What's On December, 2026 & January, 2027



The Meeting Place

MURRUMBEENA UNITING CHURCH

Purposeful PaperArt

setting up their magnificant Christmas tree. This tree has been thoughtfully upcycled using discarded newspapers!



From the Minister...

What does it mean to meet someone? Like, to *truly* meet someone – human-to-human, soul-to-soul?

Jewish philosopher Marin Buber has a famous line from his famous book *I and Thou*, which he wrote in 1923: “All real living is meeting”. Often we treat each other in a transactional way: what can we get from someone? This is to treat a person as an ‘It’: just an object. But this is not living! True living is when we truly *meet*: not as objects, but as whole people. Souls.

I have always had Buber’s line in my head when we talk about The Meeting Place. This is not just a place for programs and activities. This is a place of encounter. Where friendships are born. Where relationships deepen. All year I have watched the community grow and connect, as people relax into each other’s presence and truly *meet* each other.

Christmas can be a time of (many!) transactions, but it can also be a time of meeting. Instead of being frantic, we can slow down and meet each other, soul-to-soul. And we also have the chance to meet with God. When Jesus arrived as a little biddy baby, this was God’s way of meeting with us. Not sitting on some distant cloud, but arriving amongst us as a human. A soul. A tiny vulnerable one, held in human arms. What an intimate way that God chose to meet with humanity.

So this festive season, may you truly connect with your friends and family, human-to-human, soul-to-soul. And in that meeting, know that God is there also, as close and intimate as a little baby in your arms.

With love,
Rev Andreana Reale minister@murrumbeenauniting.org.au

Coming Up in December

Christmas
@ The Meeting Place

Blue Christmas
Thursday 17 December 7pm

A quiet space to bring grief and pain

Christmas Eve
6.30pm

Dress-ups, drama & carols
for the whole family

Christmas Day
9.30am

Hear the Christmas story anew

MURRUMBEENA
UNITING CHURCH
The Meeting Place

Group & Activity News December

The Big Screen - ‘Lion’ Last Movie for 2026, Thursday 17 December

Doors open **1.30pm,** movie starts **2pm.** Enjoy coffee and chat beforehand.



- Free event
- 118 minutes.
- Rated PG

A SEARCH FOR FAMILY AND A PAST

A five-year-old Indian boy is adopted by an Australian couple after becoming lost far from home. Twenty-five years later, he sets out to find his lost family. Starring Dev Patel, Nicole Kidman. Lion has won many awards. Six Oscar nominations.
Movie club will resume Thursday January 28, 2027.
Christmas cheers, movie fans. Enjoy! Geoff Edwards.

Friendship Fellas/Mens Group

Saturday 12 December **Breakfast 8am** at The Servery, 5 Royal Ave, Glenhuntly.



Friendship Fellas will celebrate their **end of year** at the Thai Chai Restaurant, Murrumbeena Rd, Murrumbeena, at **6pm, Wednesday, December 9**.
Non-FF members can contact Geoff on 0409 568 206 to express interest.

Modern Line Dancing



Last Class & Holiday Party

- **Date**: Wednesday, 16 December
- Entry Fee: $5
- **Doors** Open: 12:45pm
- **Lunch**: 1pm — please bring a plate to share
- **Attire**: Feel free to dress up for Christmas — glittery and festive wear is welcome!
- **Dancing**: After lunch, our normal class starts as usual at 2pm.

Care Fund

Christmas Hampers



A heartfelt thank you to everyone who has contributed to our Christmas hampers. Many hampers are already packed with Christmas goodies, making their way to members of our community who need a little extra support this Christmas. Your generosity is helping to bring some joy to the season. There is still room for a few extra festive goodies, so if you would like to contribute, donations are still very welcome. Thank you for helping us share a little Christmas kindness with others.
Items can be left at the office Wed - Fri.

Christmas Cards

One of the ways we raise funds for our Care Fund is through selling cards. A new range of Christmas cards is available to purchase. **$2.50 each or 6 for $10**.

Here are just a few samples. Be sure to take a look when you're next at The Meeting Place. The card stand is in the foyer.



Call out for stamps!



Stamp collection basket is located in the foyer.

Sammy Stamp

Sammy Stamp is an initiative of the Uniting Church and coordinates the collection and sale of stamps to offer grants for mission and development work in Australia and overseas.
Sammy Stamp have generously donated funds to The Meeting Place over the years.

Please collect and drop your stamps off to us. Sammy Stamp are always looking for volunteers to assist with collecting, sorting, trimming, packaging or selling stamps. Find out more here - https://victas.uca.org.au/sammy-stamp/ or talk to one of the staff at The Meeting Place.

Office closed during holiday period

Thursday 24 December 2026
returning Wednesday 13 January 2027

After a rewarding and full year, The Meeting Place staff are taking a break to recharge and replenish so as to greet everyone afresh in 2027.
Nell, Andreana, Sue and Sandra, wish you all a blessed Christmas and look forward to connecting with you all in the New Year.

Every Week at The Meeting Place

		End 2026	Start 2027
Monday			
9.30am - 11.30am	**Murrumbeena Playgroup** Activities and play for parents, carers and children. Contact: info@murrumbeenaplaygroup.org.au	**18 Dec.**	**1 Feb.**
4.15pm - 8.15pm	**Grace Gymnastics** Rhythmic gymnastics for primary and secondary age. Contact: grace@gracegymnastics.com.au; 0466 902 857	**12 Dec.**	**27 Jan.** *(Holiday program from 11 Jan.)*
5pm - 6pm	**Online 'Leviathan' Bible Study -** weekly bible readings discussed & wrestled with what they might mean. Contact Rev Andreana - minister@murrumbeenauniting.org.au	**Contact organiser**	
7.30pm - 9pm	**Co-Dependents Anonymous (CoDA) -** Support group for healthy relationships. Contact: Christine 0414 370 658	**They are not having a break**	
6.30pm - 7.30pm	**Soo Bahk Do (Martial Arts) -** A defensive Martial Arts Class. Contact: sesoobahkdo@gmail.com	**14 Dec.**	**27 Jan.**
7.30pm - 9pm	**Alcoholics Anonymous -** Support group for alcoholism recovery. Contact: Barry - 0407 867 515	**They are not having a break**	
Tuesday			
9.30am - 12pm	**Mini Maestros -** Music and movement for babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers. Contact: 9850 5566	**New Tuesday classes in 2027. See page 10**	
Various times	**Evergreen Fellowship -** 3rd Tuesday of the month. Indoor & Outdoor activities for people aged 60 and over. Contact Pastor Jimmy - Mob 0448 006 282, Email: jimtian7@gmail.com	**They are not having a break**	
4.30pm - 7.30pm	**Move Dance Melbourne** Offer free trials for new students that can be booked through their website. Contact: www.amdance.com.au	**9 Dec.**	**2 Feb.**
7.30pm - 9pm	**Sing Club -** First Tuesday of the month with the Tuck Shop Ladies. Contact: tuckshopemail@gmail.com	**1 Dec.**	**5 Jan.**

Wednesday		End 2026	Start 2027
10am - 1pm	**Knitting & Craft Circle -** Knit and natter, crochet and chatter! Contact: murrumbeenaknitting@bigpond.com	**Not taking a break, except not meeting on 23 Dec.**	
10am - 12pm	**Marriott Support Services** - Gardening group. Contact: 0413 532 299	**16 Dec.**	**20 Jan.**
9.10am - 12.15pm	**Mini Maestros -** Music and movement for babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers. Contact: 9850 5566	**10 Dec.**	**27 Jan.**
12.15pm - 1.15pm	**Wednesday Singing Group -** Fun and soulful community singing. No exp. necessary. $10 per session. Contact: richard@richardlawton.com.au	**16 Dec.**	**13 Jan.**
1.30pm - 2.30pm	**English Conversation -** A weekly group for those wishing to practice conversational English. Contact office.	**16 Dec.**	**3 Feb.**
2pm - 3.30pm	**Creative Writing -** 3rd Wednesday of the month. Share a piece of writing in a supportive group. Contact office.	**16 Dec.**	**Contact office**
2pm - 3pm	**Line Dancing -** Easy-to-follow steps. No experience necessary.Contact: modernlinedancinginc@gmail.com; 0433 076 225. $5 per session.	**16 Dec.**	**13 Jan.**
4pm - 5.30pm	**Move Dance Melbourne**	**9 Dec.**	**2 Feb.**
4.15pm - 8.15pm	**Grace Gymnastics**	**See previous page**	
5pm- 6pm	**Twilight Gardening -** a chance to meet other locals while working on communal areas. Just turn up.	**Contact Milly - 0423 660 049**	
6.30pm - 7.30pm	**Soo Bahk Do (Martial Arts)**	**14 Dec.**	**27 Jan.**
Thursday			
9.45am - 12.05pm	**Mini Maestros**	**10 Dec.**	**27 Jan.**
10.30am - 1.30pm	**Marriott Support Services** - Cooking group. Contact: 0413 532 299	**17 Dec.**	**21 Jan.**
4.15pm - 8.15pm	**Grace Gymnastics**	**See previous page**	

		End 2026	Start 2027
Friday			
9.30am - 11.30am	**Murrumbeena Playgroup**	**18 Dec.**	**1 Feb.**
10am - 11.30am	**Friday Drop-in** A weekly gathering sharing conversation, great food & activities. Contact: connect@murrumbeenauniting.org.au	**11 Dec.**	**5 Feb.**
1pm - 2pm	**Friday Prayer -** Meets in the sanctuary each week. People are welcome to come and pray together.	**18 Dec.**	**22 Jan.**
2.30pm - 4pm	**Shut Up & Write! -** Friday fortnightly (**December 13**). A space to work alongside others in silence.	**13 Dec.**	**Contact office**
Saturday			
9am - 12.15pm	**Stonnington School of Dance** They teach expert tuition in all dance genres. Contact: office@stonningtonschooldance.com.au; 0499 003 722	**28 Nov.**	**30 Jan.**
11.30am - 3.30pm	**Grace Gymnastics**	**See page 6**	
2pm - 5pm	**Knitting & Craft Circle** *(1st Saturday of month)*	**Not taking a break**	
5.30pm - 9pm	**Community Meal** *(last Saturday of month)*. Potluck dinner, kids corner and fun games. All welcome. Contact: 0411 169 723	**28 Nov.**	**30 Jan.**
Sunday			
10am	**Church Gathering** Gather, sing, pray, reflect. Children, LGBTIQ+ . All welcome! Contact: minister@murrumbeenauniting.org.au	**Not taking a break but having Cafe church in Jan. See next page.**	
3pm	**Melbourne Canaan Gospel Church -** Mandarin-speaking congregation. Contact: Pastor Jimmy jimtian7@gmail.com	**Not taking a break**	

What's On in January?

Lots of things close over January -
but here's what keeps going.

Non-stop Knitting



The Knitting & Craft Circle will keep on knitting!

- every Wednesday 10am til 1pm
- Saturday 2 January 2-5pm

Everyone welcome - including learners!

Cafe Church - Sundays



After Christmas we have 'Cafe Church', where we gather for more intimate worship and conversations in the foyer.

10am on 27 Dec, 3 Jan, 10 Jan and 17 Jan.

Blessing of the Backpacks



Bring your school or work bag along to this special church service and we will bless it and your year ahead!

Sunday 24 Jan, 10am

Group & Activity News January

Mini Maestros

New Tuesday classes in 2027!

Mini Maestros is starting new Tuesday morning classes at The Meeting Place in Term 1. These are in addition to their regular Wednesday and Thursday classes.

Experience musical play and learning with your child to build vital kinder- and school-readiness skills. Their classes are also a great way to meet other local families. Start with a 3-week trial for $85 to see how your child settles in or enrol for the full term.

For bookings and enquiries – hello@minimaestros.com.au or 9850 5566
www.minimaestros.com.au

Move Dance Melbourne

MDM have opened their enrolments for 2027!
They are excited to introduce classes for under 3s guided and 2-4 year old independent Mini Movers, 4-6 year old Little Movers and their 6-8 year old Sub Juniors, as well as classes for their Junior age group.

They have an Earlybird discount for enrollments received before the end of December and their free trials will open for existing classes at the beginning of January. Class style, Uniform and Enrollment information is available on their website:
www.amdance.com.au



Modern Line Dancing

Classes resume for 2027:
Wednesday, 13 & 20 January, 2–3pm
No class: *Wednesday, 27th January 2027*
Term 1 classes start from **Wednesday, 3 February**. Questions? Contact Mindy: Text: 0433 076 225 Email: modernlinedancinginc@gmail.com

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Community Meal

Saturday 30 January **Meal from 6pm**

Food, fun, games. What more could you want! It's always great welcoming new people to our dinners, so come along and meet some new friends.

Bring some food to share.

Meet the Candidates Forum









We had a fabulous turn out for our Meet the Candidates Forum with an array of thoughtful questions put to the candidates. A respectful example of democracy at its best. Thanks to all who came and engaged in a positive way.

Thanks to candidates Hsiang-Han Hsieh and Steve Dimopoulos for turning up.

Community Garden Working Bee

Just some of the wonderful humans who laboured away!















New garden beds were created, fruit trees planted, mulch and soil moved around...and endless weeds pulled out!





Huge thanks to all the community gardeners and friends of the garden who came last Saturday to volunteer your time to spruce up the place.

Join us at The Meeting Place

Gathering on Wurundjeri Land



Farewell & Thank You Bruce!

It is with deep gratitude and sadness that the Friday Drop In group farewells our faithful chef and friend, Bruce Robinson.

Bruce had been involved with the previously named ‘Pancakes Group’ for many years and has loyally travelled from Frankston each Friday to serve the Friday Drop In group.

We will miss you Bruce but wish you well as you volunteer your time and talents with other worthy causes and organisations.

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www.murrumbeenauniting.org.au

facebook.com/murrumbeenauniting

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