

# UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA YASS PARISH



## JUNE 2021

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*As part of God's people we are called by God, empowered by the Holy Spirit, to share the love and grace of Jesus Christ, within our community through regular worship, faithful witness and humble service.*

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### **REFLECTION: Using the power of positive thinking.**

I'm sure I'm not alone in thinking that all the news we see and hear these days is negative news. It dominates our newspapers, our tv, our social media and it seems as though it is the only news worth reporting – more's the pity.

Positive news is hard to find yet I believe it is needed more than ever in today's society. We are being brainwashed with negativity, it seems that whenever a positive initiative is announced by any of the political parties it must be countered with a negative response from other parties. Panel shows on TV seem bent on being negative, critical of whoever or whatever is being put forward in a positive manner.

In 1952 Norman Vincent Peale published his book: *The Power of Positive Thinking: A Practical Guide to Mastering the Problems of Everyday Living*. It provides anecdotal "case histories" of positive thinking using a biblical approach, and practical instructions which were designed to help the reader achieve a permanent and optimistic attitude. These techniques usually involved affirmations and visualizations. Peale claimed that such techniques would give the reader a higher satisfaction and quality of life.

*The Power of Positive Thinking* was negatively reviewed by scholars and health experts, as you would expect, but was popular among the general public and has sold well and is still on bookshelves in most leading bookstores.

Peale's book begins by stating ten rules for "overcoming inadequacy attitudes and learning to practice faith". The rules include the following:

1. Picture yourself succeeding.
2. Think a positive thought to drown out a negative thought.
3. Minimize obstacles.
4. Do not attempt to copy others.

5. Repeat “If God be for us, who can be against us?” ten times every day.
6. Work with a counsellor.
7. Repeat “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” ten times every day.
8. Develop a strong self-respect.
9. Affirm that you are in God's hands.
10. Believe that you receive power from God.

How relevant these are for today’s “negative” world. We need to remain positive in our thinking, our actions and especially in our commitment to God. Each of us can become a positive influence in our families, our workplace, our place of residence, our community activities and in our church congregation if we are prepared to stay positive.

An old song has these lines: “You have to accentuate the positive and eliminate the negative”. Perhaps we can try making that our catch cry for each day and at the end of the day look back on our efforts and see what we have achieved.

Pentecost was a day of positive action. Let us make each day a Pentecost type of day. (*GMP*)

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**Congregation Meeting:**

The Annual General Meeting of the Yass Congregation held on 16<sup>th</sup> May elected all nominees.

- Chairperson:** Owen Graham
  - Deputy Chair:** Gordon Henshaw
  - Secretary:** Christine Anderson
  - Announcements:** Christine Anderson
  - Presbytery Rep:** Lee Parker
  - Stewards:** Barry Banks, Gordon Henshaw, Russell Mills, Ray Armour.
- The annual reports for 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 were read and accepted.

**General Meeting of the Yass Congregation:**

The General Meeting decided that recipients of our retiring offering will be determined when we have a guest speaker from an organization.  
Thankyou to all who attended and to those who were prepared to take office.

*(Christine Anderson, Congregation Secretary)*

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Sound travels slowly. Sometimes the things you say when your kids are teenagers don't reach them till they're in their 30s.

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**JUNE LECTIONARY READINGS:**

DATE	DAY	FIRST READING	PSALM	SECOND READING	GOSPEL
6	Pentecost 2 (10)	1Sm 8: 4-11 (12-15) 16-20 (11:14-15)	Ps 138	2 Cor 4:13-5:1	Mk 3: 20-25
13	Pentecost 3 (11)	1 Sm 15: 34-16:13	Ps 20	2 Cor 5: 6-10 (11-13) 14-17	Mk 4: 26-34
20	Pentecost 4 (12)	1Sm 17: (1a, 4-11, 19-23) 32-49 or 1Sm 17: 57-18:5, 10-16	Ps 9: 9-20 or Ps 133	2 Cor 6: 1-13	Mk 4: 35-41
27	Pentecost 5 (13)	2 Sm 1:1,17-27	Ps 130	2 Cor 8:7-15	Mk 5:21-43

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**June Roster: Yass Congregation**

DATE	WORSHIP LEADER	BIBLE READERS	PRAYER OF INTERCESSION	MORNING TEA	FLOWERS
6	Rev Christine Moimoi	Isobel Wykes	Ruth Thompson	Chris Anderson Ann Ranyard	L. Parker
13	Ruth Thompson	Team 3	Team 3	Della & Ray Armour	B. Rayner
20	Barry Banks	Team 4	Team 4	Ruth Thompson	L.Parker
27	Rev Ann Ryan	Tim Holmes (School Holidays)	Sandra Henshaw	Sandra & Gordon	L. Glover

**Stewards:** Bev and Russel Mills

**Counters:** Gordon Henshaw and Lee Parker

**Duty Elders:** Helen Poulton and Lee Parker

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**Safe Church:**

I have taken on the role of Safe Church Officer, so I thought I would tell you a little of what that involves.

The Uniting Church safe church policy states:

“We affirm that all people have the right to be emotionally and physically safe, respected, and have their views and opinions valued at all times.

Our Safety and Protection Policy has been developed to help us live out our mission, especially in our ministries with vulnerable people and in acknowledgment of our own vulnerabilities, as well as to meet our responsibilities as part of the Uniting Church in Australia and under Australian legislation.”

“- We will take steps to keep all those in our care safe, including from e.g. spiritual, physical, sexual, emotional abuse (including bullying) or neglect.

- As servants of Christ we will serve our people and the community, commit to the good news of Jesus and lead in spiritually non-abusive ways.”

If you feel that your or someone else in our church is being abused, I would be happy to listen to your concerns.

My job also entails keeping the safe church register of police checks and the working with children register. (Sue Demoor)

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### **Quirky Questions:**

What happens to a frog's car when it breaks down? It gets toad away.

How does a dog stop a video? By hitting the paws button!

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### **RYE PARK CONGREGATION**



The Rye Park Church has recently been carpeted donated by Brian and Donna Giles Browne. Brian and Donna will be leaving the district in the very near future to make their home on the North Coast. We thank them for their generous donation and the contribution they have made to our congregation and Parish over the years that they have worshipped with us.

We wish them well and God's blessing from us all in their new home.

For those of us who enjoy the old hymns this is a reminder of how meaningful they are.

*I Still Believe  
in Amazing Grace*

*That there is ---- Power in the Blood*

*That He Walks with Me  
and He Talks with Me*

*that Because He Lives  
I can face tomorrow*

*All because of  
The Old Rugged Cross*

Food for thought from Lorraine.

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**Church Council News:**

Church Council met on 12 May. It was a routine meeting. Our contributions to Presbytery were discussed and we will continue to talk to Presbytery about the amount we pay each month.

Elders have met and are continuing to organize worship leaders for each week. Our next meeting will be on 30th June and we will meet with some members of Presbytery to start discussions regarding future planning for the region.

A letter was received from Rye Park congregational secretary, Lorraine, to let us know that Donna and Brian Giles-Brown will be leaving the district in the near future. They will be missed by both congregations. *(Ruth Thompson – Secretary – Yass Parish Church Council)*

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**UCAF:**

Members of the UCAF would like to thank everyone who helped with Garage Sale either on the day or by donating.

It was a successful day and raised \$713.00 which will be used to support church activities and to provide food for the Friendship Dinners.

Our next meeting is on Monday 21st June and all are welcome.

*(Ruth Thompson for the members of UCAF)*

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## **Property Committee:**

Property Committee has met. No major projects at the moment, just routine maintenance.  
(*Ruth Thompson for the property Committee*)

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## **REFLECTION: A Sliver of Hope**

Jean Kerr said, "Hope is the feeling you have that the feeling you have isn't permanent."

I like that. Hope is what we have when we know that the night will soon be over. Hope is what we have when we somehow know that dawn is coming.

It seems that hope is in short supply these days. Which is why I like this story about "Robbie" Risner, who found that the tiniest bit of hope alone could keep him alive.

Brigadier General Robinson Risner ("Robbie") spent seven years as a POW at the "Hanoi Hilton," as prisoners of war called their North Viet Nam compound. It was horrendous. He endured four and a half years of that time in forced isolation. Four and a half years with no human contact; no conversation; no touch. The intent of his solitary confinement was to break his will.

And what's worse, ten months of that isolation were spent in total darkness! Robbie remembers that those ten months were the longest of his life. The day guards boarded up his little seven-foot by seven-foot cell, shutting out the light, he wondered if he was going to make it. He had already been under intense physical and mental duress after years of confinement. And now, not a glimmer of light shone into his cell -- or into his soul. It seemed hopeless.

Robbie spent hours a day in the dark exercising and praying. But at times he felt he could nothing but scream. Not wanting to give his captors the satisfaction of knowing they'd broken him, he stuffed clothing into his mouth to muffle the noise as he screamed at the top of his lungs.

Hope came in the form of a single blade of grass. One day Robbie got down on the floor and crawled under his bunk. He located a vent that let in outside air. As he pressed against the vent, he saw a faint glimmer of light reflected on the inside wall of the opening. Robbie put his eye next to the cement wall and discovered a minute crack in the construction. It allowed him to glimpse outside, but was so small that all he could see was one blade of grass. A single blade of grass and a faint ray of light. But when he stared at the sight, he felt a surge of joy, excitement and gratitude like he hadn't known in years.

In that single blade of grass he saw life and growth. And he saw freedom. As long as could gaze upon one little blade of grass, he could remind himself that his darkness would someday be over. Dawn would come again. He would live and, like the grass, he would thrive. It was only a sliver of hope, no larger than the tiny crack through which he gazed, but it could be enough.

If you could use a little more hope, try to find a sliver of light in your darkness. I suspect it's there. And it may not seem like much, but it might be enough to get you through the night.

*(Steve Goodier)*

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## **NSW Overrun with Mice**

### **Frontier Services urgently need our help!**

‘NSW is overrun with mice. Our hearts are broken. Regional NSW, Coonamble and its surrounds are trying to rebuild from the worst drought in Australian recorded history. The first good season and now they are overrun with Mice. We can only imagine how hard this must be, their harvest ruined due to the mice. Stock food destroyed. Houses being damaged because the mice are eating the foundations! This community and surrounds were already struggling financially and emotionally. They are reaching out to us for help’.

I would like to encourage all of you to save your small change for the month of June to send to Frontier Services to assist in their work to help those people on the land who need help. I will happily accept your donations and forward them to Frontier Services for you, if you wish. Our efforts, together with the ‘small change funds’ collected by other UCA Parishes for Frontier Services, will make a difference. *(Lee Parker)*

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### **Prayer Points for June:**

For innocent people in the Gaza Strip caught up in the latest conflict and that the ceasefire will last;

For our farmers and rural towns who are were looking to the future with hope after a good summer harvest and who are now faced with the horror and destruction of the mouse plague;

For those with ongoing medical issues;

For our families, our friends, our community and our country;

For further successes with Corona Virus vaccine research;

For broken relationships, families at risk, people who are struggling to find work;

For a world where anger, violence and intolerance has become common-place.

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**Parish Calendar: JUNE 2021**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Morning Tea GWL served by UCAF 10 am	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Playgroup 9.30 am – 11.30 am	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 10 am Yass HC Rev Christine Moimoi Rye Park 5pm HC	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Elder’s 2pm	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Playgroup 9.30 am – 11.30 am	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 10am Yass  Rye Park House Church 5pm	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> TEG Service 11am GWL Service 2 pm	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Playgroup 9.30 am – 11.30 am	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 10am Yass Team 4 Rye Park 5pm	<b>21</b>  UCAF 2pm	<b>22</b>  <i><u>July Newsletter Items due</u></i>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Playgroup 9.30 am – 11.30 am	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 10am Yass Rye Park 5pm	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Church Council 7.30 pm			



**More Quirky Questions:**

What bow can't be tied? A rainbow!

What does the world's top dentist get? A little plaque.

What's a balloon's least favourite type of music? Pop.

What is worse than raining cats and dogs? Hailing taxis!

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