



## **Hornsby Uniting Church - News for April 27, 2025**

*Our Vision: To grow in Christ and share His love.*



Our April 27 service will be an ANZAC memorial service.

### **Ratifying our Mission/Action Plan**

As part of our progression towards calling a new Minister, the Presbytery Growth and Mission team has asked us to modify the Mission Plan (which we revised and approved last September) to include a focus on what steps we would take to achieve our goals, and a desired timeframe. Over the page you will find the proposed “**Action Plan**” to be appended to the existing Mission Plan. This has been drafted by members of Church Council, and **on Sunday May 4 we will hold a short Congregational Meeting to ratify it.**

You will find that most of the text is a summary of the longer document; no major new ‘goals’ have been added but the goals have been put in priority order.

Perhaps the most obvious proposed change is to alter the current vision statement, “To Grow in Christ and Share His Love” into:

***To grow together in Christ and share His grace with the Hornsby Community***

The reasoning for this is to clearly state that our mission belongs within the wider Hornsby area and community. You will have an opportunity to comment on the proposal and to approve (or not).

Our morning worship service is videotaped each Sunday, and made available online later in the day.

You can join us at

<http://hornsby.unitingchurch.org.au/church-at-home.html>

## Hornsby Uniting Church Mission/Action Plan

The primary goal of the Action Plan is to be focussed on the impending **Hornsby Town Redevelopment Plan** (including the State Government ‘Transport Oriented Development’ plan) which is being framed as a project coming to completion within 13 years (2038).

To retain focus, measurable actions should be achieved within a five-year timeframe, with ongoing action thereafter. Action points are listed in priority order.

The plan is contingent, in some cases, on the calling of a new minister, since they may wish to lead in some different or new directions; and since a new minister may not be called for some time yet.

### THE MISSION STATEMENT OF HORNSBY CONGREGATION

Proposal is currently to alter the current statement, “To Grow in Christ and Share His Love” into:

***To grow together in Christ and share His grace with the Hornsby Community***

	ACTION POINTS	TIME FRAME
<b>DISCIPLESHIP</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage seasonal Bible Studies (for example Advent and Lent) and continue regular Bible Study groups.</li> <li>Consider re-establishing Prayer Group Network (via email etc) and Care-Net, where each member is assigned to care for each other.</li> <li>Develop mentoring relationships to grow disciples and nurture leaders.</li> </ul>	<p>Ongoing. Expect to see outcomes by two years 2026-2027. The measure is an increase in number of participants.</p>
<b>MINISTRY &amp; CHURCH EDUCATION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support, promote, and encourage attendance at training workshops, eg. Children’s Ministry, Lay Preaching, ‘Church as a Safe Place’ run by the Uniting Church, pastoral care and refresher ‘how to’ events.</li> <li>Provide support/funding for the training and support as appropriate.</li> </ul>	<p>Ongoing. Already available but to be promoted more. Measure is to report on the training/support provided &amp; funded.</p>
<b>COMMUNITY OUTREACH</b>	<p>Continue and, where possible, grow:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Existing in-house services including Thursday Club, Tai Chi, Mahjong, Games Night, Markets, a group for social outings. Minister to visit groups.</li> <li>Encourage members to be involved with existing external services such as The Dish, LinC and local Christian Education teams.</li> <li>Continue to explore avenues of co-operation with neighbouring Uniting Church congregations (for example, pulpit swaps, social justice forums)</li> <li>Foster a close working relationship with the childcare centre in the Sarah’s Place cottage.</li> </ul>	<p>Ongoing. Events based on church yearly planning.</p> <p>Measure may require a small group to formally review and report on growth and success.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Events (eg.) speaking events, dinners with guest speakers on subjects relevant to ministry, family oriented gatherings, seniors' social interactions and fellowship, Musical concerts, art and crafts workshops or exhibitions.</li> <li>• Encourage the growth of Christian mission in Hornsby (eg.) Evangelical Free Church 'planting'.</li> <li>• Connection/re-connection with Shire Council projects, aged care facility worship time. Aim to increase Hornsby UC's visibility as a source of information.</li> </ul>	
<b>THREE CHURCHES - ONE GOD</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To continue to strengthen working relationships between Hornsby, Sydney Senal, and Sau Faupula congregations.</li> <li>• To maintain a regular communication and to facilitate social interaction between the three congregations by continue holding combined worship services three times per year, and any special events throughout the year.</li> </ul>	Existing and ongoing. Hornsby minister to meet regularly with ministers of Sydney Senal and Sau Faupula congregations.

### Statement from the Moderator Regarding the Passing of His Holiness Pope Francis

**21 April 2025 by Rev. Faaimata Havea Hiliau**

It is with profound sadness, we mourn the passing of His Holiness Pope Francis - a humble servant, a courageous voice for justice, and the first Pope of the Americas.

Born Jorge Mario Bergoglio in Argentina, Pope Francis brought to the papacy not only his Jesuit wisdom and deep theological insight, but also the heart of a pastor who walked alongside his people. For 15 years, he traversed the streets of Buenos Aires by bus and underground, always close to those he served. "My people are poor and I am one of them," he once said. His words came to define a papacy rooted in humility, simplicity, and solidarity.

Throughout his tenure as Bishop of Rome, Pope Francis championed the dignity of the marginalised, called the world to care for creation, and extended the hand of friendship across faiths and cultures. His commitment to interfaith dialogue and mutual respect helped build bridges in a fractured world. Whether standing alongside leaders of other Christian denominations, engaging with Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, or Buddhist communities, or reaching out to those with no faith at all, Pope Francis embodied a vision of unity grounded in shared humanity.

His leadership reflected the radical love of Christ and reminded us all that compassion, mercy, and justice are at the heart of the Gospel. Today, the world has lost a moral leader, the Church has lost a shepherd, and millions have lost a beloved figure who made them feel seen, heard, and valued.

We give thanks for the life and ministry of Pope Francis, and we pray for comfort for all who mourn. May he rest in God's eternal peace, and may his legacy continue to light the path ahead.





## IN PRAYER

We praise you, O God, for giving shape and meaning to the ancient image of yourself as shepherd through the person of Jesus Christ. In him, your compassion has been eternally revealed, giving your rod and staff the human face of love. Through Jesus' persistence-even to death - in seeking and saving the lost, your goodness and mercy has been abundantly experienced. His ongoing life continues to guide and lead us in paths of righteousness. How can we do other than praise and adore you, O God, for such depth of care for us and how can we do other than listen to Jesus' voice as he calls us to follow him.



And yet, we confess that there are times when we fail to hear and obey his call because our lives are so filled with noise and self-centred activities.

Forgive us, O God, for the times when we put our own comfort first and fail to reach out and accompany those who are going through difficult times - those who feel imprisoned in a valley of shadows and find themselves overwhelmed by life. *Jesus, good shepherd, help us to take the time and make the space to hear your call to us. The call to reveal your love, compassion and comfort wherever you need us to bind up the wounds of the victims of today's society.*

Forgive us, O God, for ignoring the plight of those deprived of the basic necessities of life - food and shelter. *Jesus, good shepherd, help us to take the time and make the space to hear your call to us. The call to reveal in tangible and authentic ways, your passion for those who feel powerless to make any changes for good in their lives.*

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Forgive us, O God, for enjoying the benefits of your goodness and mercy in our lives while exercising judgmental or unmerciful attitudes towards other people. Jesus, good shepherd, help us to take the time and make the space to hear your call to us.

The call to empty ourselves of all that is contrary to your life within us so that your goodness and mercies are enjoyed not as rewards to be hoarded but as gifts to be shared. In your name, we pray. Amen

Jesus himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins we might live for righteousness; by his wounds we have been healed. For we were going astray like sheep, but now have been returned to the shepherd and guardian of our souls. In Jesus Christ we are sought, we are found, we are forgiven.

Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, thanksgiving and honour, power and might, be to our God forever and ever! Amen!