



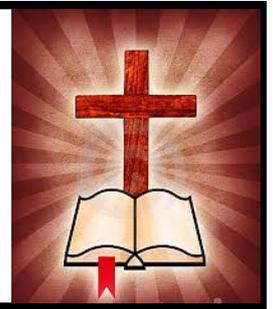
# THE CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Emerald/Fernlees Uniting Church

Cnr. Borilla & Yamala Sts., Emerald

[www.emeraldunitingchurch.org.au](http://www.emeraldunitingchurch.org.au)

11TH JULY & 18TH JULY



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## Rev Colin Baxter, OAM Queens Birthday Honours, June 2021

Journey article edited by Jim Pearson. The full article can be found at <https://journeyonline.com.au/scoop/faith-family-and-service-at-the-forefront-of-oam-recipient-rev-colin-baxters-life/>. For a full list of Queens Birthday honours in the Uniting Church go to <https://www.insights.uca.org.au/uniting-church-members-honoured-on-the-queens-birthday/>



Growing up in the (Newcastle) coal mining region of New South Wales, Colin said there were many points in his life during which time he discovered his faith. It began when he first met the lady who would become his wife of almost 70 years, Beth, the daughter of a Methodist minister.

When speaking to Colin, one cannot help but be moved by the devoted love he holds for Beth, who passed away three years ago.

Early in their courtship, Colin enlisted for operational service in the Navy with the occupation forces in Japan. He travelled to Victoria for training ahead of his deployment when he made his first commitment to God.

Beth encouraged him to endeavour to attend church with her as that would please her: "I said, 'Well, that's a deal.

I'm happy to do that,' which became a turning point in my journey."

He kept his promise to the church in training by becoming an assistant to the naval chaplain at the base.

After his deployment to Japan, return to Australia and coal mining, and enduring a tragic workplace accident, Colin attended an event at the Methodist central mission in Newcastle. He had been encouraged by a number of ministers who indicated that he had much to give to the church and was told by the then minister of Albert Street Church, the Rev H.M. Wheller, that if he and his wife ever wanted to come to Queensland, there would be a place for him.

A short time later, Colin and Beth arrived in Harrisville, outside Ipswich, where he did nothing but bury cows for much of the 1951 drought. "I couldn't get a stipend, so we picked onions and potatoes for money," says Colin. "It was a hard introduction, but I wouldn't change it for the world."

From Harrisville, Colin was posted to Caboolture where he and Beth supervised the first of what would become four new churches and one church hall in two states over his career.

After Caboolture, Colin moved to western Queensland with postings in Chinchilla and Kingaroy: "Kingaroy was a great posting, it was the right time," says Colin. "It was here that I was introduced to the media with a radio program which was to influence my future eighteen years in the media."

From Kingaroy he went to Canberra to what was then called the Woden Valley. A minister from each state was sent there in the 1960s and Colin's responsibility was to supervise the building of the Yarralumla church complex in three years.

During his time in Canberra, Colin was commissioned an Officer Chaplain of the Royal Australian Navy Reserves, a role he held from 1965 to 1990 and in retirement has provided pastoral care to ex-servicemen and women veterans.

After 47 years of service as a Methodist and then Uniting Church Minister in both New South Wales, Queensland and the ACT, Colin retired in 1995. Colin's ministry to chaplaincy includes ex-service organisations based in Bribie Island, including the RSL and Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia.

**Mission Statement**  
As Followers of Christ we seek to know Him: worship Him and share His love with all people

### Regular Meetings

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday:** Bring & share lunch after church

**3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday:** Church Council/ Worship & Pastoral Care Meeting at the Church office

### 1 Cor. 3: 10-11

**<sup>10</sup>By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care. <sup>11</sup>For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.**

