplied by R Marsh



January 11, 2026

8.30am	LOCKYER	Ross Anderson
9am	DENMARK HC	Rev. Corina
10am	DUKE ST	Ross Anderson
11am	MT BARKER HC	Rev. Corina

January 18, 2026

8.30am	LOCKYER	Rev. Corina
9.30am	DENMARK	Elizabeth Burns
10am	DUKE ST HC	Rev. Corina
11am	MT BARKER	S. Wilson

Dates every week

Museum: Open 9 – 11am Tuesday - Thursday

Tuesday Discussion: In recess until February 2026.

Wednesday Prayer group: Meets at 10am Heather's Place. All Welcome.

Thursday: A Taste of Spirituality: In recess to mid January 2026

January

January 9 Scot's Craft Markets. 9-3pm, CWA Hall

January 22 AUC Council meeting, Lesser hall 3pm

January 31 Quiet Space, Wesley Church, 2-3 pm

candles which would be lit on New Year's Eve, and a late supper, with mandarins, nuts to crack, chocolates and other delicacies, a story shared and a prayer, and then a toast with (real) champagne, this was the traditional intimate family event I still remember with great fondness and gratitude.

It is easy to forget that us Ozzies are not the centre of the universe. Not only are there millions of people celebrating the Season in the cold, there are also peoples having different days of the year they consider as New Year's Eve.

Our Orthodox Christian brothers and sisters celebrate New Year on 14th January each year, following a different calendar, as do our Jewish relatives. They observe Rosh Hashana on the first two days of the Hebrew month of Tishrei (usually September/October), when they celebrate the world's creation.

The Lunar New Year is celebrated by Chinese, Vietnamese and Korean people in their country of origin as well as in Australia with dragon dances and lanterns.

Thai Songkran New Year is celebrated from 13th to 15th April with lots of water, used e.g. in water fights. This water festival symbolises cleansing and washing away bad luck.

Last, and by no means least, first Australian peoples traditionally do not celebrate New Year. They follow the circular seasonal patterns, and acknowledge and mark the changes in many and varied ways across the mainland and the islands.

May we have open hearts and minds to the diverse peoples and their cultures that make up this little (in population) and big (in land size) island we call home.

Blessings, Corina

News & Notes

Albany YouthCARE Council is taking part in the **Containers for Change** scheme. Our registration number is **C11675570**. Take your eligible containers to either IGA Spencer Park, or Container Recycling Depot, 93 Stead Rd, Centennial Park and **quote our number**. <https://www.containersforchange.com.au/wa>

Homeless Project Denmark (HPD Homeless Project Denmark)
The main source of income for the **HPD** is a fundraising stall at the Denmark Sunday markets. Please leave items you want to donate in the Duke Street vestry, marked box HPD. Corina will see to it, so that they find their destination. <https://www.facebook.com/homelessprojectdenmark?mibextid=ZbWKwL>

Offerings we gratefully accept financial contributions ("offerings") to continue the work of the Church. Cash or cheques may be placed in the offering bowls at Sunday services. Direct bank transfers (EFT) are also welcome. For Albany, please use the details below:

BSB: 086 554 (National Australia Bank)
Account Number: 496 865 760
Account Name: Albany Uniting Church
Reference: Offering or Youthcare

For Denmark, Lockyer and Mount Barker please contact your treasurer for details. All offerings are anonymous. Feel free to ask for envelopes if you wish.

Uniting World. If you would like to donate to Uniting World. Donations will be used to provide urgent assistance, supplies & support longer-term recovery. To donate online, go to <https://donate.uniting-world.org.au/donate-now>

Connecting people who cannot attend worship, can still stay in touch with us from anywhere in the world. You can receive the monthly Magazine, the weekly Bulletin and the Order of Service by email or in print. We also record Sunday services which can be sent on CD. Just contact Corina or Lisa.

Prayers of the week

AUC: Barbara Lister, Marian Little and their families.

Lockyer: Jennifer & Alistair Anderson, June Bowman and their families.

Mt Barker: Pauline Hordacre, Carolyn & Doug Lincoln and their families.

Denmark: Anne Mackay, Rev. Elizabeth Sanderson and their families.

Synod: Maylands-Mt Lawley and Noranda Uniting Churches Assembly Circle of Interest: Working for Justice.

Photo: Sand Patch R. Marsh. If you have a photo, you would like to feature and it is appropriate for the front page, please send it in. Email: unitingchurchalbany@gmail.com Hard copy photos will also be accepted.

Bulletin dates & Hall bookings for 2026: If you would like your groups to be included in the future Bulletins, Magazines, news & notes, calendar & hall bookings. Please email your information to the office. Many thanks to all who have contacted the office already. unitingchurchalbany@gmail.com

