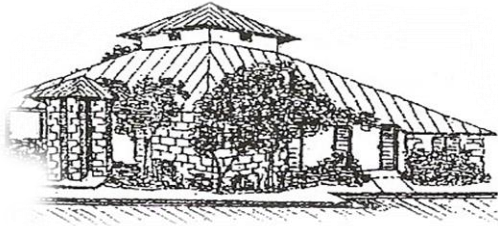


## **.Kirwan Uniting Church**



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## **KEEPING IN TOUCH**

***WELCOME!*** *We welcome all visitors with us today, and pray your time with us will be a blessed one.  
Please stay and share morning tea with us after the Service.*

### **Kirwan's Mission Statement**

**To be a people of God led by the Holy Spirit to practise and spread the love of Jesus Christ in the world  
17th March, 2019**

#### **Worship Leaders for Today**

**Preacher:** David King

**Reader:** Sally Sands

**Lectionary readings**

**Lent 2**

**Gen 15:1-12: 17-18**

**Ps 91:27**

**Phil 3: 17: 4: 1**

**Lk 13: 31-35**

Sunday evening of each month. There's much study and experiment of so-called Fresh Expressions of church, including "Messy Church", where activities which aren't on the face of it religious or spiritual, precede or are interspersed with all-age worship.

I guess it's all part of recognising that worship need not be understood only as a formal, what-we're-used-to, Sunday event, but it permeates all aspects of our lives just as the God whom we worship permeates every aspect of those lives. Thankyou Hugo - "A little child shall lead them" (Isaiah 11 v6).

### **Richard's Ramblings**

Young Hugo Palu-Shepperson came along to the Friday evening youth activity at the manse last Friday, replete with rugby ball. If you don't know Hugo, he's a very lovely 2yo. who has brought much joy to KUC. A lot of that joy is his uninhibited habit of wandering around the church during a service, helping out the musos (especially Peter Ireland, whose guitar holds especial fascination).

A couple of thoughts come to mind, one structured, the other not. Jesus says become like a little child, just taking for granted that you're part of God's family (Luke 18, vv15 - 17). And that everyone else is in the family, so everyone else is your family. The unstructured thought (this is Ramblings, remember) is that we sit in our nice ordered rows on Sunday, standing up to sing; sometimes, some of us, dancing a little jig for a jiggable song. Eastern Orthodox christians wander around the church during a service, kissing icons, as they feel like it even at the most solemn times of those long, solemn Orthodox eucharists. Peter has a less restricted/restrictive service on the second

#### **This Week's Calendar**

**Mon 18th:** 9.00am Pastoral Care  
10.30am: House of Jonah  
7.30pm: Kiononia  
**Tues 19th:** 9.30am: Craft:Cards:ChitChat  
**Wed. 20th** 5.30pm: Music Group  
7.30pm: Bible Study Group  
**Thurs 21<sup>st</sup>:** 9.30am: Regis Service

**REGIS AGED CARE SERVICE  
THURSDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> MARCH  
9.30AM  
HOME CHAPEL**

### **Roster for 24th March, 2019**

**Preacher:** Graham Chellingworth

**Reader:** Sheila van Prooijs

**Greeters:** Jenny Warden

**Door Steward:** Garry Davey

**Offering:** David B-T; Sue Burton

**Announcement:** Anne Holmes

**Morning Tea:** Kathy Reid; Margaret Fraser  
Heather Reid;

**Flowers:** Narelle Harrison

\*4



***"I never thought I'd get excited about buying just one cow, but I'm feeling overwhelmed now because I can get 16 cows and 4 bulls."***

The words of a station owner after phoning the Buy a Cow charity..... 16 cows and 4 bulls. Nowhere near the replacements needed for the 3000 head of adult cattle lost worth an average of \$1200 per head for current year earnings, plus an unknown number of new born calves with the future years earnings for the calves and their mothers.... And that still wouldn't come anywhere close to returning to a fully stocked property after the years of drought.

And there's maybe 100km of fencing on every property to be replaced just around the boundary and all the internal fences and yards, along with tanks, pipelines, pumps and solar panels or motors, not to mention the dogs and horses and everything else that was used to help make a living.

And yet 16 cows and 4 bulls brought an overwhelming sense of gratitude alongside a genuine and heartfelt thankfulness and amazing sense of awe for the surviving cattle -

a few bulls, some cows and steers and even some near newly born calves.

And then I was struck by the words on a slide on the screen at a Mainly Music morning with Mums [mostly] and toddlers and grandmas and au pairs –

"What if today you woke up to only those things you had thanked God for yesterday? And what if that happened two or three or a dozen days in a row?"

My thinking has been challenged about what I give thanks for and how often, and about how grateful I am, and, how I respond to the plenty God has gifted me.

*Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a **thankful heart.** Colossians 4:2 NLT*

Thank you for the amazing support from so many over the past few weeks as we make sense of a major catastrophe. Losses of between 1 million and 1.5m cattle mean no income for two or three years and maybe ten years of reasonable seasons to fully restock. Individual properties average losses of 80-100km of boundary fencing and 500 to over 5 000 head of cattle including new born calves and/or their mums. Stock are more like family than inventory, so their loss is heartfelt. The additional fears and uncertainty of future plans and loan repayments etc are on top of all that. Through your and other's generous gifts we have been able to help in small ways with fencing, fuel, repairs to equipment and infrastructure and basic food needs for families and their workers who are also deeply affected.

We feel like we are frogs in an ocean, but we keep on standing, stumbling and walking beside those around us and together we laugh, cry, talk, sit and journey, always for us at least, with the hope of a God who meets us amongst the flies, in the mud and the green paddocks and on the verandas where we travel.

David & Janette Ellis  
McKay Patrol