



WESTERN HEIGHTS UNITING CHURCH
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Website: www.whuc.com.au

Our Purpose

Loving God: Growing Together, Partnering Community, Sharing Faith



SAFE CHURCH

Western Heights Uniting Church is committed to the safety, protection and well-being of all children and young people from all forms of abuse and neglect. We will make every effort to provide an environment of safety and support. All key leaders have completed a Working With Children Check. Western Heights UC has adopted the Synod "Keeping Children Safe" policy.

SUNDAY 3 AUGUST 2025

Western Heights Uniting Church

Notice Sheet Sunday 3rd August 2025 – 10.00am Worship

Please Pray for:

Worship Group

Janet Pavlakis

Birthdays:

Dudley Holroyd

Today

The congregation at Western Heights offers prayerful support of its members and others in a number of ways. Because of privacy protocols, names are not included for prayer unless we have received your permission.

Uniting Barwon

Items that would be appreciated this week include: tinned soup, fruit juice, 2-minute noodles, pkts rice.

Thought for the week:

The biggest waste of water (in the country) by far is when you spend half a pint and flush two gallons.

Prince Phillip

Diary for This Week

Sunday 3rd	10.00am	Worship – Rev. Temukisa Amituana'i-Vaeluaga
Thursday 7th	8.00pm	Musicians & Singers Music Practice
Friday 8th	2.00pm	Friday Fun Night – Afternoon Tea

Diary for Next Week

Sunday 10th	10.00am	Worship – Rev. Temukisa Amituana'i-Vaeluaga
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People Helping Elsewhere

Michele Hardy – St. Albans-St. Andrews

Minister and Pastoral Care

Rev. Temukisa Amituana'i-Vaeluaga

0400 664 991

Music Survey

Is there a particular song or hymn that speaks to you during a service? We would like to hear from you by placing the name of these songs on the sheet at the back of the church.

Help Needed

As Jan will be on leave for four weeks we are looking for a volunteer to help out in the office during August & September.

Friday Fun Night

This month's Friday Fun Night will be held on Friday 8th August at 2.00pm for Afternoon Tea. Please bring a plate to share.

Church and Music Roster

The next church and music rosters for September, October and November will be compiled at the start of August. If there are any dates you are unavailable, please record them in the book by today Sunday 3rd August. Musicians and Singers please note that the roster will be sent out early in August and that you must have your inability dates recorded before Sunday 3rd August.

Uniting Events

Last Wednesday you would have received an email containing the Uniting Events newsletter. Please disregard and delete that email as there are some inaccuracies in this newsletter.

Tasks people are doing today.

3rd August 2025

Vestry Steward: Jan Taylor

Reader: Bruce Waldron

Stewards: Graeme Hardy, Glenn Chidezey

Greeter: Vanessa Thomson

Morning Tea: Heather Rookes, Michele Hardy

Hall Cleaner: Neil Douglas

Musicians: Nathan Gibson, Dudley Holroyd, Bruce Waldron, Aiden Chand

Singers: Lynda Scott, Ashley Payne, Bill Fleming

PA/Data: Sharn Waldron / Allister Coots

Tasks people are doing next week.

10th August 2025

Vestry Steward: Michele Hardy

Reader: Allister Coots

Stewards: Colin Rookes, Tim Hunt

Greeter: Janet Pavlakis

Morning Tea: Maralann Damiano, Catherine Van Zetten

Hall Cleaner: Bruce Waldron

Musicians: Geoff Coots, Dudley Holroyd, Bruce Waldron

Singers: Lynda Scott, David Andrews, Bev Hunt

PA/Data: Tim Hunt / Allister Coots

Students on a mission at space camp

Teens get first taste of astronaut training

Farzana Mohammad Aref and Olivia Dowsley

Geelong secondary students Farzana Mohammad Aref and Olivia Dowsley were selected to join Mission Team Australia to travel to the world-renowned Space Camp at the US Space and Rocket Centre in Huntsville, Alabama. As recipients of the Endeavour Scholarship, an international STEM education program, Farzana and Olivia enjoyed immersive, hands-on activities inspired by real astronaut training. They shared their experiences with the Geelong Advertiser.



Farzana Mohammad Aref and Olivia Dowsley joined students from all over the world at the US Space Camp in Alabama.

Farzana Mohammad Aref:

Travelling to the US as part of the Al Worden Endeavour Scholarship was one of the most unforgettable and inspiring experiences of my life.

Representing Australia and attending Space Camp in Alabama gave me a sense of global connection, curiosity and confidence I had never felt before. It was the kind of opportunity that challenged me in the best ways and reminded me how far curiosity and teamwork can take you.

Throughout the week, we took part in everything from astronaut training simulations to problem-solving challenges.

One of the most memorable parts of Space Camp was taking on the role of an astronaut,

where I had to complete repairs "in space" while communicating with Mission Control. It challenged my focus, patience and teamwork in a way I had never experienced before. It taught me how essential clear communication and trust are, especially under pressure.

The camp encouraged me to step up in ways I hadn't before. Whether it was helping teammates through challenges or learning to adapt when things didn't go to plan, I found myself growing every day. At the end of the week, I was genuinely surprised to receive the Right Stuff Award, which recognised leadership and resilience.

It was a reminder that some-

times your efforts are noticed when you're simply focused on supporting others and doing your best.

One of the highlights was meeting astronaut Charlie Duke, who walked on the moon during Apollo 16. Hearing first-hand about the resilience and teamwork behind space missions was beyond inspiring. It reminded us that behind every major achievement lies dedication, curiosity and the courage to take risks.

Beyond the missions, meeting students from all over the world reminded me how powerful shared goals can be. Even though we came from different backgrounds, our excitement for science, learning and the future brought us together.

This opportunity helped me realise I want to be part of something bigger, something that blends science with purpose and uses knowledge to create real change.

Farzana Mohammad Aref is a Year 12 student and college captain at Northern Bay P-12 College.

Olivia Dowsley:

The Endeavour Scholarship was a privilege to be a part of, and I am so grateful for the opportunity to meet and form long-lasting connections with every recipient and organiser.

Endeavour fuelled my passion for space, starting our journey with a tour of the Smithsonian museums in Washington. It was surreal to see such significant pieces of history up close – from the Discovery shuttle to Neil Armstrong's spacesuit.

Celebrating July 4th with my new-found friends was equally mesmerising, as we shared stories about our cultures, similarities and favourite niches.

When we flew to Alabama for Space Camp, the experience became even more surreal. From Monday to Friday, 7am to 10pm, we trained like astronauts: scuba diving to simulate microgravity, learning various roles to simulate

“This experience made me realise that with dedication, anything is possible”

NASA missions, experiencing the moon's 1/6th gravity and so much more.

We were also challenged through hands-on, team-based activities that taught us the key variables engineers must consider when sending astronauts to space.

Most importantly, I met several astronauts, including Charlie Duke, who offered invaluable insight into the space industry, its accessibility and

life advice I will always carry with me.

This experience made me realise that with dedication, anything is possible.

There are many pathways into the space industry, but none of them are possible without teamwork and an open mind.

This once-in-a-lifetime opportunity solidified my passion for a space career and gave me connections and memories I will carry with me forever.

Olivia Dowsley is in Year 12 at Kardinia International College.

AMDA Foundation Limited, as organiser of Indo Pacific, is working in partnership with the Endeavour Scholarship Foundation, to select the next generation of Australian space explorers. Entries for the 2026 edition of the Endeavour Scholarship close on August 6. Enter via event.indopacificexpo.com.au/endeavourscholarship



Kardinia College Year 12 student Olivia Dowsley at Space Camp.



The students meet astronaut Charlie Duke (centre), and Farzana Mohammad Aref during one of the activities.



The students took part in hands-on activities inspired by astronaut training.

HOSEA 11:1-11

When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son. The more I called them, the more they went from me; they kept sacrificing to the Baals and offering incense to idols. Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk; I took them up in my arms, but they did not know that I healed them. I led them with cords of human kindness, with bands of love. I was to them like those who lift infants to their cheeks. I bent down to them and fed them. They shall return to the land of Egypt, and Assyria shall be their king, because they have refused to return to me. The sword rages in their cities; it consumes their oracle priests and devours because of their schemes. My people are bent on turning away from me. To the Most High they call, but he does not raise them up at all. How can I give you up, Ephraim? How can I hand you over, O Israel? How can I make you like Admah? How can I treat you like Zeboiim? My heart recoils within me; my compassion grows warm and tender. I will not execute my fierce anger; I will not again destroy Ephraim, for I am God and no mortal, the Holy One in your midst, and I will not come in wrath. They shall go after the LORD, who roars like a lion; when he roars, his children shall come trembling from the west. They shall come trembling like birds from Egypt and like doves from the land of Assyria, and I will return them to their homes, says the LORD.

LUKE 12:13-21

Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."